

Accident Prevention & Safety Plan



Safety Comes First

January 4, 2021

Acknowledgement

The Safety and Accident Prevention Committee would like to express our gratitude to the City of Harlingen City Commission and City Manager for their continuous support of the newly revised Accident Prevention Plan. The members of the committee worked diligently during their meetings participating and giving valuable advice, direction and tireless efforts to the commitment of this assignment. The Safety and Accident Prevention Committee consists of the following members:

Fire Department: Assistant Chief Eduardo Alvarez
Fire Department: Assistant Chief Ruben Balboa
Police Department: Deputy Chief Alfredo Alvear
Police Department: Deputy Chief Daniel Villarreal
Public Works / Streets: Daniel Diaz, Streets Superintendent
Public Works / Sanitation: Rene De La Garza
Public Works: Assistant Director Lily Garcia
Parks: Armando Villela, Parks Superintendent
Parks: Juan Borrego, Public Buildings Superintendent
Parks: Assistant Director (Vacant)
Parks: Jacob Gonzalez, Aquatics Supervisor
Library: Mike Jones, Librarian
Health / Animal Control: Shannon Harvill, Environmental Health Manager
Planning: Esmael Ortega, Chief Building Official
Golf: Superintendent (Vacant)
HR / Risk Management: Oscar Salinas, Risk Management Coordinator

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SECTION A

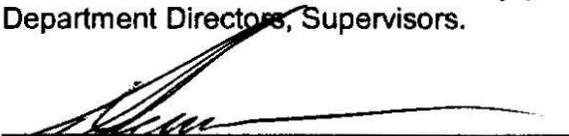
COMPONENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY & ACCIDENT PREVENTION PROGRAM

MANAGEMENT STATEMENT OF SAFETY

Dear Employee:

The success of the City of Harlingen depends upon the efficient and effective use of resources to maintain high quality services for the citizens of our community. Our most important resource is our employees and, to protect this resource, we are committed to providing a safe and healthful work place for all employees by establishing and maintaining an effective safety and accident prevention program. Safety is, and will continue to be, a fundamental part of our organization's operations.

The responsibility for safety resides within all of us and we are each challenged to stay informed and to take responsibility for our own safety and the safety of our co-workers. To ensure the success of the safety process, we must all give our full participation and support to the safety policies and procedures that have been developed to protect us. Working safely, and in accordance with established safety policies, is an absolute requirement for all employees, Department Directors, Supervisors.



City Manager Signature

4-19-16

Date

SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Department Director and Supervisor(s) has the responsibility to administer and implement this Safety & Accident Prevention Plan, assigning tasks to staff members as defined within the individual components.

Management Safety Responsibilities

Department Directors are responsible for providing a place of employment that is free from recognized hazards that could result in injuries or accidents. Since it is impossible for Department Directors to personally observe all employee activities, they must ensure that all supervisors and employees alike are trained and are aware of their safety responsibilities. Other safety responsibilities for Department Directors include:

- Provide leadership and direction concerning safety activities.
- Participate actively in the continuous evaluation of the safety program.
- Set goals concerning safety performance within the department.
- Review losses for potential trends on a regular basis.
- Enforce all safety rules.
- Participate in facility and work site audits.
- Participate and support all accident investigation activities.
- Review accident reports and recommend corrective actions.

Supervisor Safety Responsibilities

Safety is as much a part of the supervisor's responsibility as is getting the job done efficiently. In addition to the aforementioned responsibilities of supervisors, the important safety responsibilities of each and every supervisor also include:

- Familiarize yourself with and enforce the safety rules and regulations that have been established by applicable local, state, and federal organizations. These regulations are intended to set minimum standards for safety and the contents of the regulations should be enforced as minimum safety requirements for all activities on our work sites or in our facilities.
- Correct, or have corrected, all reported hazards. Operating under known hazardous conditions will not be tolerated.
- Do not permit new or inexperienced employees to work with power tools, machinery or complex equipment without proper instruction and training.
- Give adequate instructions. Do not assume that an employee knows how to do a job unless you personally have knowledge that the person can perform that task correctly.
- Ensure tools, equipment, and machinery being used in the workplace are in proper working condition.
- Ensure that proper personal protective equipment is available and utilized by employees when necessary or required.

- Always set a good example in safety, such as wearing the proper personal protective equipment and following policies and procedures.
- Consistently enforce the requirements of the organization's safety program and any associated rules or policies.
- Ensure that all employees have access to a copy of the organization's safety program.
- Encourage safety suggestions from employees under your supervision.
- Obtain prompt first aid for injured employees.
- Participate in accident or incident investigations involving your employees.
- Conduct audits of all work areas and facilities on a regular basis in an effort to improve housekeeping, eliminate unsafe conditions and encourage safe work practices.

Employee Safety Responsibilities

Employees bear a certain amount of responsibility in any safety program. You must be aware that your actions, knowledge, mental state, physical condition, and attitude directly affect the safety of yourself and your fellow employees. All employees will:

- Know your job, follow instructions, and think before you act
- Use appropriate personal protective equipment as dictated by the job and by policy.
- Work according to written safety practices as trained, posted, instructed, or discussed.
- Refrain from any unsafe act that might endanger yourself or your fellow workers.
- Never take short-cuts and use all safety devices provided for your protection.
- Report any unsafe situation or act to your supervisor immediately.
- Assume responsibility for thoughtless or deliberate acts that may cause injury to yourself or your fellow workers.
- Never operate equipment that you are unfamiliar with or not trained to use. Also, equipment that is defective or in need of repair shall not be used and must be reported to your supervisor.
- Report all accidents/incidents to your supervisor as soon as they occur.

Designated Safety Officer Program

The City of Harlingen Accident Prevention & Safety Program requires the appointment of Designated Safety Officers for each department or cluster of departments that do not have full-time safety personnel.

Each safety personnel shall be appointed by the City Manager or his designee.

- Must be a front line supervisor for their department, cluster of departments or division
- Must be a firm believer in a safety first way of life
- Must be able to give safety duties proper priority
- Must be proactive and dedicated to keeping everyone safe

Designated Safety Officers will assist in the following:

- Provide continuous improvement recommendations to enhance the program
- Assist with monthly Building Safety Inspections to identify and correct hazards
- Follow-up on abatement or mitigation of hazards
- Provide technical assistance during the reporting phase of accident / incident investigations
- Conduct Health & Safety briefings and assist with safety training requirements
- Ensure proper Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) is procured, issued, and properly utilized
- Assist the monthly safety meetings and report items discussed with directors and employees

The success of the City's Accident Prevention & Safety Plan relies on the selection of top-quality personnel that have the employee's health and safety as their main priority. Being selected to serve as a Designated Safety Officer speaks greatly of your dedication to safety and leadership.

ACCIDENT/INCIDENT INVESTIGATION POLICY

It is the policy of the City of Harlingen to investigate all work-related accidents, incidents, or 'near misses' that result in or could potentially have resulted in injury or property damage. As nearly all accidents and incidents have their own unique characteristics, only general rules and procedures can be outlined within this policy.

An **accident** is defined as "an undesirable or unfortunate happening that occurs unintentionally and usually results in harm, injury, damage, or loss". Examples of accidents include on-the-job injuries (regardless of severity) or vehicle collisions. An **incident** is defined as "an occurrence of seemingly minor importance". Examples of incidents include 'near misses' or events where injuries other accidents 'almost' occurred.

The standard City of Harlingen *Accident/Incident Investigation Report* will be used for both initial and final investigations. The bottom of the report shall be marked to indicate whether it is an initial or final report using the check-box.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Employees must immediately report to their supervisor any on-the-job injury or illness they sustain, or suspect they have sustained, no matter how minor. They must also report any incidents that had the potential for injury to employees or third parties and any instances where property damage occurred.
- Supervisors shall first respond to the immediate medical needs of any injured persons. Following any necessary medical attention, they should begin reporting and investigative activities as described in this policy.
- Witnesses to the event that resulted in the accident or incident will provide statements about what they observed. Witnesses may also be asked to participate in the initial and/or final investigations.
- The Department Director and Supervisor(s) is responsible for receiving the initial reports of injury or property damage and forwarding them to the appropriate workers' compensation provider representatives in a timely manner.
- The Department Director and Supervisor(s) are also responsible for reviewing the initial accident/incident report and coordinating a final investigation, if necessary.

Investigation Procedures

The following procedures will be followed for any accident or incident as defined above.

- **Initial Notification**
Employees are responsible for reporting all injuries, illnesses, or incidents as described earlier in this policy. Failure to report any injury or incident may be cause for disciplinary action. In the event of a serious or disabling injury, fellow employees must assume this reporting responsibility.
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- **Initial Treatment**

Any injury should be treated by the supervisor or other available personnel in accordance with the individual abilities of the employee and the severity of the injury. Medical treatment is mandatory for any of the following:

- Severe chest pains
- Traumatic injuries
- Loss of consciousness or severe dizziness

The first responders to any incident scene will be responsible for securing the area to prevent further damage or injury and also protecting the integrity of the incident scene until an investigation can be initiated.

Any incident involving possible exposures to blood-borne pathogens, communicable diseases, or any other contagious substance shall be handled in accordance with those specific procedures regarding that particular incident.

Injured employees are to be transported for medical treatment either by ambulance or another person, depending on the severity of the injury. Injured employees should never be allowed to transport themselves for initial medical treatment.

If an employee refuses medical treatment for an on-the-job injury, the report should be completed and the employee's signature used to document the employee's refusal.

- **Further Notification**

The Department Director and Supervisor(s) must be contacted following the occurrence of an accident or incident to ensure an initial report is completed and forwarded to the appropriate insurance provider representative. A copy of the report should also be sent to Department Director and Supervisor(s).

- **Drug/Alcohol Policy Requirements**

(See Appendix for copy of City of Harlingen's Personnel Policy Manual, Section 218 Substance Abuse)

- **Initial Investigation**

The supervisor shall immediately protect all other persons from the hazards that caused the initial problem and also preserve the area where the incident occurred for investigation. After the injured persons have been attended to and the site is secure, the supervisor should begin the initial investigation. The initial investigation should include:

- Statement from the injured employee
- Statements from witnesses
- Photographs or sketches of area, if deemed necessary
- Completion of the Accident/Incident Report in its entirety

Immediate corrective actions to prevent any possible reoccurrence.

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- **Initial Report**

An initial report will be completed for all accidents and incidents within twenty-four (24) hours of occurrence. The supervisor of the employee will complete the initial investigation and report as soon as possible after the occurrence.

The initial report will be submitted to Risk Management during normal work hours and Department Supervisor(s) during all other times.

- **Final Investigation**

Within seventy-two (72) hours of the original accident or incident, a final investigation will be completed, as necessary. Attendance at the investigation meeting will, as a minimum, include the following personnel: injured employee, if possible; injured employee's supervisor; witnesses; Risk Manager.

The final investigation report should include:

- Description of the event by the involved persons
- Accounts of witnesses
- Input from supervision
- Listing of causes
- Development of corrective actions

Basically, the investigation must answer the following questions:

- Who was injured or what was damaged?
- When did the accident/incident occur?
- Where did the accident/incident occur?
- Why did the accident/incident occur?
- What caused the accident/incident to occur?
- How can it be prevented from occurring again?

The Department Director will take responsibility for issuing the final report. The final investigation report will reflect all changes from the initial report and also must include:

- Finalized corrective actions
- Assigned completion dates for all corrective actions
- Assigned person(s) to complete the corrective actions. The persons assigned the corrective actions shall also be required to sign the final report when the corrective actions have been completed.

Copies of the final investigation report should be supplied to:

- Human Resources Director
- Risk Manager/Safety Representative
- Department Director

SAFETY EDUCATION & TRAINING POLICY

Safety Meetings & Training

Safety meetings are an effective way to encourage, educate, and train employees on safe work practices and will be held on a regular basis, based upon the specific department or operation. The Risk Management Department will provide information to be used in the meetings. Safety meetings will normally be conducted by Risk Manager. Discussions of safety rules, possible hazards to be encountered in future job duties, or changes in procedures or equipment are some topics that should be covered on a regular basis. Topics discussed during safety meetings should pertain to the specific hazards associated with the employee's assigned job or task as well as general hazards associated with the workplace. All employee safety meetings and training will be documented according to the *Recordkeeping Policy*.

Employees who do not attend regularly scheduled safety meetings or training will be identified and scheduled to attend makeup training at the supervisor's discretion. Documentation of makeup training will be made as well.

Special Training

Additional or specialized safety training will be conducted for the following areas as the need arises:

- New equipment purchases
- New/changes in operations
- Identified areas of increased accidents
- Newly identified areas of exposure

New Employee Safety Orientation

The Risk Management Department will provide an orientation to all new employees to address the hazards associated with their position and will include a review of all safety rules, policies/procedures, and equipment that are applicable to the employee's area of assignment. New employees will be given an opportunity to ask relevant questions that may pertain to their assigned duties and safety. Documentation of the new employee safety orientation will be complete using the appropriate form and maintained in accordance with the *Recordkeeping Policy*.

