



April 2017

Risk Management Division: Safety and Loss Prevention Unit

Volume 5, Issue 2

Newsletter

<http://www.phila.gov/risk>

Safety Matters In the Lives of Employees

Safety Message:

Check your windshield wipers today for effectiveness in removing water from your wind shield. Don't wait until it's raining to find out that your wipers are no good.

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April is Distracted Driving Awareness month. Motorist in Philadelphia and the surrounding counties are not immune to the dangers of distracted driving. One can simply take a drive on any given day and find motorist driving while using his/her cell phone, eating, texting, grooming, playing on tablet, reading, or even adjusting the radio or climate controls.

The result of such behaviors is an impaired driver who suddenly slows or stops, weaving in and out of lane, failure to comply with traffic signals and signs, and the worse situation of all – not seeing pedestrians or cyclists.

In 2016, distracted driving was a contributing factor for Pennsylvanians in 14,805 reportable traffic collisions (PA State Police). These motor vehicle crashes resulted in the unnecessary death of 61 individuals because of someone else's irresponsible action behind the wheel of a motor vehicle. However, the ripple effect of these 61 fatalities goes well beyond the crash alone (loss of a family member, quality of life significantly changed, loss of a major contributor to the household, etc.)

It is against the law in the Pennsylvania to text while driving, which includes sending, reading or writing a text message or email. According to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, Philadelphia County is the second leading county for distracted driving citations between 2012 and 2014. Distracted driving citations in Pennsylvania issued by the police increased by 43% between 2014 and 2015. Despite law enforcement best efforts to curb motorist from driving distracted, there are still those who refuse to keep their hands, eyes, and mind focused on safe operation of the vehicle. As City employees and contractors, we must do our part to set an example for all Philadelphians on and off the job. Below are links to additional resources to share with fellow workers and loved ones.

<http://www.nsc.org>



Spring into Safety!

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is Key!

March 20th marked the first day of spring. As winter breaks many of us look forward to spending more time outside with colleagues, friends and family. Our job responsibilities and/or personal outdoor activities such as grounds keeping, landscaping, refuse collection, road work repairs and gardening may expose us to many hazards. Engaging in those activities may require us to use tools and equipment that have been dormant in storage for the winter.

Basic Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) may be needed when performing activities using manual and power tools & equipment within certain environments. Proper fitting and well maintained **appropriate** PPE should be worn when required.

Head protection: Head protection is NOT just limited to hard hats. Other head protection includes headgear that will shield the worker’s head, face, and neck area from the harmful ultraviolet sun rays and heat. Head protection such as those with a wide brim and attached neck protection are ideal for gardeners. Head protection with nets may be more appropriate for others to prevent bites or stings from flying insects including mosquitos and bees.

Safety eyewear: - Protective eyewear will prevent flying debris from injuring eyes. Protective eyewear may call for non-slip nose pads, flexible bridge, soft temple non-slip temple tips, flexible/bendable hinges and temples, temple straps, side shields, anti-fogging lenses, dark/smoke lenses, and impact resistant and polarized lenses.

Safety shoes: Foot protection intended to cover the entire foot, provide proper ankle support, and prevent sharp objects piercing through the sole of the shoe to prevent foot and/or ankle injuries. Other types of footwear may require more breathability and flexible non-slip sole to ensure it does not slip on wet surfaces such as around swimming pools or outdoor wet environment.

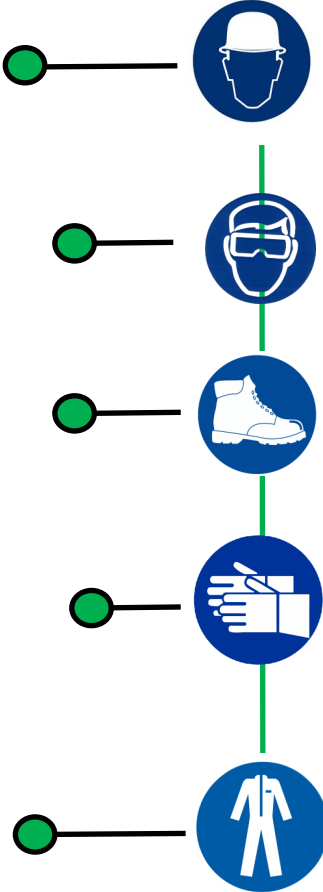
Hand protection: Gloves are important components to the personal protective apparel. Gloves should be selected based on the protective need of the task while ensuring flexibility, dexterity, and durability. Gloves may also be used prevent cuts or laceration, burns (chemical or heat), increase grip, or other needs.

Protective clothing: Protective clothing such as coveralls, aprons, chaps and high visibility vests should be properly evaluated to meet the needs of the worker and afford the best protection. Long sleeve shirts and pants can prevent scratches or cuts from branches or contact with poison ivy or other vegetation oils (poison oak or sumac) that can cause rash or skin sensitivity. “Breathable” light colors suits with elastic wrist or ankle bands can prevent insects such as ticks from “hitch hiking” onto clothing and still afford the employee with good ventilation. High visibility vests and the appropriate colored apparel can ensure easy identification of employees from afar by coworkers and other motorists.

For additional tips and guides on selecting the most appropriate personal protective apparel, click on the following link.

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/eyeandface/ppe/impact.html>

Every effort should be made to ensure that tools and equipment (hoes, rakes, lawn mowers, weed trimmer, chain saws, other gas powered or electrical equipment, etc.) are thoroughly **inspected, tested and repaired** (if needed) by qualified individuals before placing them into service.



