SAFETY BULLETIN #10

October 28, 2024

Autumn Awareness

Here are several safety reminders to help keep us situationally aware during the Autumn/Fall:

★ ***Time Change***

1. Time change happens next weekend (Sunday 11/3/24).
2. The sun will start to set during evening rush hour traffic, making glare a huge safety issue.
3. Leave yourself more stopping distance, use sun visors, and be prepared with sunglasses.
4. Cleaning mirrors and window glass can also reduce glare on trucks and equipment.
5. **Caution:** Auto insurance companies report increased accident rates following a time change. Be aware of nearby motorists and don't assume they will (or can) see your high viz vest.

★ ***Low Light Levels***

1. Being seen is as vital to safety as being able to see. Reflective safety vests or jackets can **help** drivers can see you in the early morning and at dusk.
2. Equipment operators and drivers should be extra aware of pedestrians and children who may be passing by. Team members not operating equipment should also assist in keeping pedestrians out of the construction area.
3. Ensure maintenance of traffic signage is installed and visible during all lighting conditions.
4. Verify artificial lighting does not shine into the motorist's line of sight.
5. Verify lights on trucks, trailers, and equipment are functioning properly.

★ ***Cooler Weather***

1. *As the weather cools, frost creates a hidden hazard by coating mirrors and windshields. Fill windshield wiper fluid reservoirs with fluid designed not to freeze.*
2. *Frost also creates slippery surfaces on leaves and grass. Watch your steps at the start of work.*
3. *Look out for rodents and insects seeking shelter on or in construction equipment.*

★ ***Fall Foliage/Leaves***

1. Accumulated leaves may appear dry, but they can be wet and slippery underneath, increasing the risk of slip and fall accidents.
2. Leaves can stick to shoes, ladders, and other equipment. Team members must be sure to clear the area of fallen leaves before beginning any tasks. Use rakes or leaf blowers, as needed.
3. Wet leaves increase vehicular accidents by increasing stopping distances.
4. Leaves also hide curbs and potholes, causing problems for team members, motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians.

★ ***Muddy Conditions***

1. Autumn weather can leave the ground wet and muddy. Muddy boots can also cause slipping as team members ascend and descend ladders. Clean any excess mud or water off boots before climbing onto a ladder or equipment
2. Be mindful of the Airbnb properties. Keep muddy boots out of the house. Remove mud from entryways, sidewalks, and driveways prior to checkout.

Discussion Points:

- ★ Review the picture below. How can homeowners unknowingly create additional hazards around us?
  - Blowing leaves onto our construction site, hiding rodent holes or dips in terrain
  - Blowing leaves onto the roadway, creating hazards for vehicles
  - Leaves clog ditches, preventing appropriate drainage
  - Leaves wash along the curb & gutter and clog inlets, resulting in ponding on roadways
  - Others you can think of?