New employees' work activities will be limited until the safety orientation is completed.

Documentation of Safety Meetings & Training

Documentation from any formal meeting, 'tailgate' meeting, or training courses attended by employees, supervisors, or department directors will also be maintained for recordkeeping purposes using the appropriate form. Documentation should include the topic(s) covered, presenter information, and copies of any materials or handouts used during the training. The documentation associated with safety meetings and training will be kept in accordance with the *Recordkeeping Policy*.

SAFETY AUDIT & INSPECTION POLICY

In an effort to detect unsafe acts or unsafe conditions and initiate necessary corrective actions as soon as possible, regularly scheduled, documented inspections will be conducted for all City of Harlingen facilities, vehicles, and equipment. The Department Director and Supervisor(s) will coordinate the completion of these inspections with the appropriate departmental Designated Safety Officer. Employees may be requested or required to assist in conducting the inspections.

Employees are responsible to continually inspect their work areas, vehicles, and equipment for possible hazards. Potential hazards should be immediately reported to supervisory personnel and may also be documented using the *Employee Report of Unsafe Act or Condition*. Required corrective actions should be documented on the forms for any identified deficiencies. Follow-up after corrective actions have been taken should also be documented on the inspection forms.

The appropriate City of Harlingen inspection forms will be completed for each facility, vehicle, or piece of equipment. Employees assigned to drive the City of Harlingen vehicles and/or machinery and equipment will conduct inspections and complete the applicable forms each day, prior to using the vehicle or equipment. All completed inspection reports will be maintained according to the *Recordkeeping Policy*.

RECORDKEEPING POLICY

It is the policy of the City of Harlingen to maintain records of all safety and accident documents for minimum of (5) years, unless otherwise specified. The Department Director and Supervisor(s) will perform annual checks of the records for inclusion of all required safety documentation as described in this policy and will ensure that records are maintained by the City of Harlingen and will include, but are limited to:.

Injury Loss Records

- A copy of each TDI Division of Workers' Compensation Form DWC-1 (Employer's First Report of Injury).
- A copy of each TDI Division of Workers' Compensation Form DWC-6 (Supplemental Report of Occupational Injury or Illness).
- An injury log will be maintained to track all work-related injuries and illness reported by employees. The log will be updated and kept current by the Department Director and Supervisor(s) and Risk Management.
- Claim and loss information from TML-IRP for all lines of coverage shall be maintained as well. This information will be used for various means of trend analysis.

Accident Investigation Reports

The Department Director and Supervisor(s) will ensure that an accident investigation report is completed for each reported accident or incident. A copy of all completed accident investigation reports will be maintained at the Risk Management Department. Only City of Harlingen Risk Management approved accident investigation report forms shall be used to document accident investigation data. See *Accident/Incident Investigation Policy* for specific details.

Inspection Reports

All vehicle, equipment, and facility inspection reports will be maintained by the respective Departments. The Department Director and Supervisor(s) will ensure that all required inspection reports are completed in a timely manner. Only City of Harlingen approved inspection forms will be used. Follow-up to necessary corrective actions, including date, tasks, or jobs completed, should be documented as well.

Safety Meetings & Training Records

Documentation of monthly safety meetings and other training records will be maintained at the Risk Management Department. Only City of Harlingen approved safety meeting forms shall be used to document the activities. When safety meetings are used as training activities, appropriate notations should be made on the form. The Department Director and Supervisor(s) are responsible for returning a copy of the appropriate form(s) to the Risk Management Department.

Accident/Incident Analysis

A file containing Accident/Incident Analysis reports, using the City of Harlingen form, will be maintained in the Risk Management Department.

Reviews and Revisions of the Safety & Accident Prevention Program

A file containing reviews and revisions of the program, using the City of Harlingen form will be maintained at the Risk Management Department.

ACCIDENT/INCIDENT ANALYSIS POLICY

At least once each year, the Risk Manager will review all reported injuries, incidents, near misses, property damage, accident investigations, unsafe condition reports, and inspection reports that have been completed over the past twelve months to determine if injury or hazard trends are developing. Where potential trends are identified, the cause(s) will be determined to assist in the implementation of corrective actions, as needed, to eliminate or reduce hazardous exposures to employees. The Risk Manager will follow up on the effectiveness of the corrective actions to ensure the situations have been mitigated, abated, or are in the process of being corrected.

Items to be addressed during the analysis include progress on previous corrective actions, trends, recently identified exposures, and safety meeting and inspection reports.

SAFETY PROGRAM REVIEW & REVISION POLICY

The Risk Manager will, at least annually, review the entire Accident Prevention & Safety Program for revisions to help address any potential new exposures within current operations. Areas that should be evaluated include, but are not limited to: operations added, equipment added/changed, changes in environmental conditions, adequacy of personal protective equipment, and employee training. In addition, procedures should be reviewed to make sure they are still applicable.

Additional review(s) will be conducted whenever changes are needed to the Accident Prevention & Safety Program prior to the annual review of the program. Upon changes in the Accident Prevention & Safety Program, all employees will be informed of these changes and provided proper training as needed. Risk Manager will ensure that changes or revisions are added to the program in timely manner.

This review will be documented using the appropriate form and maintained according to the *Recordkeeping Policy*.

Section B

GENERAL SAFETY RULES & DEPARTMENT/OPERATION - SPECIFIC SAFETY RULES

GENERAL SAFETY RULES

- Each employee shall be required to comprehend and abide by the contents of this safety program.
- All accidents, regardless of severity, shall be immediately reported to your supervisor.
- All hazardous conditions, actions, and/or practices shall be reported to your supervisor.
- Work areas, including the inside and outside of vehicles and buildings, shall be kept clean and orderly at all times.
- Employees shall only operate equipment/tools that they are trained and authorized to operate.
- Smoking shall be prohibited in areas where there is a danger to equipment, materials, co-workers or buildings, or where 'No Smoking' signs are posted.
- Employees shall use all safety devices and personal protective equipment provided for their protection.
- Employees shall wear clothing and shoes suitable for the particular work they are doing.
- Employees shall use assisted lifting devices or obtain assistance from a coworker when lifting heavy objects.
- Guards shall never be removed except when authorized to make repairs or adjustments. Replace guard immediately upon completion of work.
- Before starting work on any machine or equipment that is out of service, employees shall render the equipment or machine inoperative and attach a lockout device to the equipment control.
- The use of drugs and alcohol during working hours is prohibited. Any employee reporting to work under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances shall be subject to disciplinary action.
- Any employee taking prescription drugs or over-the-counter drugs that could impair assigned work shall report this fact to the supervisor as soon as possible.
- Employees shall not engage in practical jokes or horseplay.

MOBILE (CELLULAR) TELEPHONES & WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Mobile telephones and other wireless communication devices can be a distraction to workers in many areas. Communication devices should never create a safety issue for any employee. The following rules have been established to assist in maintaining a safe working environment:

- During working hours, personal cell phones should only be used for high-priority (i.e., family issues, emergencies, etc.) personal communication and not for mere casual use.
- If a phone is to be used for work/business purposes and must be used from a vehicle or piece of equipment, the vehicle should be safely stopped, preferably off the road, and placed in park prior to receiving or placing a call, or with the use of a hands free device.
- If a call must be placed or received from the field, the worker should stop the work and must ensure that the area and personnel in the work area are safe prior to phone usage.
- Telephone ringers should be placed to minimum volume or vibrate mode to ensure that others will not be startled by the ring.

JOB, TASK, & PROJECT BRIEFINGS

The Department Director and Supervisor(s) in charge of each individual work group is responsible for conducting a job/task/project briefing to all affected employees prior to work commencing. The briefing should address the following subjects, at a minimum:

- Brief overview of the job to be completed
- Hazards associated with the job
- Work procedures involved in completing the job
- Special necessary precautions
- Energy source controls
- Personal protective equipment requirements

If the work or operations to be performed during the work day are repetitive and similar, at least one job briefing shall be conducted before the start of the first job each day. Additional job briefings are required if significant changes, which might affect the safety of employees, occur throughout the course of the work.

A brief discussion is satisfactory if the work involved is routine and if all employees, by virtue of training and experience, can reasonably be expected to recognize, avoid, and protect themselves against the hazards involved with the job. A more extensive discussion should be held if the work is complicated or extremely hazardous, or if employees cannot be expected to recognize, avoid, and protect against the hazards.

An employee working alone need not conduct a job briefing. However, the Department Director and Supervisor(s) should ensure that the tasks to be performed are planned as if a briefing were required.

WORKING ALONE

While it is not necessarily hazardous to work alone, work exposures combined with the fact that the employee is alone require preparation by the entity, supervisor, and employee. Whether a situation is high or low risk will depend upon the type of work, location, interaction with the public, or consequences of an accident, injury or emergency.

High risk activities include working from heights, confined spaces, electrically charged devices, hazardous materials or chemicals, power equipment, high-pressure devices, and potentially violent people. Such exposures may require additional employees or significant preparation so that the employees are knowledgeable about hazards and a determination by supervisors that lone workers have demonstrated the capability to work safely and independently.

To help ensure the safety of a person working alone, consider the following actions:

- Assess potential workplace hazards.
- Talk with employees about the assigned tasks, discussing exposures and solutions.
- Avoid having to work alone during high risk jobs.
- Take corrective action to prevent or minimize the risks of working alone.
- Provide appropriate safety training and education.
- Establish a check-in procedure for staff.
- Schedule high risk tasks during normal business hours or when another worker capable of helping is present.
- Report all unsafe situations, incidents, and near misses, particularly if working alone would have increased or did increase the severity of the situation.

CHEMICAL HANDLING & STORAGE

General Handling and Storage Guidelines

The risks associated with handling and storage of chemicals can be considerably reduced by following the actions listed below.

- A comprehensive chemical list should be maintained at each worksite or facility and include all chemicals or products at that site.
- A safety data sheet (SDS) should be maintained for each chemical or product on-hand at a particular worksite. See *Hazard Communication Policy* for additional details.
- Chemical storage should be minimized to only those chemicals which will be actively used.
- Employees should not use chemicals that they are unfamiliar with or have not been trained to use.
- Chemicals should be stored in proper containers designed for such use.
- Chemicals should be stored such that they will not react with other chemicals, substances, or materials.
- All chemical containers should be labeled as to the contents, reactivity, flammability, special hazards, and any other health hazard using the appropriate chemical label.

Chemical Safety Guidelines

- **Acids**
 - Store large bottles of acids on lower shelves or on trays in acid cabinets or a cabinet marked "Corrosive".
 - Segregate oxidizing acids from organic acids, flammables, and combustible materials.
 - Segregate acids from bases, active metals (sodium, potassium, magnesium) and other incompatible materials.
 - Use bottle carriers or a cart to transport acid bottles.
 - Have spill control materials or acid neutralizers available in the event of a spill. Do not use bases to neutralize an acid spill.
- **Bases**
 - Store large bottles of liquid bases on trays in cabinets marked as "Bases" or "Corrosives".
 - Segregate bases from acids and other incompatible materials.
 - Store solutions of inorganic hydroxides in polyethylene containers.
 - Have spill control materials or caustic neutralizers for caustic spills. Do not use acids to neutralize base (caustic) spills.

- **Flammables**
 - Only store flammable liquids in specially designed 'flammable-safe' cabinets.
 - Keep flammables away from sources of heat or ignition.
 - Keep fire extinguishing and spill control equipment readily available.

- **Oxidizers**
 - Store oxidizers in a cool, dry location and away from flammable or combustible materials, such as paper or wood products.
 - Store oxidizers away from petroleum-based products.

- **Compressed Gases**
 - Compressed gas cylinders should be stored in an upright position and secured to prevent accidental tipping or falling.
 - Cylinders should be stored with the protective cap in place.
 - All cylinders should be labeled as "Full", "In-Use", or "Empty".
 - Cylinder should not be carried or rolled but should be transported using a cylinder cart.
 - For additional details on compressed gases, see the *Compressed Gas Safety* section in this manual.

COMPRESSED GAS CHLORINE SAFETY

The following procedures are designed to explain proper safety precautions and rules regarding the safe handling of compressed gas chlorine.

Changing Chlorine Cylinders (Non-Emergency)

This procedure should be followed for any and all compressed gas cylinders (150 pound and/or 1 ton). A minimum of two, properly trained, and competent personnel should perform this task.