Run, Hide, Fight— U.S. Department of Homeland Security Offers Information on How to Survive an “Active Shooter”

San Bernardino, California

Police say at least 14 people were killed, 17 hurt at health department holiday party

Orlando, Florida

Security guard killed 49 people and wounded 53 others in attack inside nightclub

However you choose to get the news today, we are often reminded the world we live in is ever changing, unpredictable and at times dangerous. It’s unfortunate, but we hear much too often of situations where someone with a gun randomly opens fire in a school, shopping mall, office building or in a public place. Many of us can recall one of the first events involving a public mass shooting that drew national attention, which was the shooting at Columbine High School in April 20, 1999 (18 yrs. ago). In this case a student killed 12 classmates and a teacher on that terrible day. More recent tragedies included the shooting at an Aurora, Colorado movie theater where 70 people were injured and 12 eventually died. But probably the most tragic, was the shooting that took place at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut where **twenty first graders**, six staff members, and the shooter’s mother were murdered in that horrific event. This is now a permanent aspect of our lives as we remember these events (and unfortunately many others). Here in the City of Philadelphia, we can’t predict a shoot-



ing will occur, however events are random and as noted earlier, are unpredictable or uncontrollable. If you were to encounter an “active shooter” do you know what to do?

How would you react? What would you do to protect yourself or others? If you can’t answer these questions, we are asking you to watch this video provided by the Department of Homeland Security. Its purpose is to prepare you to deal with an “active shooter” and help increase your safety awareness both at work and in public settings. Please be aware this video may be stressful or upsetting to some, but keep in mind our intent is not to frighten or offend anyone, but rather to educate. Please feel free to watch this video with others, share it with family or friends, but most of all to help you be prepared to deal with something we hope you will never experience.



Watch the video at the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VcSweJU2D0>

If you are in an active shooter event, your survival may depend upon whether or not you have a plan. There are 3 things you could do in a situation to make a difference: Run, Hide, Fight.

<h2>RUN</h2> <p>When an active shooter is in your vicinity</p>	<h2>HIDE</h2> <p>Evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide</p>	<h2>FIGHT</h2> <p>As a last resort and only if your life is in danger</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Leave your belongings behind ■ Evacuate whether others agree or not ■ Help others escape if possible ■ Prevent others from entering the area ■ Call 911 when you are safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lock and / or Block the door ■ Silence your Cell phone ■ Hide behind large objects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Act with physical aggression ■ Improvise weapons ■ Commit to your actions

The Safety Pyramid

shows that for every **3,000 Near Misses** there were **29 Minor Injuries** and **1 serious accident**



A Near Miss is an unplanned event that did not result in injury, illness, or damage but had the potential to do so. Only a fortunate break in the chain of events prevented an injury, fatality or property damage. Other familiar terms for these events are a “close call,” a “narrow escape,” or in the case of moving objects, “near collision” or a “near hit.” Near miss incidents need to be reported and investigated so conditions can be corrected before a serious incident occurs.

Examples of near misses:

- Someone trips over a ladder but doesn't fall.
- An employee driving on City related business almost collides with another vehicle at an intersection.
- A Sanitation worker drops rubbish on his/her foot, which was protected by safety shoes, but does not cause an injury.

Causes of near misses and accidents:

- Unsafe acts such as improper lifting, not using the proper tools, wearing proper personal protective equipment (PPE) or rushing and taking risks to finish a task faster.
- Unsafe conditions such as poorly maintained equipment, oil/grease or water on floors, improper storage of material (isles being blocked), trash not placed in the proper containers, etc.

What can you do...

- Start by removing some of the following barriers that may keep you from reporting Near Misses:
 - ✓ Unaware of reporting process
 - ✓ Fear the incident may be held against you
 - ✓ Too much hassle and paperwork
 - ✓ Your belief that Incidents are “just part of the job”
 - ✓ The feeling of “Peer Pressure” not to report or call attention to the incident
- Be aware that the potential for accidents exists in all work environments (office, field, etc.). Therefore, be cognizant of your surroundings and help identify potential hazards. Don't wait or assume someone else will report it.
- If the near miss is the result of an unsafe condition, do not continue to work in that situation until the problem has been corrected and your supervisor advises that it is okay to proceed.
- If the incident is the result of unsafe behavior/actions, make sure that everyone involved has been made aware of the potential for injury and the situation has been corrected.
- After a near miss occurs, immediately report it to the nearest supervisor.
- Use City of Phila. Accident Injury & Illness (COPA II) Report form to report Near Miss incidents ([located under at Phila.gov/Risk](http://located.under.at.phila.gov/Risk))

Report Near Misses



View upcoming training

Upcoming Training Courses (all courses are from 10am-12pm)

* <i>Driving Series</i>	* <i>Ergonomics</i>	<i>Floor Captain</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rules of the Road 4/27/17 5/23/17 6/15/17 ▪ Distracted Driving 4/18/17 5/11/17 6/6/17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Office Ergonomics 4/10/17 5/10/17 6/13/17 ▪ Back Safety & Manual Material Handling 4/17/17 5/18/17 6/20/17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City Hall & Triplex Only 4/6/17 4/11/17 ▪ Citywide 5/16/17 6/1/17

Register on line via [City's Learning Management System](#)
 or email Corinne.Carter@phila.gov
 *Driving Series and Ergonomics training open to all employees Citywide