



Safety Bulletin

Occupational Health & Safety Committee Briefing

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Approved By: Darren L. Stevens, Fire Rescue Chief

During the safety and health committee meeting in July, 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:

Vehicle Operation

- Upperville Tanker 1105 is equipped with a Task Force Tips (TFT) powered master stream device mounted on the top of the apparatus. This device uses a vehicle mounted and a portable controller to manipulate the master stream. On the controls, there is a button utilized to “stow” the device. It should be noted that this “stow” operation does not lower the master stream device and will only rotate the master stream into a programmed position. Failure to manually retract or lower the master stream device with the controls will result in an elevated point on the truck. This situation could possibly strike an object when moving the truck or when backing into the bays with little clearance.
- In addition to the TFT device, there are other objects that should be stowed fully when moving the vehicle or placing it back into the bays (e.g. light towers, deck guns, doors, hose covers, etc). Care should be taken when placing the apparatus in a diminished clearance situation utilizing spotters and a thorough 360 vehicle walk around by the driver.

Structural Firefighting PPE

- Structural firefighting PPE should be inspected for function, damage and cleanliness prior to the start of each shift by the employee and monthly by the station officer or designee in accordance with OP 710 *Protective Equipment and General Safety*. Gross decon shall also be performed when deemed appropriate to limit the exposure to personnel.
- Care should also be taken when transporting structural fire gear from an emergency scene. In accordance with SB 18.001 recommendations, structural gear should not be taken into living quarters at the fire stations and only washed in gear extractors at designated departments listed in the safety bulletin. Similar to this, gear should not be taken or worn into public places unless an emergency arises that exceeds the risk of exposure to the public. A recommendation to mitigate the risk of exposure is to bring station shoes on the apparatus to allow removal of bunker gear.

Situational Awareness

- Electric fences were brought to the attention of the safety committee and the need to review the function and how to recognize them. Many commercial facilities have electrified fences but more so in Fauquier County and surrounding jurisdictions are the presence of agricultural or farm electrified fences. These fences typically have high voltage (up to 10k) and low amperage but still pose a risk to personnel in the field.



- Recognizing these fences can be easy when you know what to look for. For an electrified fence to work the current needs to carry through a metal wire or a braided rope or tape with wire in it. The material used to carry the current must be insulated from contact. Look for plastic poles used in the entire fence or plastic insulators to keep the tape or wire from touching a metal or wood pole. If the need arises to work near or cross the fence find the power source and disconnect it.
- When operating on an emergency scene it is critical that all personnel remain aware of their surroundings, their partners, and also understand what the dangers are. If you are unsure of how something functions ask someone else who may be familiar with the operation and danger.

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