- Turn on the light, if equipped, and visually ensure that the room is safe to enter as there may be visual signs of danger or damage.
- Don (put on) appropriate personal protective equipment including protective gloves, eye protection, face shield, and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). An escape respirator should not be used for this function.
- Turn on the exhaust ventilation fan prior to entering the area.
- Close the main chlorine container valve.
- Allow the system to purge itself of chlorine gas. Ensure the float drops to the bottom of the feed-rate indicator (rotameter). Verify the vacuum and that the scales, if equipped, read 'zero', indicating an empty cylinder.
- Loosen the chlorinator (auxiliary valve or vacuum regulator) and remove it from the empty cylinder.
- Replace the protective cylinder cap on the empty cylinder and remove the cylinder to the appropriate storage area. Be sure the cylinder is secured and properly labeled as 'Empty'.
- Secure the new cylinder into place, removing the protective cap after placement.
- Ensure that there is no chlorine leaking from the packaging gland. Use ammonia vapor from the ammonia test solution bottle (25% ammonia).
- Ensure the cylinder valve is closed. Do not open the valve yet.
- Remove the cylinder outlet cap and check that the cylinder outlet face is clean and smooth.
- Using a new washer, connect the vacuum regulator or the yoke assembly (whichever is used on the particular system) to the valve outlet using only the proper wrench.
- Briefly open the chlorine cylinder valve and then quickly close it again. This will let enough chlorine into the lines to charge them. The valve should remain open with no more than a sharp rap from the heel of your hand. Never use a 'cheater' or 'helper' wrench or larger wrench than supplied. If the valve will not open, carefully and slightly loosen the packing gland.

- Check that all connections are secure that there are no leaks. Use the vapor from the ammonia test solution bottle (25% ammonia). If a leak is indicated, activate the proper leak control procedure.
- When no leaks are indicated, open the chlorine cylinder valve no more than one half turn and leave the cylinder wrench in place on the valve.
- Open any additional system valves and test for leaks using the vapor ammonia test solution bottle as each stage is charged with chlorine.
- Ensure that the alarm system, if equipped, is properly functioning.
- Leave the chlorine room/area turning off the light and exhaust fan. Ensure that all employees have exited the room before turning off light and fan.
- Once safely outside the chlorine room/area, remove personal protective equipment.

FALL PREVENTION

Slips, trips, and falls constitute a large percentage of accidents and injuries in public entities. These procedures are designed to prevent hazardous conditions that could result in slips, trips, or falls.

Supervisor Responsibilities

- Conduct routine inspections to ensure all walking and working surfaces are free from potential slip, trip, and fall hazards.
- Conduct safety training for employees who use ladders, scaffolds, or other elevated surfaces.
- Conduct training in the use and inspection of fall prevention and fall arrest equipment.
- Ensure proper ladders are used for specific tasks.
- Provide adequate fall prevention and fall arrest equipment.

Employee Responsibilities

- Maintain work areas free from potential slip, trip, and fall hazards.
- Correct or immediately report potential slip, trip, and fall hazards.
- Use proper ladders for assigned tasks.
- Use proper fall prevention and fall arrest equipment as prescribed by policies.

Engineered and Administrative Hazard Controls

Although every effort is made to prevent slips, trips, and fall accidents, additional precautions should be taken to ensure all possible measures have been taken. These include:

- Proper construction of elevated work surfaces.
- Proper use of hand, knee, and toe rails, where required.
- Proper design and use of fixed ladders and stairs.
- Adequate lighting in all areas.
- Training for all employees who work on elevated work surfaces.
- Routine inspections of ladders, stairs, walking, and working surfaces.
- Following housekeeping and cleaning requirements
- Immediate addressing potential problem areas.

General Requirements

- **Housekeeping**
 - All work areas, passageways, storerooms, and shop areas should be kept clean and orderly at all times.
 - The floor of every work area shall be maintained in a clean and dry condition as possible. Where wet operations are held, adequate drainage should be maintained, and non-slip mats or floor covering shall be provided.
 - Every floor, work area, and passageway shall be kept free of protruding nails, splinters, holes, debris, and stored items.
- **Aisles and Passageways**
 - Aisles and passageways shall be kept clear and in good repair with no obstructions across or in aisles that could cause a hazard.
 - Where mechanical equipment is used, aisles should be of adequate width as improper aisles coupled with poor housekeeping, vehicle and foot traffic, can cause

injury to employees, damage to equipment and materials, and can limit egress in the event of an emergency.

- Changes in elevation, such as steps, curbs, and ramps, should be marked or highlighted with a stripe of highly-visible paint or other non-skid material to assist in the identification of the known trip and fall hazard.

- **Guarding Floor and Wall Openings**

Floor openings and holes, wall openings and holes, and the open sides of elevated work surfaces may create hazards as people may fall through the openings or over the side to the level below. Objects such as tools or parts, may also fall through holes and strike employees or damage machinery on lower levels.

- Standard railings shall be provided on all exposed sides of a stairway opening, except at the stairway entrance.
- Floor openings may be covered rather than guarded with rails. However, temporary guard rails shall be placed when the opening is uncovered.
 - A 'standard railing' consists of a top rail, mid rail, and posts, and shall have a vertical height of 42 inches from the upper surface of the rail to the walking surface. Nominal height of the mid rail shall be 21 inches.
 - A 'standard toeboard' is 4 inches in vertical height, with not more than ¼ inch clearance above floor level.

- **Guarding of Open-Sided Floors, Platforms, and Runways**

Every open-sided floor or work surface located 4 feet or more above the adjacent floor or ground level shall be guarded by a standard railing (as specified above) on all open sides, except where there is an entrance to a ramp, stairway, or fixed ladder. A toeboard shall be provided as well.

- **Guarding Stairways**

Every flight of stairs, with four or more risers, shall have standard stair railings or standard hand railings (as specified above).

- **Fixed Industrial Stairs**

Fixed industrial stairs shall be provided for access to and from places of work where operations necessitate regular travel between levels. These stairs shall:

- Be strong enough to carry five times the normal anticipated live load.
- At the very minimum, be able to carry a moving concentrated load of 1000 pounds.
- Have a minimum width of 22 inches.
- Be installed at angles to the horizontal of between 30 and 50 degrees.
- Have a vertical clearance to an overhead obstruction of at least 7 feet from the leading edge of the tread.

- **Portable Ladders**

The primary hazard associated with the use of a ladder is falling. A poorly designed, maintained, or improperly used ladder may collapse under the load placed upon it and cause the employee to fall.

For specific safety procedures for different types of ladders, see the section on *Ladder Safety* in this manual.

- **Fixed Ladders**

A fixed ladder is a ladder permanently installed or attached to a structure, building, or equipment. Fixed ladders with a length of more than 20 feet shall be equipped with a safety cage or ladder safety device. A 'cage' is a guard that is fastened to the side rails of the fixed ladder or to the structure designed to encircle the climbing space of the ladder for the safety of the person who must climb the ladder. Cages should extend a minimum of 42 inches above the top of the landing unless other acceptable fall protection is provided.

- **Scaffolds**

- The footing or anchorage for scaffolds shall be sound, rigid and capable of carrying the maximum intended load without settling or displacement. Unstable objects, such as barrels, boxes, loose brick, or concrete blocks shall not be used to support scaffolds or planks.
- Scaffolds and their components shall be capable of supporting at least *four times* the maximum intended load.
- Scaffolds shall be maintained in a safe condition and shall not be altered or moved horizontally while they are in use or occupied.
- Damaged or weakened scaffolds shall be immediately repaired and shall not be used until repairs have been completed.
- A safe means must be provided to gain access to the working platform level through the use of a ladder, ramp, etc.
- Overhead protection must be provided for personnel on a scaffold exposed to overhead hazards.
- Guardrails, mid rails, and toe boards must be installed on all open sides and ends of platforms more than 10 feet above the ground or floor. Wire mesh must be installed between the toeboard and the guardrail along the entire opening, where persons are required to work or pass under the scaffolds.
- Employees shall not work on scaffolds during storms or high winds or when covered with ice or snow.

Fall Arrest Systems

Different types of personal fall arrest systems are available depending upon the nature of work and the specific conditions in the area where the work will take place.

- **Types of Fall Arrest Systems**

- *Personal Fall Arrest* systems are used to stop a fall once it has begun and includes an anchorage and connector, full body harness, lanyard, locking snap hooks, lifeline, and may include a descent control device.
- *Positioning Device* systems prevent falls by supporting the employee in a working position and eliminate the chance for a fall to begin. These systems include a body belt, harness, connector, locking snap hook, and proper anchorage.
- *Personal Fall Protection for Climbing Activities* protects the employee while climbing and anchors at a point that usually adjusts and moves with the climber.

- **Anchorage**

Anchorage is critical and the selection of the anchoring point shall be carefully chosen. Anchorage points must be permanent, fixed objects that are rated to hold forces several times the employee's weight, including the weight of the equipment that they have with them.

When tying off to anchorage points, it is important to do so in a location where there are no obstacles in the potential path of fall and shall allow no more than 6 feet of free-falling distance, although (2 to 4 feet of free falling distance is recommended). The employee should also understand and account for the additional deceleration distance of the fall arrest system being used.

- **Body Belts and Harnesses**

Only approved full-body harnesses shall be used. All recommendations of the equipment manufacturer shall be met, including care, storage, testing, and replacement. A harness may be attached to either the center of the back at shoulder level, or above the head. Employees must follow the procedure described below to don their full-body harness:

- Inspect the harness before putting it on.
- Hold the harness by the D-ring and shake the straps into place.
- Release buckled straps and slip them over the shoulders with the D-ring in back.
- Pull the leg strap between the legs and connect to the opposing end.
- Waist strap should be tight but not binding.
- Connect chest straps and position in the middle of the chest.
- Ensure that the harness is snug but allows full movement.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT - GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- All employees shall wear clothing suitable for their particular type of work. Loose clothing shall not be worn while working around or near moving machinery or equipment.
- All department-approved special protective clothing or protective devices shall be used by employees when required by policy and/or department supervisors.
- Clothing that is soiled by oil or chemicals should be avoided to prevent skin irritations.
- When work is performed in the vicinity of exposed energized parts of equipment, employees shall remove all exposed conductive articles, such as key or watch chains, rings, wristwatches, or bands, if such articles increase the hazards associated with inadvertent contact with the energized parts.
- Rings or jewelry shall not be worn while climbing on or off structures or vehicles while performing any task where the ring might get caught under or snagged by a projecting item. In addition, rings and wristwatches with metal case and watchbands shall not be worn while working on or near energized equipment or lines.
- Department approved gloves shall be provided to and worn by all employees when work site operations could cause injury to the hands.
- Gloves and long sleeves shall be worn to protect hands and arms when handling cement, brush, sharp objects, hot materials, acids and other chemicals, or when there is a possible exposure to poison ivy.
- Department approved head protection shall be provided to and worn by employees when working in areas where possible danger or head injury exists from impact, falling or flying objects, or from electrical shock and burns.
- Employees shall wear department approved eye and face protection where injury exists from flying objects, glare, liquid splashes, use of line trimmers, edges, chemicals, grinding, sandblasting, and welding. Eye protection shall be kept in a sanitary and usable condition and shall be replaced when it becomes warped, scratched, or pitted.
- Department approved hearing conservation devices shall be provided to and worn by all employees working in areas where a danger of noise exposure exceeds acceptable levels.
- Employees shall wear footwear suitable to the type of work being performed. Safety boots or shoes shall be worn when required. Wearing of sandals, tennis shoes, loafers or similar footwear shall not be acceptable during working hours for employees serving in labor, maintenance, construction, or inspection positions.
- Department approved life jackets or buoyant work vests shall be worn by all employees when working over or near water where the danger of drowning exists.

- Department approved respiratory protection shall be worn in areas where dangerous air contamination, chlorine, gasses, vapors, fumes, dust, or other hazardous contaminants exist. Additional information regarding respiratory protection can be found in the *Respiratory Protection Program*.
- Employees required to work in or near the roadway shall wear high visibility clothing, garments, and/or reflective vests.
- Department approved fall protection devices, such as harnesses, lanyards, etc., shall be used by all employees when working in an overhead position which may require use of both hands and when there is a danger of falling.
- Protective clothing and equipment shall be used and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT – FIRE & EMS SERVICES

- Full protective clothing shall meet appropriate NFPA standards and include the following: approved helmets, pants, coats, gloves, hoods, and boots.
- Full protective clothing shall be worn at all times while engaged in any firefighting activities or other emergencies unless a specific exception is made by departmental policy or the officer in charge deems safety and efficiency are not jeopardized.
- An approved self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) shall be provided for and used by all personnel when working in areas where the atmosphere is hazardous, suspected of becoming hazardous, or may rapidly become hazardous. Additional information regarding respiratory protection can be found in the *Respiratory Protection Program*.
- Approved gloves shall be worn when engaged in firefighting, overhaul, training with the hose and ladders, using hand or power tools, and any other situation where injuries to the hand may occur.
- Eye and face protection appropriate for the given hazard shall be provided for and used by all personnel exposed to that hazard.
- Hearing protection shall be provided for and used when exposed to noise levels that exceed acceptable levels except in situations where the use of such protective equipment would create an additional hazard to the user.
- Personnel who perform emergency medical care or are otherwise likely to be exposed to blood or other body fluids shall be provided with and use emergency medical garments, emergency medical face protection devices, and emergency medical gloves. For additional information, please refer to the *Blood borne Pathogen Safety* section of this manual.
- Personnel who engage in operations during hazardous material emergencies that may expose them to known or unknown chemicals in vapor form or unknown chemicals shall be provided with and use vapor-protective suits.
- Personnel who engage in operations during hazardous material emergencies that may expose them to known or unknown chemicals in liquid-splash form shall be provided with and use liquid-splash suits.
- Personnel who engage in operations during hazardous material emergencies that may expose them to known or unknown chemicals in flash-splash form shall be provided with and use flash-splash suits.
- Personal protective equipment such as neoprene gloves, rubber boots, shoe covers, rubber aprons, and protective eyewear shall be used as necessary when handling flammable, corrosive, caustic, or poisonous chemicals.

