Landscaping and Recycling Safety Committee Newsletter

“Safety is to comprise your mind, body & spirit. This will contribute not only to enhance safe practices at work, but also have lasting effects for family and your life at home.”
Back Brief Topics: MARCH. 2021

Old Business:

- We talked about how many people can be in each vehicle. Most departments go to two, while some only have 1 person per vehicle. I stated that the Recycling department has two people per vehicle. Bonnie talked about the newsletter and why people should read this information.

New Business:

- Jim Murphy brought up that next year during the snow season that more attention to accidents with regards to rooftops, bridges and parking decks should be emphasized.
- I asked Nicholas Gentry to talk about his accident. Lessons learned for him was just because other people are around an area working doesn’t mean that you should be less aware of slipping and falling.
- Bonnie congratulated Ronnie Herring for being co-safety champion for the month of March.

Incident Data Review:

- Bonnie went over the Incident Review portion.
- Last month we had two accidents that involved the lost days at work to 59: one belonging to Landscaping and one to Recycling.
Bonnie still wants to keep the message going about the reporting of near misses.
Remember to always be safe!!

GENERAL SAFETY AT A GLANCE:

- Keep practicing social distancing
- Keep sanitizing vehicles/twice daily
- Mask up for others
- Sanitize your hands throughout your workday
- Embrace safety as a culture that comes from within
- Look out for the safety of your fellow employees; make on the spot corrections to safeguard employees from harm

**AROUND THE ROOM:**

**Jim-McCormick Zone Report:**

- Jim talked about utilizing an informal way of addressing accidents to improve on safety practices and the culture of. He also talked about his retirement and how being on the committee was a good thing for him.

**Edward- McCormick Zone Report**

- Edward had nothing new to report.

**Jonathan-North Grounds Report:**

- Jonathan talked about how mowing season was coming closer to the daily work schedule for him. He also asked if you see rocks or any other debris from the grass, please remove it and take it to where it needs to go.
Nicholas-Sort Facility Report

Nicholas talked about his accident and how he felt that he did not know what to do after he left the emergency room. I stated that I would come up with an S.O.P, so that in the future people would know what to do as far as reporting to work, filing for Short term disability, seeing a Doctor for follow-up and reporting back to work documentation.

Ronnie Herring-Central Dorm Route Report:

Ronnie did not have anything new to report.

Jason Snow-Recycling Operations Supervisor Report:

Jason talked about two issues on his mind. One is daily distractions and the other is the state of mental health for every employee. He talked about supervisors should be asking their employees on how they’re doing on a daily or weekly basis. Especially in stressful times like this pandemic, knowing how people are feeling could be a key to keeping them alive and well in the workplace and at home.

Victor Martin-Safety Chair for the Committee

I mainly thanked Jim for his service and hopes he has a good retirement! Lessons learned from Nicholas Gentry’s accident gave me some insight on how keep communication strong during the accident recovery phase. We as leaders need to stress the need for practicing social distancing, wearing masks and to look out for others during this stressful time!

Sonny Beale-Safety Committee Director Report:

Sonny had nothing new to add

FINAL THOUGHTS:

We had a good discussion about keeping up the reporting of near misses. We talked about an accident that happened during the last snowstorm and got some positive feedback along with some lessons learned for the leaders on how to take care of their employees after an accident.
Jason brought up two key issues that I feel need more focus on and that is distractions and the mental health of each employee. We talked about the impact of accidents, COVID-19, vaccination registration and social distancing as some of the safety measures put in place at the University level are easing up some. The focus is still wearing our masks and sanitizing hands and vehicles daily.

**SAFETY QUOTE FOR THE MONTH**

_March-2021_