



Safety Bulletin

Occupational Health & Safety Committee Briefing

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Approved By: Darren L. Stevens, Fire Rescue Chief

During the bi monthly safety and health committee meeting in April, all vehicle accidents and injuries documented as of the meeting date in Industry Safe were reviewed. The committee reviewed the accidents and injuries in order to show trends and utilize the information to make recommendations and take action to prevent further incidents from occurring. The information gathered should be used by all to further risk reduction efforts and efficiency in daily activities.

The following is a list of recommendations and issues found during the review process:

INDUSTRY SAFE REPORTING

- Make every effort to report and document injuries, illnesses, and accidents in a timely manner. Once a supervisor is notified and all applicable data entry has been completed, ensure report is marked “in progress” so that it may progress through the review process and notify the proper personnel.
- Make every effort to be as descriptive as possible in employee and supervisor narratives. The information contained in the reports saves time during review and aids with maintenance, repair, and insurance claims.

DRIVING/OPERATING VEHICLES

- It was determined that many incidents were due to driver/operators being unaware of vehicle function/operation and the dimensions of the vehicle they were operating. Be sure to review safety features of newer vs. older apparatus (e.g. ABS vs Non ABS, air brakes vs hydraulic brakes, engine brakes, tire chains etc.) and the capabilities of the vehicle such as handling.
- Several reported incidents involved diminished clearances and narrow roadways. Personnel confronted with these situations should consider stopping if passage is questionable and proceeding at a low rate of speed. Waiting for other vehicles to clear may be the best option.
- It is extremely important to maintain situational awareness, especially while operating vehicles on the incident scene. Please be mindful of pedestrians, apparatus, and equipment that may be deploying around the vehicle you are operating.

Questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Battalion Chief Johnson or Technician Jonathan Frinks.