- For additional guidance in the use of personal protective equipment, please refer to the *Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment – General Requirements* section of this manual.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT – LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Suitable eye and hearing protection shall be worn when personnel are firing weapons during training and other special operations.
- When provided by the City of Harlingen, body armor shall be worn by all officers when on duty or during special operations.
- Reflective vests and gloves shall be worn when directing traffic. A lighted baton is recommended when directing traffic any time between one hour before sunset and one hour after sunrise, or anytime during inclement weather.
- Leather gloves, when available or their protective equivalent shall be worn when searching persons or places where sharp objects may reasonably be encountered.
- Disposable gloves shall be worn when handling any persons, clothing or equipment with bodily fluids on them. Masks in combination with eye protection devices shall be worn whenever splashes spray, spatter, or droplets of potentially infectious materials may be generated and eye, nose, or mouth contamination can be reasonably anticipated. For additional information, please refer to the *Blood borne Pathogen Safety* section of this manual.
- Plastic mouthpieces or other authorized barrier/resuscitation devices shall be used whenever an officer performs CPR or mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
- Personal protective equipment such as neoprene gloves, rubber boots, shoe covers, rubber aprons, and protective eyewear shall be used as necessary when handling flammable, corrosive, caustic, or poisonous chemicals.
- Protective gear including helmets, vests, hoods, goggles, gloves, elbow/knee pads shall be utilized during tactical operations and by special units as needed.
- For additional guidance in the use of personal protective equipment, please refer to the *Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment – General Requirements* section of this manual.

GENERAL RULES FOR MOTOR VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT OPERATION

- Employees, who are authorized to operate City of Harlingen vehicles or personally owned vehicles on City of Harlingen business, must have a valid Texas driver's license for the class vehicle they operate and must notify their supervisor immediately should the license be suspended or revoked.
- Motor vehicle record checks will be conducted annually on all employees who have driving or motorized equipment operation responsibilities.
- The certificate of insurance coverage and other required documents, along with accident forms should be carried in all City of Harlingen owned vehicles.
- All drivers of City of Harlingen vehicles must be familiar with and abide by all applicable state, federal, and local traffic regulations.
- All drivers/operators shall be responsible for the proper care and use of vehicles and motorized equipment. This includes maintaining City of Harlingen vehicle/motorized equipment interiors and exterior, regularly servicing these items and reporting maintenance needs to the supervisor.
- A driver/operator shall not permit any unauthorized persons to drive, operate or ride in or on a City of Harlingen vehicle. Riders shall not be allowed on running boards, tailgates, fenders, bumpers, atop cabs, on tow bars, or towed equipment. (Exceptions may include operator trainees and mechanics sharing operator positions.)
- Every accident involving personal injury or property damage shall be reported to your supervisor immediately.
- Where seat belts are provided, they shall be worn by all occupants. The size or operation of the vehicle or equipment does not excuse the operator from the seat belt requirement.
- Equipment on all City of Harlingen motor vehicles must conform to state, federal, and Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations.
- Unsafe and discourteous driving practices such as 'road-hogging', disregarding the rights of pedestrians, violating traffic regulations, and deliberate recklessness of any kind are prohibited.
- Getting in or out of a vehicle/mobile equipment while it is in motion is prohibited, as is riding anywhere on the vehicle/mobile equipment not designed for passengers. Do not get out of a vehicle/mobile equipment and leave the motor running, or driver/operate with a door ajar.
- Personnel should maintain three points of contact with mobile equipment when entering and exiting to help in maintaining balance if a slip occurs. Many injuries occur as a result of slips and using three points of contact will help control this exposure. In addition, the condition of the handrails, steps, etc. should be inspected regularly.

- Smoking is prohibited in any areas where fueling is being performed.
- Except in emergencies, gasoline must not be carried inside passenger cars or the cabs of trucks. Gasoline shall be transported in approved safety containers and sealed tight to prevent the leakage of gasoline or gasoline vapors.
- Garage doors must be opened for ventilation whenever a motor vehicle engine is running to help prevent the accumulation of carbon monoxide gas.
- Keys shall be removed from unattended vehicles and equipment. Doors should be locked for security purposes.
- Driving a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance will not be tolerated. Never attempt to perform work or drive a vehicle when you are impaired by alcohol, medication, or drugs, including over-the-counter or prescription medications.
- Picking up hitchhikers is dangerous and prohibited.
- Before starting out in your vehicle in the morning, clear all windows of any frost, ice, or dew, except emergency vehicles. Cleaning only a small place on the windshield does not allow for proper visibility.
- Driving is a full time job. Drivers should not engage in other activities, such as dialing a telephone or texting, while operating a vehicle. The vehicle should be pulled off the road and stopped before performing these types of activities.
- Driving at the maximum posted speed limit can be too fast for safety in some situations. The drivers of all vehicles must use good judgment and proceed at a pace suitable to conditions of the vehicle, road, traffic, and weather.
- All vehicle cabs should be kept clean to reduce distractions to drivers and interference with the operation of the vehicle or equipment.

Backing

- When possible, park so that backing is not required.
- Extreme caution shall be exercised when backing any vehicle. If another employee is present, he/she shall act as a spotter to assist the driver in backing safely. Drivers shall stop immediately if they lose sight of the spotter.
- Backup alarms are a useful warning device and should be used when possible, especially on larger vehicles and equipment that may severely restrict your view to the rear of the vehicle. If an alarm is not present, the operator should honk his horn to warn others of the moving vehicle.

Stopping on Roadways

- When it is necessary to stop on the roadway, extreme caution shall be used.
- A rotating beacon light shall be used, if so equipped.

- Tail lights/emergency flashers shall be used.
- If work is in progress, traffic control devices shall be used in accordance with the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Part VI. Please see additional information in the *Work Zone Traffic Control Safety* section of this manual.

Inspection of Vehicles and Equipment

- Drivers/operator shall utilize equipment checklists to inspect vehicles and equipment to determine if they are in good operating condition *prior* to operating the vehicle.
- The driver/operator shall determine that brakes are in good operating condition before using the vehicle or equipment. If brakes are not working properly, they must be corrected before use.
- The driver/operator shall report all defects promptly. Items that affect safety shall be repaired prior to continued use.
- For additional information, please refer to City of Harlingen Vehicle Operator Standards.

Powered Carts & Low-Speed Vehicles

Powered carts and other low-speed vehicles (LSV) such as golf carts, 'Mules', 'Gators', etc. should be driven with special care. This classification of vehicle includes those which are electric-, gasoline-, or diesel-powered (LSV) and may or may not be licensed to operate on public roadways. Vehicles not licensed (registered) by the Texas Department of Public Safety as an on-road vehicle should not be driven on public roadways.

The following operating rules apply to powered carts & LSV:

- Only drivers authorized by City of Harlingen and trained in the safe operation of powered carts and LSV shall be permitted to operate such vehicles.
- All prospective cart or LSV operators must receive training before being allowed to operate a powered cart or LSV.
- Seatbelts must be worn by all vehicle occupants at all times. The maximum number of passengers is equal to the number of seatbelts in the vehicle. All passengers must be in a seat while the cart is moving - no exceptions. Drivers violating this safety rule may have their driving privileges suspended or revoked.
- Operators and passengers shall keep arms and legs inside the cart or LSV at all times and shall not jump on or off of moving vehicles.
- Powered carts or LSV shall be driven on facility vehicle traffic areas whenever possible. If a sidewalk must be used, the cart speed should not exceed that of the pedestrian traffic.
- Carts or LSV which are capable of reaching 25 mph or higher must remain in facility vehicle traffic areas and should not be driven on the sidewalks or "pedestrian only" areas.

- Operators shall be familiar with, and observe all established traffic laws.
- Materials and equipment shall be properly secured so that they will not shift or fall off of moving carts or LSV.
- Powered carts & LSV shall not be operated at night without properly working head and taillights.
- Be extremely cautious while making turns and while driving on uneven surfaces to avoid tipping in carts.
- Parking a powered cart or LSV should follow the same rules as a motor vehicle and is prohibited in the following areas:
 - Fire Lanes
 - Designated no parking areas
 - Adjacent to building entrances or exits

SOLID WASTE, REFUSE, AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SAFETY

Personal Protective Equipment

- Gloves shall be worn by all employees while handling cans, bags, boxes, carts, etc.
- Protective eyewear shall be available and worn whenever items that could cause an eye injury are being handled.
- Appropriate footwear with anti-slip soles shall be worn. Leather work boots with good ankle support are recommended.
- High visibility clothing shall be worn by employees at all times when working in or around the roadway.
- Rainwear should be provided for protection from the rain.

Material Handling

- Size up the load and the weight to be lifted. This is done by holding the container at the top and rocking it back and forth. If it is too heavy, get help.
- Get a firm grip on the handle or top edge of the container with one hand, tip the container, then grasp the bottom edge of the container with the other hand.
- If the waste is in boxes, check the weight and condition of the box before lifting. Grasp the box with the fingers and palm of one hand around the top of one corner of the box; place the other hand at the bottom near the opposite corner.
- When handling plastic bags, always grab bags by the neck. Sharp objects can protrude through the bag and puncture hands and arms.
- If the container is in an area where there are potholes or the ground is uneven, request the assistance of a co-worker and use extra caution before attempting to lift.
- Tips for safe lifting:
 - Size up the load
 - Keep feet apart, establish a good base of support
 - Bend at the knees and hips, not at the waist
 - Get a good grip
 - Keep the load close
 - Lift with your legs
 - Pivot, do not twist your body

Control of Falls

- Jumping on or off a moving truck is prohibited. When exiting or entering the truck, three points of contact should be maintained at all times to provide adequate control.

- To get off the platform (step) at the back of the truck, wait until the truck has come to a complete stop. Make sure you have good footing when you reach the ground. When exiting the vehicle, get a good grip on the hand holds and exit the cab or step backwards.
- Step off onto wet grass or icy surfaces slowly and carefully.
- Make sure your foot has made good contact with the platform or step before getting back into the truck. Signal the driver to move only when you are ready.
- Always look in the direction that the truck is traveling. Watch out for low hanging tree limbs, brush, utility poles, etc. Do not ride the platform with your body leaning out beyond the body of the truck any farther than necessary.
- Do not lie, sit, or squat on the platform while the truck is moving.
- Never ride the platform while the truck is backing up, exceeding 10 miles per hour, or traveling more than 0.2 miles without stopping. Spotters shall be used anytime a truck is backing up.
- Watch for oil or grease on platforms, streets, and sidewalks.

Packer Operation

- Never activate the packer while standing in front of it; always stand to the side with head and eyes turned away.
- Never enter the packer container.
- One crew member should be solely responsible for operating the packing mechanism.
- The packer operator must be completely familiar with the location and operation of all controls and know how to stop the packer in an emergency.
- Do not overload the hopper or stick hands in while the packer is operating.
- The packing mechanism should be inspected and serviced according to the manufacturer's operating manual.

Vehicle Operation and Condition

- A spotter shall always be used anytime a truck is backing up. Standard, agreed upon hand signals should be used. Anytime the spotter leaves the driver's view in the mirrors, the driver must stop immediately.
- Trucks must be equipped with operational backup alarms.
- The driver will use flashing lights whenever collections are being performed.
- Know your vehicle's height and width clearances and be cautious near low hanging wires and tree limbs.

- Keep your truck in good condition. A pre-trip inspection shall be conducted each day.
- A fire extinguisher, first aid kit, and water shall be provided on the trucks.
- Keep bottles, cans, boxes, and other debris off the floor of the cab.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Keep electrical cables and cords clean and free from kinks. Never carry equipment by its cords.
- Keep cords out of walkways to prevent damage and trip and fall hazards.
- All electrical tools, equipment, extension cords, etc. shall be inspected on a regular basis. All faulty equipment shall be reported immediately to your supervisor. Lockout or tag the equipment so that others are aware the equipment is damaged. The tool, equipment, or cord shall not be used if it has any defects, such as bad insulation, missing grounds, loose prongs, etc.
- All electrical equipment shall be properly grounded.
- Extension cords should not be used in wet or damp areas. For adequate protection, a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) should be used to protect employees in wet or damp locations, except in emergency situations.
- All circuit breakers shall be identified as to use. Maintain clear access to electrical panels and main power sources at all times. Electrical panels and boxes should be securely fastened.
- All electrical panel boards, boxes, disconnects, switch gears, etc. shall be covered or isolated to prevent accidental contact with energized parts and to protect equipment and wiring from potential contamination.
- Before work begins at a jobsite, the location of electrical lines (underground and above) shall be determined and precautions taken to prevent accidental contact.
- Electrical Lockout/Tagout procedures shall be used when circuits or electrical equipment are being worked on. See *Lockout/Tagout Safety* in this manual.
- Electrical cables passing through work areas shall be covered or elevated to protect them from damage, which could create a shock hazard.
- Metal ladders shall not be used when working near electrical circuits, except in emergency situations.
- Exposed light bulbs or fluorescent tubes shall be guarded or recessed in reflectors to prevent accidental breakage.
- To aid in the prevention of electrical shock, 120 volt, single phase, temporary receptacles used at work sites should be used with a GFCI. If a GFCI is not available, an assured

equipment grounding conductor program may be used for added protection. Another option in protection from electrical shock involves the use of double insulated equipment.

- Employees involved in activities around hazardous energy levels should know cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and rescue procedures.

LOCKOUT/TAGOUT SAFETY PROCEDURES

Definitions

- **Lockout and tagout** are methods of preventing equipment from being set in motion unexpectedly, which in turn may endanger workers.
- **Lockout** is the placement of a lockout device on an energy isolating device to ensure that the energy isolating device and the equipment being controlled cannot be operated until the lockout device is removed.
- **Lockout device** is a device that utilizes a positive means such as a lock, either key or combination type, to hold an energy isolating device in the safe position thus preventing the energization of a machine or equipment.
- **Tagout** is the placement of a prominent warning device, such as a tag, on an energy isolating device to indicate that the energy isolating device and the equipment being controlled may not be operated until the tagout device is removed. Does not offer the physical protection of lockout.
- An **energy isolating device** is a mechanical device that physically prevents the transmission or release of energy. These devices can include, but are not limited to, electrical circuit breakers, disconnect switches, block valves, slip blinds, slide gates, etc.
- **Energy source** refers to any sources of electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, chemical, thermal, or any other energy.
- An **affected employee** is an employee whose job requires him/her to operate or use a machine or equipment on which servicing or maintenance is being performed under lockout or tagout, or whose job requires him/her to work in an area in which such servicing or maintenance is being performed.
- An **authorized employee** is a person who uses locks and/or tags on machines or equipment while performing service or maintenance activities. An authorized employee and an affected employee may be the same person when the affected employee's duties also include performing maintenance or service on a machine or equipment which must be locked and/or tagged.

Employee Responsibilities

All equipment should be locked out or tagged out to protect against accidental or inadvertent operation when such operation could cause injury to personnel. Employees should never attempt to operate any switch, valve, or other energy isolating device that is locked or tagged out. Employees should be trained on the importance of lockout/tagout procedures. Only authorized employees who have been trained in the procedures should be allowed to apply lockout or tagout.

Preparations for Lockout/Tagout

- Obtain the lockout/tagout procedures for the equipment. After a review of the procedure, determine if changes may be necessary in the procedure.
- Identify all affected employees that may be impacted by the impending lockout/tagout.
- Obtain necessary supplies, such as locks, tags, etc. that may be needed during the lockout or tagout.

Sequence of Events to Implement Lockout/Tagout

- Notify all affected employees that servicing or maintenance is required on a machine or equipment and that the machine or equipment must be shut down and locked out to perform the servicing or maintenance.
- The authorized employee should refer to the City of Harlingen written procedures to identify the type and magnitude of the energy that the machine or equipment utilizes. After identifying the type of energy source, the authorized employee should assure that he/she understands the hazards of the energy source and knows the methods to control the energy source.
- If the machine or equipment is operating, shut it down by the normal stopping procedures (depress stop button, open switch, close valve, etc.).
- Deactivate the energy isolating device(s) so that the machine or equipment is isolated from the energy source(s).
- Use lock(s) and/or tag(s) as necessary to prevent the accidental or inadvertent operation of the energy isolating device(s).
- Any stored or residual energy (such as that in capacitors, springs, elevated machine members, rotating flywheels, hydraulic systems, air pressure, steam pressure, gas pressure, etc.) must be dissipated or restrained by methods such as grounding, repositioning, blocking, bleeding down, etc.
- To ensure that the equipment is disconnected from the energy source(s), the authorized employee should follow these listed steps:
 - Check to make sure that no personnel are exposed to possible hazards.
 - Verify the isolation of the equipment by operating the push button or other normal operating control(s) or test to make certain the equipment will not operate.
 - Return the operating control(s) to the neutral or off position after verifying the isolation of the equipment.
- The equipment or machine should now be locked out.

Sequence of Events to Restore Machine or Equipment to Normal Operations

- Check the machine or equipment and the immediate area around the machine or equipment to ensure that nonessential items have been removed and that the machine or equipment components are operationally intact.
- Check the work area to ensure that all employees have been safely positioned or removed from the area.
- Verify that the controls are in the neutral position.
- Remove the lockout and/or tagout devices and re-energize the machine or equipment.
- Notify affected employees that the servicing or maintenance is completed and the machine or equipment is ready for use.
- Return or file used lockout and/or tagout devices.

Employee Training Requirements

- The employer should provide training to ensure that the purpose and function of the energy control program are understood by employees and that the knowledge and skills required for the safe application, usage and removal of the energy controls are acquired by the employees.
- Each authorized employee should receive training in the recognition of applicable hazardous energy sources, the type and magnitude of the energy sources, and the methods and means necessary energy isolation and control.
- Each affected employee should be instructed in the purpose and use of the energy control procedure.
- All other employees whose work areas may or may not be in an area where energy control procedures may be utilized should be instructed about the procedure and about the prohibition relating to attempts to restart or re-energize machines or equipment which are locked out or tagged out.

BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN SAFETY

- Due to potential hazards associated with blood borne pathogens that cause diseases such as hepatitis and HIV/AIDS, care shall be taken to eliminate contact with blood and body fluids.
- Universal precautions (treating all body fluids as potentially infectious) must be observed at all times.
- Preventative immunizations and vaccinations shall be offered to affected employees as required by *Texas Government Code, Chapter 607, Subchapter A, Section 607.004*.
- Use of appropriate gloves, gowns, face shields, masks, and eye protection may be necessary to prevent potentially infectious materials from passing through or reaching an employee's work clothes, street clothes, undergarments, skin, eyes, mouth, or other mucous membranes. A specialized mask for administering CPR shall be used.
- Employees shall wash hands and other contaminated body areas and remove all contaminated clothing immediately after administering the first aid.
- Employees shall immediately report all exposures to blood and body fluids to their supervisor so post-exposure care can be initiated.
- Contaminated work surfaces shall be decontaminated with an appropriate disinfectant after completion of procedures or contact with blood or potentially infectious materials.
- Infectious waste shall be placed in closable, leak-proof containers with proper labels and must be disposed of in a proper manner. Any used needles, syringes, etc. should be placed in an approved "sharps" container that will prevent accidental contact with the sharp edge.

FIRST AID

- All injuries, regardless of severity, shall be reported to your supervisor.
- Preplanning for a potential emergency situation is most valuable. All employees shall be aware of the medical services available and how to obtain them. Emergency phone numbers shall be posted in all work areas.
- Where first aid kits are supplied, employees shall be familiar with the location, contents, and the instructions given with the first aid kit. Each employee shall learn how to use this equipment so they can render treatment when needed.
- The contents of the first aid kits shall be inspected at least each month and expended items replaced. Personal medication shall not be kept in first aid kits.
- Where the eyes or body may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided for emergency use.
- Emergency eye wash and/or shower stations should be tested at least once per month to ensure proper working condition.

CONFINED SPACE SAFETY

- All potential hazards shall be evaluated prior to entry into a confined space.
- Only employees who have been properly trained on the hazards associated with confined space work shall be allowed to enter a confined space.
- If work is to be performed in a confined space, a written permit system shall be followed. The entry supervisor shall complete the written permit prior to entry to ensure that all safety equipment is in place and acceptable entry conditions are present.
- Before any entrance cover to a confined or enclosed space is removed, it shall be determined that there are no temperature or pressure differences or other hazardous conditions that may injure the employees removing the cover.
- No smoking shall be permitted in a confined space or near the entrance/exit area.
- When covers are removed from confined or enclosed spaces, the opening shall be guarded by a railing, temporary cover, or other temporary barrier.
- Before an employee enters a confined space, the internal atmosphere shall be tested for oxygen content, flammable gases and vapors, and potential toxic air contaminants. Approved and calibrated testing equipment shall be used to measure the concentration of the various gases.
- If an oxygen deficiency is found or if flammable or toxic gases or vapors are detected, the space shall be continuously tested and forced ventilation shall be used to maintain oxygen at a safe level and to prevent a hazardous concentration of flammable or toxic gases and vapors. If the confined space contains atmospheres that are immediately dangerous to life and health, a full face piece pressure demand self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) or combination full face piece pressure demand supplied air respirator (SAR) with auxiliary self-contained air supply will be used.
- Electric welding, gas welding, cutting, or any other hot work shall not be performed on the interior, exterior, or near the openings of any confined or enclosed space that may contain flammable or explosive gases or vapors until the space has been properly cleared. Monitoring shall be continuous during any hot work activities.
- If a hazard-increasing work activity is to take place in a confined or enclosed space (i.e., welding, painting, working with solvents and coating), the air in the space shall be continuously tested for the presence of flammable or toxic gases and vapors or insufficient oxygen. Forced ventilation shall be used as required.
- Before employees are allowed to enter a confined space, all electrical and mechanical energy sources that could affect the employees working in the space shall be physically rendered inoperative, locked out, and tagged. If required, the space shall be drained, vented, and cleaned.

- A properly trained attendant shall be stationed outside the confined space. The attendant shall maintain continuous communication with the employees authorized to be in the confined space. The attendant shall be able to recognize confined space hazards and changing conditions in the confined space that could affect employees in the space. In the event of an emergency, the attendant shall not enter the confined space but shall be able to summon emergency and rescue services.
- All employees required to enter a confined or enclosed space shall be equipped with a full body harness and lifeline monitored by a properly trained attendant. Other personal protective equipment and rescue devices may also be required depending on the situation.
- Compressed gas cylinders, other than breathing air, shall not be taken into a confined space.
- While work is being performed in an enclosed space, a person with CPR and basic first aid training shall be immediately available to render emergency assistance if there is reason to believe that a hazard may exist in the space or if a hazard exists because of traffic patterns in the area of the opening used for entry.
- Prior to entry, necessary rescue personnel and equipment shall be available in the event of an emergency.
- Safe access to the confined space shall be maintained at all times. If possible, all cords, hoses, leads, etc. shall be routed through an entrance other than the employee access into the confined space.
- Even though public entities in the state of Texas do not fall under OSHA requirements, sections of the OSHA Standards should be reviewed for minimum industrial standards.
- For additional information concerning confined space requirements, refer to OSHA standard *29 CFR 1910.146* and the *Confined Space Entry Safety Program* found in this manual.

EXCAVATION AND TRENCHING SAFETY

- Before opening an excavation, all interferences such as trees, sidewalks, and foundations shall be removed or supported as necessary to protect employees and the public.
- The estimated location of utility and other underground installations that may be encountered during excavation work shall be determined before opening the excavation.
- When excavation operations approach the estimated location of underground installations, the exact location of the installation shall be determined by safe and acceptable means.
- While the excavation is open, underground installations shall be protected, supported, or removed to safeguard employees.
- Employees exposed to vehicular traffic shall wear high visibility vests or clothing.
- Refer to Work Zone/Traffic Control Safety procedures as described in this manual.
- A stairway, ladder, ramp, or other safe means of egress shall be located in trench excavations that are four feet or more in depth so as to require no more than 25 feet of lateral travel for employees. Ladders must extend three feet above the surface and be tied off if necessary.
- No employee shall be permitted underneath loads handled by lifting or digging equipment. Employees shall be required to stand away from any vehicle being loaded or unloaded to avoid being struck by any spillage or falling materials.
- All mobile equipment (front end loaders, bulldozers, and dump trucks) shall be equipped with a warning device such as a backup alarm. When mobile equipment is operated adjacent to an excavation, a warning system shall be utilized such as barricades, hand or mechanical signals, or stop logs. If possible, the grade should be sloped away from the excavation.
- In excavations deeper than four feet with the potential for a hazardous atmosphere or oxygen deficiency, air testing shall be conducted before employees can enter an excavation and as often as necessary to ensure the atmosphere remains safe. Ventilation or respiratory protection may be needed to protect employees from harmful atmospheres.
- Daily inspections of the excavations and adjacent areas and protective systems shall be made by a competent person for evidence of situations that could result in a possible cave-in, failure of protective systems, hazardous atmospheres or other hazardous conditions. An inspection shall be conducted prior to the start of work, when there are changes in weather conditions, if the excavation has been left unattended for a period of time (such as lunch), and as needed.

- Employees shall not work in excavations in which there is accumulated water or in an excavation in which water is accumulating unless adequate precautions have been taken to protect employees. The precautions necessary to protect employees adequately can include special support or shield systems, water removal, or the use of a body harness and lifeline.
- Surface water shall be prevented from entering an excavation by utilizing diversion ditches, dikes, or other suitable means.
- Excavations subject to run-off from heavy rains shall require an inspection by a competent person.
- Excavated earth (spoil), materials, tools, and equipment shall be placed no closer than two feet from the edge of the excavation.
- Where employees or equipment are required or permitted to cross over excavations, walkways or bridges with standard handrails and guardrails shall be provided.
- When excavations are left open, warning devices, barricades, or guardrails shall be placed to adequately protect employees and the public.
- At the end of the workday, as much of the excavation as practical shall be closed.
- Mechanical excavating equipment that is parked or operating on streets or highways shall be protected by proper warning devices.
- Each employee in an excavation shall be protected from cave-ins by an adequate protective system (sloping, benching, shoring, or shielding), unless excavations are made entirely in stable rock or are less than five feet deep and examination of the ground by a competent person provides no indication of a potential cave-in.
- When choosing a protective system, a competent person shall take into consideration soil type, vibration sources, previously disturbed soil, layered soil, presence of water, heavy equipment work adjacent to the excavation, limited work area, and other hazard increasing conditions.
- Sloping, benching, shoring or shielding for excavations greater than 20 feet deep shall be designed by a registered professional engineer.
- A “competent person” as used in this section shall mean one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous or dangerous to employees, and who has the authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.
- For additional information on excavation requirements, refer to OSHA standard *29 CFR 1926 Subpart P, Excavations and/or Excavation and Trenching Safety Program* found in this manual.

WORK ZONE/TRAFFIC CONTROL SAFETY

- Work zone safety is the adequate safeguarding or protecting of pedestrians, motorists, utility workers and equipment by the use of adequate barriers, warning signs, lights, flags, traffic cones, high level standards, barricade rope, flaggers, etc. on approaches to work areas, excavations, open manholes, parked equipment, etc.
- Work zone traffic control is accomplished by the use of informative and protective devices, keeping in mind that a safe installation requires the use of these devices in relation to the location of the workers and equipment involved. The use of these devices must be coupled with proper planning, design, installation, inspection, maintenance and the use of good common sense. It is of utmost importance that the work area be properly identified and that warning devices clearly convey the message to the traveling public well in advance of arrival at the work area.
- The public must be warned in advance, then regulated and guided through or around the work area. Proper work area protection shall be planned to ensure the safety and protection of the public, the worker, and the equipment.
- If street construction or repair work is to be done, preparations will be made to ensure vehicle and pedestrian safety before work is allowed to begin by use of a traffic control plan.
- If traffic is affected by the operation, proper signs must be used in advance of the work area, and the traffic control signs in and around the affected area are to be correctly placed and maintained for the duration of the period when work is being performed and traffic obstructions exist.
- When barricades and signs are used overnight, supervisors will examine the work area for proper placement at the end of the workday.
- All employees working in or near the roadway will wear retro-reflective vests or suitable garments marked with or made of retro-reflective or high visibility material while at the work site. Garments worn at night must be made of retro-reflective material.
- Lighted barricades will be used whenever possible for overnight protection.
- Where traffic must be periodically stopped or obstructed by workers or equipment in a traveled portion of a roadway, a flagger wearing a reflective vest may be stationed. If lack of manpower exists, the roadway must be closed and the traffic detoured.
- Flaggers will be used to slow or direct traffic where the approach to the work area does not provide adequate visibility to drivers. The use of sign paddles (Stop/Slow) is preferred and should be used if available. During night operations, the flagger area should be illuminated and retro-reflective signs used.
- All plates used to cover holes in the street on a temporary basis are to be spiked in place.

- In any case where streets are significantly obstructed or closed for any period of time, the police, fire and other relevant departments will be notified of the situation and told approximately how long the closure will be in effect.
- When pedestrian traffic is impeded, barricades, restrictive tape, rope or other restraint will be used to keep the public from the work site.
- Holes in the sidewalk or parkway that must be left open will have perimeter protection. Protection of these areas will be in the form of physical barriers and warning signs.
- For additional information, please refer to the most current publication of the *Texas Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Part VI*. A copy of this manual is available at www.dot.state.tx.us.

LAW ENFORCEMENT SAFETY

Although additional policies, procedures, and general orders typically exist to ensure the safety of law enforcement officers, the following rules were established as minimum guidelines for those items often overlooked with regard to safety.

Patrol Safety

- Wear all department-issued body armor.
- Have an assist officer present when making arrests, if possible.
- Follow department policy and procedure on response to resistance issues.
- Wait for backup to arrive, if possible.
- Always be alert and prepared during an incident.
- Approach all incident scenes anticipating any possible dangers.
- During foot pursuits, swing wide around corners of buildings or other blind areas.
- Do not shine a flashlight directly in front of your body; hold it to your side.
- Handcuff all subjects before proceeding with your search.

Traffic Control Safety

- Be aware of the terrain and associated exposures in the area.
- Never turn your back on approaching traffic.
- Wear reflective vests and gloves at all times.
- When directing traffic, position yourself to limit your exposure and in a way that makes you as visible as possible.
- Use clear and easily understood signals with the drivers.
- Maintain communication with other officers assisting in the traffic control.
- Strike flares away from your body and be aware of possible burn hazards. Flares should be extinguished by smothering them in the dirt.
- Establish a safety zone at accident scenes by posting cones, lighting flares, positioning flaggers, and/or parking your vehicle to divert traffic.

Vehicle Stop Safety

- Position the patrol car behind the vehicle you are pulling over to provide a barrier between you and oncoming traffic.
- Wait until oncoming traffic is clear before exiting your vehicle.
- As you approach the vehicle, observe the driver and passengers by looking in the subject's side or rear view mirrors.
- Minimize your exposure to the driver and passengers by standing just to the rear of the subject's vehicle.
- Keep your attention on the subject(s) during the length of the vehicle stop; stay alert.

Search and Seizure Safety

- Follow established stance methods and search patterns.
- When there is indication that the subject may be concealing a sharp or pointed object, the officer shall direct the subject to remove the object or the article of clothing which contains it.
- During vehicle searches, officers must be cognizant of reaching into areas that have not first been viewed.

Suspect Transport Safety

- Follow the Department's handcuffing policy.
- Subjects will be placed in the back seat with the seat belt fastened.
- Subjects will not be left unattended in a patrol car when at all possible.
- All non-police personnel will be frisked/searched for weapons before being permitted into the patrol car.

Firearm Safety

- Do not modify your weapon, in any way, without department approval.
- Unload and lock the firearm before handing it to another person. Do not point the muzzle of the firearm toward anyone when handing it to another person. Do not throw a firearm.
- Keep your finger out of the trigger guard until you are ready to fire.
- Do not handle a firearm if you are taking medication from a container whose label indicates that the medication "may cause drowsiness or dizziness" or other adverse side effects.
- Do not point a firearm at anyone unless you intend to use deadly force in the line of duty.
- Leave the firearm in its holster or rack until it is needed.
- Do not conduct firearm practice alone.
- When unloading the firearm, do not try to catch the casings or magazine.
- Keep the muzzle pointed toward the target when loading and unloading the firearm.
- Return your weapon to its holster or rack when finished firing.
- Anytime a firearm is discharged in the line of duty, it must be reported to your supervisor immediately.

Shooting Range Safety

- Do not anticipate a command.
- Follow the instructions of the firearm instructor.
- Do not turn around while holding a firearm in the firing line.
- Wear eye and hearing protection when firing.
- Only instructors will be allowed to talk on the firing line. Other personnel must not talk while at the firing line.
- Clear any weapons malfunctions and continue course of fire. Report malfunctions once the line is made safe by the firearm instructor. Do not attempt to re-fire the weapon with the shell that misfired.
- Do not go in front of the firing line until it has been cleared and the command is given to go forward.

Vehicle Inspection

- At the beginning of each shift, each officer will inspect their assigned patrol vehicle documenting the results of the inspection.
- Any deficiencies that prevent the vehicle from being operated safely will be noted on the vehicle inspection report and the corrective action notice report. The report will then be turned in to your supervisor for review.
- Vehicles that have been deemed inoperable will not be driven for patrol duties until the deficiency is corrected.
- Officers should understand the basic operation requirements of their assigned vehicle and monitor those that can be viewed when refueling. Items that should be checked include tires, oil, transmission fluid, windshield washer fluid, coolant, etc.

Emergency Vehicle Operation

- Warn other vehicular traffic by using siren, horns, and warning lights when en-route to an emergency. Follow all laws as referenced in the Texas Transportation Code.
- Cover the brake with your foot as you are driving when you feel there is possible danger.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop when approaching an intersection.
- Proceed past a stop signal or a stop sign only after coming to a complete stop first.
- Operate with due regard for the safety of others.
- Do not push vehicles through intersections into traffic.
- Low beam headlights must be on during emergency responses.
- Slow down when you are followed by a tailgater.
- Do not pass other emergency vehicles during an emergency response. When passing is necessary, the passing arrangement must be made through radio communications.
- Follow local policy on emergency driving and the traffic laws related to emergency vehicle operations.
- Avoid backing of vehicles when possible. Where backing up is necessary, use a spotter to guide you. When a spotter is unavailable, dismount and walk around the vehicle to ensure that you have an unobstructed path before backing.
- Consider backing in to parking spots to allow for safer and faster response without backing, should an emergency arise.

FIRE & EMS PERSONNEL SAFETY

Personnel Safety on Vehicles

- All personnel riding on the apparatus must be seated with seat belts fastened while the apparatus is moving.
- Do not ride or allow passengers outside the cab or canopy of any department vehicle while in motion, unless vehicle is specifically designed for such.
- Do not open or attempt to exit through the doors of the apparatus while it is in motion.
- Where backing up is necessary, use a spotter to guide you. When a spotter is unavailable, dismount and walk around the vehicle to ensure that you have an unobstructed path before backing. Backup alarms should be in place and operational at all times. If the backup alarm is not functioning, the operator must honk the horn while backing.
- Ensure steps and hand rails/holds are used when entering or exiting apparatus/vehicles. Personnel should maintain three points of contact when entering or exiting apparatus/vehicles.

Fire Station Safety

- Mop or clean up any oil, hydraulic fluid, water, grease or other fluids from floors, bays or walkways in the apparatus storage area immediately upon detection.
- Do not allow extension cords or other electrical power cords across doorways or aisles, between desks or under vehicles.
- Clean up all spills immediately, especially wet spots around drink and coffee machines, in bathrooms, kitchens and hallways.
- Do not point a charged compressed air hose at anyone or use it to clean your clothing or the work area.
- Do not use oxygen as a substitute for compressed air.
- Do not stand on a ladder that wobbles or that leans to the left or right of center. A ladder or a step stool should be used when retrieving items above your head. Chairs, buckets, boxes, etc. should not be used in place of ladders.
- All wet or slick floors should be marked with a yellow "Wet Surface" sign. Employees shall avoid such areas until the signs are removed.
- Do not run on stairs or steps. Steps should be taken one at a time.
- Handrails will be used when using stairs or ramps.
- Do not block your own view by carrying large or bulky objects; use a dolly or a hand truck, or get assistance from another employee.
- Do not place a ladder at a blind corner or doorway without diverting foot traffic by blocking or roping off the area.
- Do not jump from trucks, platforms, ladders, roofs or other elevated places.
- Horseplay will not be tolerated.
- Inspect all tools prior to use. In addition, always use the proper tool for the job.
- Only activities authorized by the department will be allowed for the purpose of physical fitness.
- Proper housekeeping must be maintained throughout all facilities at all times.

Search and Rescue Safety

- Firefighters must operate in teams consisting of a minimum of two firefighters.
- Firefighters must not enter a burning structure without prior approval from their supervisor or the incident commander.
- Assume that all downwind or confined atmospheres encountered at a search and rescue scene are contaminated unless your supervisor or incident commander has told you otherwise.
- Use SCBA or supplied air respirators during extraction unless your supervisor or incident commander has confirmed that the atmosphere is safe.

Fire Ground Safety

- When arriving at the fire scene, firefighters must not remove their seatbelts until the apparatus has come to a complete stop.
- Do not get off the apparatus unless you have been specifically told to do so by the apparatus officer.
- Use steps and handrails/holds when entering or exiting apparatus and maintain three points of contact at all times.
- Avoid running when working at fire scenes.
- Do not freelance; always work in teams of two and do not separate for any reason.
- Avoid entering a structure fire by yourself for any reason.
- Avoid entering a burning structure if you are not wearing your SCBA.
- Prior to entering a burning structure, you must let the incident commander know what your intentions are by contacting him by radio or by telling him face-to-face.
- Firefighters must use full protective clothing, including hoods, gloves, SCBA, etc. for interior firefighting.
- Firefighting teams within a burning structure must have constant communication between each other and the incident commander outside the structure.
- If, for any reason, one member of a team must leave the interior of a structure, both firefighters must leave the structure.
- Avoid straddle charged hose lines.
- Open valves to charged hose lines slowly to prevent injuring the firefighters at the end of the hose.
- Before shutting down any charged lines or when a low water situation exists, the pump operator must notify the firefighters at the working end.
- Firefighters operating in or near streets or roads must wear their helmets and reflective traffic vests or full protective clothing for visibility to oncoming traffic.
- When utilizing pike poles to clean out hot spots or while conducting salvage and overhaul operations, do not pull the debris down toward your body; push it down and away from your body.
- SCBAs must be worn during all phases of firefighting, salvage and overhaul unless the incident commander tells you otherwise.

Vehicle Fire Safety

- Never approach vehicle fires without using full protective equipment clothing, including hoods, gloves, SCBA, etc.
- Use the wheel blocks to chock the wheels of the burning vehicle, when possible, to prevent it from rolling.
- When possible, approach vehicles fires upwind, downhill, and in a low crouch with the hose nozzle opened to the “full fog” position.
- Only open hoods when there is another firefighter present with a charged and tested hose line, standing by to attack the potential flare up of fire once the hood is opened.

Emergency Vehicle Operation

- Warn other vehicular traffic by using sirens, horns and warning lights when en-route to an emergency. Follow all laws as referenced in Texas Transportation Code.
- Cover the brake with your foot as you are driving when you feel there is possible danger.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop when approaching any intersection.
- Operate with due regard for the safety of others.
- Do not push vehicles through intersections into traffic.
- Low beam headlights must be on during emergency response.
- Slow down when you are followed by a tailgater.
- Do not pass other emergency vehicles during an emergency response. When passing is necessary, the passing arrangement must be made through radio communications.
- Follow your local policy on emergency driving and the traffic laws related to emergency vehicle operations.
- Avoid backing of vehicles when possible. Where backing up is necessary, use a spotter to guide you. When a spotter is unavailable, dismount and walk around the vehicle to ensure that you have an unobstructed path before backing.

BACK INJURY PREVENTION & MATERIAL HANDLING

Back injuries are prevalent and continue to be one of the leading causes of on-the-job injuries in the workplace. The following procedures are designed to prevent injury and disability to employees; decrease lost productivity due to accidents and injuries; and, decrease costs associated with these types of injuries.

Common Causes of Back Injuries

- Prolonged positions
- Poor posture
- Poor ergonomics
- Improper lifting/lifting too much
- Twisting while lifting
- Reaching while lifting
- Slips/trips and falls
- Vehicle and equipment entry and exit

Safe Lifting Principles

The following steps should be taken prior to lifting, handling, or carrying materials:

- Prior to beginning to lift or carry, check to ensure that the walkway is clear of all obstacles.
- Carefully check the object's weight and center of gravity.
- Face the object and get as close as you can with feet slightly apart and the head and neck facing forward. Grip the object firmly and hold it as close to your body as possible.
- Bend at your knees, not at your waist.
- Use your legs to bring you to a standing position, making the lift smoothly and under control.
- Do not twist your body when lifting or lowering.
- If necessary, obtain assistance in lifting heavy objects by utilizing additional personnel, power equipment, or other types of assistive lifting devices.
 - When two or more persons carry a heavy object that is to be lowered or dropped, there shall be a pre-arranged signal for releasing the load.
 - When two or more persons are carrying an object, each employee, if possible, should face the direction in which the object is being carried. Crouch or squat with the feet close to the object to be lifted; secure good footing; take a firm grip; bend the knees; keep the back vertical; and lift by bending at the knees and using the leg and thigh muscles. Employees shall not attempt to lift beyond their capacity. Caution shall be taken when lifting or pulling in an awkward position.
- Material shall not be thrown from place-to-place or person-to-person.

FIRE PREVENTION & LIFE SAFETY

These procedures address specific exposures and prevention methods related to fire prevention and the life safety of employees.

Management Responsibilities

- Ensure all fire prevention methods are established and enforced.
- Ensure fire protection systems such as sprinklers and extinguishers are periodically inspected and maintained in working order.
- Train supervisors to use fire extinguishers for incipient (developing) fires.
- Train employees on evacuation routes and procedures.

Supervisor Responsibilities

- Closely monitor the use of flammable materials and liquids.
- Train assigned employees in the safe use, storage, and handling flammable materials.
- Ensure flammable material storage areas are properly maintained.

Employee Responsibilities

- Use, store, and transfer flammable materials in accordance with provided training and policy, refer to Safety Data Sheets.
- Do not mix flammable materials.
- Immediately report violations of this program to a supervisor.

Potential Hazards

- Fire and explosion hazards can exist in almost any work area. Potential hazards include, but are not limited to:
- Improper operation or maintenance of gas-fired equipment
- Improper storage of use of flammable liquids
- Smoking in prohibited areas
- Accumulation of trash and debris
- Unauthorized 'hot work' operations

Hazard Prevention and Control

All nonessential ignition sources must be eliminated where flammable liquids are used or stored. The following is a list of some of the more common ignition sources:

- Open flames, such as cutting and welding torches, furnaces, matches, and heaters, should be kept away from flammable liquids. Cutting or welding on flammable liquids equipment should not be performed unless the equipment has been properly emptied and purged with a neutral gas, such as nitrogen.
- Electrical sources of ignition, such as DC motors, switches, and circuit breakers should be eliminated where flammable liquids are used, handled, or stored. Only approved, explosion-proof devices should be used in these areas.
- Mechanical sparks produced as a result of friction should not be used near flammable liquids.

- Static sparks generated as a result of static electricity. Every effort should be made to eliminate the possibility of static sparks including proper bonding and grounding of tools and equipment.

Removal of Incompatibles

Materials that can contribute to a flammable liquid fire should not be stored with flammable liquids. Examples include oxidizers and fertilizers stored near petroleum-based products.

Control of Flammable Gases

Generally, flammable gases pose similar fire hazards as flammable liquids and their vapors and many of the same safeguards also apply. Other properties, such as toxicity, reactivity, and corrosivity must also be taken into consideration as a flammable gas could produce toxic combustion products.

Fire Extinguishers

A portable fire extinguisher is the “first aid” device and is very effective when used while a fire is small. The use of an extinguisher that corresponds to the class of fire, by a trained person, can save both lives and property. Portable fire extinguishers must be installed in all workplaces, regardless of other firefighting measures. The successful performance of an extinguisher in a fire situation largely depends on the proper selection, inspection, maintenance, and distribution.

- **Classifications of Fire Extinguishers**

Fires are classified into five general categories, depending upon the type of material or fuel involved. The type of fire determines the type of extinguisher to be used to extinguish it.

- **Class A** fires involve combustible materials such as wood, paper, and cloth, which produce glowing embers or char.
- **Class B** fires involve flammable gases, liquids, and greases, including gasoline and most hydrocarbon liquids, which must be vaporized for combustion to occur.
- **Class C** fires involve live electrical equipment or materials near electrically energized equipment.
- **Class D** fires involve combustible metals such as magnesium, zirconium, potassium, and sodium.
- **Class K** fires involve cooking fats and oils found in deep fat fryers or other cooking appliances such as solid fuel char-broilers.

In many cases, areas will be equipped with an ‘ABC’-type extinguisher, which can be used for wide variety of common fires.

- **Location and Identification of Extinguishers**

Extinguishers should be conspicuously located and readily accessible for immediate use in the event of a fire. Generally, extinguishers will be placed along normal paths of travel and egress (exits). Wall recesses and/or flush-mounted cabinets should be used whenever possible.

Extinguishers should be clearly visible. In locations where visual obstruction cannot be completely avoided, directional arrows will be provided to indicate the location of extinguishers and the arrow will be marked with the extinguisher classification.

If extinguishers intended for different classes of fires are located together, they will be marked to ensure the proper class of extinguisher is selected. Classification markings will be located on the front of the shell above or below the extinguisher nameplate and should be legible from a distance of three feet.

- **Condition of Extinguishers**

Portable extinguishers will be maintained in a fully charged and operable condition and kept in their designated locations at all times when not being used. When extinguishers are removed for maintenance, inspection, or testing, a fully charged and operable replacement should be provided.

- **Mounting and Distribution of Extinguishers**

Extinguishers should be installed on hangers, brackets, in cabinets, or on shelves, no more than 42-inches above the floor.

Extinguishers should be distributed such that the amount of time required to travel to the extinguisher and back to the fire does not allow the fire to get out of control. Generally, the travel distance for Class A and Class D extinguishers should not exceed 75 feet; Class B extinguishers should not exceed 50 feet, due to the quick spread of flammable liquid fires; Class C extinguishers should simply be placed where they are likely needed, based upon the given hazards; and, Class K extinguishers are generally located within a proximate distance to the cooking areas in which they are designed to protect.

- **Inspection and Maintenance of Extinguishers**

All extinguishers should be visually inspected on a monthly basis and tested and certified by a qualified service provider on an annual basis.

- **Use of Fire Extinguishers**

In most cases, recalling the **PASS** acronym will help remember the four steps of safe extinguisher use.

- **P**ull the pin (from the handle)
- **A**im the nozzle (at the base of the fire)
- **S**queeze the handle (to actuate the extinguisher)
- **S**weep the nozzle (from side-to-side)

Fire Safety Inspections

Department Director(s) and Supervisor(s) are responsible for conducting workplace fire inspections as a part of the normal workplace safety inspection. These surveys should include observations of housekeeping issues and should specifically address proper storage of chemicals and supplies, unobstructed access to fire extinguishers and emergency exit or evacuation routes.

Emergency Exits

Every exit designated as an emergency exit should be clearly visible or the route to it conspicuously identified in such a manner that every occupant of the building will readily know the direction of escape from any point. At no time should exits or paths of egress (exits) be blocked.

Any doorway or passageway, which is not an exit or access to an exit, but which may be mistaken for an exit, should be identified by a sign reading "Not an Exit" or otherwise labeled as to the purpose (i.e., "Closet"). Exits and accesses to exits will be marked by a readily visible sign. Each exit sign (other than internally illuminated signs) should be illuminated by a reliable light source or phosphorescence.

Emergency Lighting

Emergency lighting in buildings, if equipped, should be tested at least monthly to ensure proper operational conditions in the event of an emergency. These tests should be completed in conjunction with the fire extinguisher visual inspections.

Evacuation Routes and Plans

Each facility shall design and post an emergency evacuation plan to allow employees and others to safely evacuate the building or affected area in the case of an emergency.

Should evacuation be necessary, proceed to the nearest exit or stairway and proceed to an area of refuge outside the building. Most stairways are fire resistant and are often equipped with barriers to smoke if doors remain closed.

Do not use elevators. Should a fire involve the control panel of the elevator or the electrical system of the building, power in the building may be lost and you could become trapped in the elevator, potentially between floors. Also, the elevator shaft can become a flue, lending itself to the passage and accumulation of hot gases and smoke generated by the fire.

Fire Emergency Procedures

The following procedures should be followed in the event of a fire within a building:

- One annual emergency drill/training per building
- Activate the nearest fire alarm, if equipped
- Notify your supervisor, co-workers, and other occupants
- Fight the fire only if:
 - The Fire Department has been notified of the fire, and
 - The fire is small and confined enough to its area of origin, and
 - You have a way out and can fight the fire with your back to the exit, and
 - You have the proper extinguisher, in good working condition, and know how to use it.
- If you are unsure of your ability or the fire extinguisher's capacity to contain the fire, leave the area.
- Leave the building and move away from exits, maintaining clear path for emergency operations.
- Assemble in a designated area.
- Report your safety to the appropriate supervisor or personnel.

TOOL SAFETY

- All tools shall be of an approved type and maintained in good condition.
- All tools shall be examined prior to use to ensure adequate working condition.
- Defective tools shall be tagged to prevent their use and removed from the jobsite.
- Employees shall be trained on the correct use, hazards, and limitations of tools used in the workplace.
- Gloves should be worn when they provide protection to the employee without increasing the chances of the employee becoming entangled at the point of operation.
- Tools shall not be left unsecured in elevated places. Tethering is recommended in areas where tools may fall to a lower level.
- Impact tools, such as chisels, hammers and punches that become mushroomed or cracked shall be replaced.
- Chisels and punches shall be held with a safe holding device, such as vice grips or pliers to avoid injury to employee's hand.
- Wrenches with sprung or damaged jaws shall not be used.
- Wooden handles that are loose, cracked or splintered shall be replaced, not taped or lashed.
- Power tools shall be disconnected from any power source while repairs or adjustments are being made.

Tool Carrying and Storage

- Never carry sharp tools in your pockets unless the edges are protected.
- Do not carry tools in your hands while climbing a ladder. Hoist them with a rope or use an approved utility belt.
- Protect your tools from falling when working from a scaffold, ladder or other elevated work areas.
- Do not leave your tools lying around where they may cause a trip/fall hazard. Tools no longer needed for the job shall be returned to their proper location.

LADDER SAFETY

- Wooden ladders shall not be painted so as to obscure a defect in the wood; only a clear nonconductive finish shall be used.
- All ladders shall be inspected regularly. Ladders with weakened, broken or missing steps, broken side rails, or other defects shall be tagged and removed from service.
- Ladders and scaffolds shall be sufficiently strong for their intended use. All ladders shall be capable of supporting at least 2.5 times the maximum intended load without failure.
- Ladders shall not be placed in front of doors opening toward the ladder unless the door is open, locked, or guarded.
- When ascending or descending ladders, employees shall have both hands free and shall face the ladder.
- Only City of Harlingen supplied ladders shall be used by employees.
- Ladders shall not be used as scaffold platforms unless specifically designed for that purpose.
- Boxes, chairs, etc. shall not be used as ladders.
- Portable metal ladders and other portable conductive ladders may not be used near exposed energized lines or equipment except in very specialized situations.
- The use of stepladders above 20 feet is prohibited and the use of extension ladders above 24 feet is strongly discouraged.
- All ladders used in fire service activities shall be NFPA approved.

Straight Ladders

- Portable straight ladders shall be equipped with nonskid bases or shoes.
- The ladder shall be placed so that the distance between the bottom of the ladder and the supporting point is approximately one-fourth of the ladder length between the foot of the ladder and the upper support.
- Straight ladders shall not be climbed beyond the third step from the top.
- When working from a portable ladder, the ladder must be securely placed, held, tied, or otherwise made secure to prevent slipping or falling.
- When dismounting from a ladder at an elevated position (such as a roof) the employee shall ensure that the ladder side rails extend at least 3 feet above the dismount position, or that grab bars are present.

- Employees shall belt off to a ladder whenever both hands must be used for the job or a possibility of the employee falling from an elevated position exists.
- Ladders shall not be spliced together to form a longer ladder, unless specifically designed to be used as a section ladder.
- A ladder shall not be placed against an unsafe support.

Step Ladders

- The top step shall not be used, except for platform ladders.
- Stepladder legs shall be fully spread and the spreading bars locked in place.
- Stepladders shall not be used as straight ladders.
- When an employee is working on a stepladder more than 10 feet high (except a platform ladder), another person shall hold the ladder or it should be tied to a support to prevent it from falling.

MATERIAL STORAGE SAFETY

- Material shall be stored in such a manner that it will be safe from damage. Special care must be taken to assure that stored material poses no hazard to anyone working around it. Only lightweight material should be stored on top shelves.
- Bins or shelves shall never be used as ladders.
- Materials shall not be stored on the floor, in front of shelving.

Housekeeping

- Work locations including vehicles, buildings, shops, yards, offices, cabs, etc. shall be kept clean and orderly at all times.
- Flammable/Combustible materials, such as oil-soaked rags, waste and shavings shall be kept in approved metal containers with metal lids. Containers shall be emptied as soon as practical.
- Both clean rags and used rags shall be kept in metal or metal lined bins having metal covers.
- Permanent floors and platforms shall be kept free of dangerous projections or obstructions and shall be maintained reasonably free from oil, grease, or water. Where the type of operation produces slippery conditions, mats, grates, cleats or other methods shall be used to reduce the hazard from slipping.
- Stairways, aisles, permanent roadways, walkways and material storage areas in yards shall be kept reasonably clear and free from obstructions, depressions and debris.
- Materials and supplies shall be stored in an orderly manner so as to prevent their falling or spreading and to eliminate tripping and stumbling hazards.
- Rubbish and unused clothing shall not be allowed to accumulate in lockers.
- Paper and other combustible materials shall not be allowed to accumulate, and weeds or other range vegetation shall not be permitted to grow in or around storage areas, shops, substations, pole yards, buildings, fuel tanks or other structures.
- Batteries shall be stored in a well-ventilated area protected from sparks or open flames.
- All personnel will practice good housekeeping. Scrap material will be disposed of properly, and the work area should be free of any loose material.

Stacking Material

- When material is stacked, all possible precautions must be taken to assure that it will remain stable. The lower level must be blocked or tied to prevent slipping. The height of a stack of material should remain within reasonable limits.
- When unloading and/or stacking poles or pipe, great care should be exercised to maintain a safe work environment. Do not stand on poles or pipe. Watch for pinch points, and stay out of the path of equipment during unloading. Avoid any contact with creosote, while unloading poles.

Combustible/Flammable Material

- Under no circumstances shall flammable materials be stored in an area where heat or potential ignition sources may affect the stability of the material.
- All combustible/flammable materials shall be stored in a location that will not endanger life or property. Containers will be clearly and appropriately marked, in accordance with fire safety standards. In addition, storage facilities shall have a sign identifying the materials as “flammable”.
- Storage of open containers of flammable materials is prohibited. Container covers must be promptly replaced. Smoking will not be permitted inside any warehouse facility or outside near flammable or combustible materials in the equipment yard.
- Combustible/Flammable liquids shall be used only for their designed purposes. Gasoline shall not be used for cleaning purposes or for starting or kindling fires.
- All solvents should be kept in approved, properly labeled containers. Gasoline and other solvents of this class shall be handled and dispensed only in approved, properly labeled (yellow letters) red safety cans.
- When pouring or pumping gasoline or other flammable liquids from one container to another, metallic contact shall be maintained between the pouring and receiving containers. Transferring of flammable liquids from one container to another shall be accomplished only in properly ventilated spaces free from ignition sources.
- Strict adherence shall be paid to “No Smoking” and “Stop your Motor” signs at fuel dispensing locations.

Smoking

- Open flames shall not be permitted in areas where combustibles/flammables or combustibles are present. Smoking will only be allowed in designated smoking areas and never in the vicinity of flammable materials. The absence of “No Smoking” signs shall not be considered authorization for smoking in hazardous locations.

SHOP SAFETY

Many safety-related hazards and exposures exist in workshops and maintenance garages. The following procedures were developed to serve as a reminder of some of the potential exposures that can be found in these areas. This is not an all-inclusive list and does not address all of the known or expected hazards. In many cases, references to alternative safety procedures contained within this manual are noted.

Air Compressors

- Drain valves on air compressors should be opened frequently to prevent the accumulation of liquid.
- Safety-relief valves will be installed on all compression tanks. These valves will be tested periodically to ensure their proper operation.
- Never use compressed air to clean your hands or to blow dirt from clothing or your body.
- When using compressed air for cleaning purposes, it must be kept at a level below 30 pounds per square inch (PSI).

Compressed Gas Cylinders

- If compressed gas cylinders are stored inside a building, the area will be kept dry and well ventilated. Oxygen and fuel gas cylinders must be stored separately.
- Cylinder carts, other than those designed to hold cylinders in an upright position, are prohibited. Upright cylinder carts must be equipped with a chain, bar or some other device that will act to stabilize the cylinder. If gauges are not attached to the cylinder, valve caps must be in place.
- Signage similar to the following must be posted in any cylinder storage area. "Danger – No Smoking, Matches, or Open Flames".
- See *Compressed Gas Cylinder Safety* section for additional safety requirements.

Grinders

- A face shield and safety glasses shall be worn while grinding. Any grinding equipment without proper safety features are not allowed in the work place. Abrasive wheels shall only be used on machines that have guards that cover the spindle end, nut and flange projections.
- Grinder work rests must be designated to be adjustable to compensate for wheel wear. Work rest should be adjusted with a maximum clearance of 1/8-inch to help prevent work from jamming. Tongue guards must also be adjusted to within 1/8-inch.
- When replacing abrasive wheels, follow the manufacturer's directions for proper installation and inspection. All grinding wheels must be inspected prior to installation to insure that the RPM rating of the wheel is correct for the grinder's RPM.

Electrical Safety

- Identify and label all electrical control devices, such as circuit breakers, fuses, disconnects, etc.
- All electrical outlets, including wall receptacles, extension cords, etc. must have an independent, third-wire ground system.
- All electrical tools and equipment shall be effectively grounded unless the tool is an approved double-insulated type.
- All electrical junction boxes shall have protective covers. All such boxes must have sufficient access space.
- See *Electrical Safety* section for additional requirements.

Material Storage

- Stored materials should stack in such a manner as not to create a hazard. Stack containers, boxes, parts, etc. in an orderly fashion to ensure stable stacking heights.
- Heavy bulky materials should be stored on lower shelves to minimize chances of injury due to falling objects.
- See *Material Storage Safety* section for additional requirements.

General Shop Safety

- Elevated storage platforms over four feet in height from floor level shall have standard handrails (includes a mid-rail and a top handrail) and toe boards. The handrails will be constructed of metal or wood sufficient to withstand 200 pounds of top rail pressure.
- Proper signage, such as “No Smoking” signs, will be installed in all areas where flammable or easily combustible materials are stored.
- Hooks used on hoisting equipment shall be equipped with a safety latch to help prevent dropping of any lifted load.
- The hoisting capacity of any hoisting equipment shall be printed clearly on the frame in lettering that is large enough to be read from ground level. All cranes shall be inspected on at least a monthly basis to assure their proper operation and condition.
- All shops shall have at least two accessible exits for emergency evacuations.
- Any doors not designated as exits, but may be mistaken for exits should be clearly marked “Not an Exit”.
- All exits shall be identified by a clearly visible, illuminated, “Exit” sign.
- Only approved containers are to be used for the storage of flammable and combustible materials. Approved containers can be identified by the presence of a label from a certifying organization, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

- Safety cans shall be painted red and clearly marked to identify the contents. Only approved pumps or self-closing faucets are to be used for dispensing flammable or combustible liquids.
- No guard shall be removed from any machine or piece of equipment except to perform required maintenance. Guards removed to perform maintenance operations shall be replaced immediately after the completion of the work.

STORAGE & EQUIPMENT YARD SAFETY

- All vehicles shall have the emergency brake set when parked on a slope or down grade. Consideration should also be given to the use of chocks in these situations.
- All vehicles and equipment shall be parked in a position that does not require backing whenever possible. When backing a truck or machinery in the yard, use a spotter to assist you into position.
- Proper personal protective equipment should be evaluated before performing any work in the yard. It is not possible to identify all personal protective equipment that may be required due to the various types of assignments in that area.
- Miscellaneous tools, equipment and material should be stored on pallets instead of being placed on the ground. Pallets should be stacked in a way that ensures their stability. Stability may be influenced by many items such as the stability of the ground, the height of the stacked material, the configuration of the stacking, etc.
- Always roll pipe from the ends or from behind to avoid placing your body in the pipe's path.
- All pipe racks will be fitted with pipe stops to prevent pipe roll-off. Stripping should also be used at the ends of the pipe to act as spacers.
- All aboveground fuel storage tanks should be protected on all four sides with heavy-duty guard posts and crash rails. Emergency cut-off switches shall also be installed near the pumping equipment and a fire extinguisher should be readily accessible.
- A diking system capable of holding the volume of the above ground storage tank should be constructed to help control potential spills.

COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDER SAFETY

- Never attempt to lift compressed gas cylinders with an electromagnet. Where cylinders must be handled by a crane or derrick, as on work sites, the cylinders shall be lifted in a cradle or suitable platform, not by the valve protector cap. Do not lift with slings or chokers. Extreme care must be exercised to prevent dropping or bumping of the cylinders.
- Cylinders, whether full or empty, shall be stored in a rack, chained or otherwise secured to prevent them from falling.
- Do not use cylinders as rollers, supports or for any other use other than its designed purpose.
- Cylinders shall have their contents properly identified. Empty cylinders shall be plainly marked "Empty" or "MT", and the valves shall be closed.
- Oxygen cylinders in storage shall not be stored near flammable or highly combustible materials, such as oil, grease, fuel, other fuel gas cylinders, etc. In addition, no cylinders shall be stored in areas where there is an exposure to direct sunlight.
- Welding or cutting of any pipeline, tank, empty container or piece of equipment shall not be performed until it is assured that the object is free from flammable materials or an explosive mixture of gases. Before welding or cutting begins, the hazardous materials shall be removed or it shall be vented to the atmosphere to prevent a possible explosion from the expansion of trapped gases.
- Cylinders shall not be placed where they might become part of an electric current or within five feet of an electrical outlet. Cylinders shall not be allowed to come in contact with energized conductors, ground wires from electrical equipment or welding machines.
- Valves of compressed gas cylinders shall be opened slowly and with the proper wrench.
- Before the regulator is removed from a cylinder, the valve shall be closed and all pressure released from the regulator. Use regulators and pressure gauges only with gases for which they are designed and intended. Do not attempt to repair or alter cylinders, valves or attachments. Any changes in the cylinders shall only be performed by the supplier or manufacturer.
- Leaking cylinders shall not be used. Such cylinders shall be taken away from sources of ignition and the supervisor notified. Leaking compressed gas cylinders shall be taken out of service immediately and handled as follows:
 - Close the valves and take the cylinder outdoors well away from any source of ignition.
 - Properly tag or mark the cylinder.

- If the leak occurs at a fuse plug or other safety device, take the cylinder outdoors well away from any potential ignition source and open the cylinder valve slightly to allow the contents to escape slowly.
- Tag the cylinder to warn others. (The environmental and health effects of the contents must be evaluated prior to allowing the cylinder to bleed-down.)
- Post warnings against approaching with lit cigarettes or other potential ignition sources.
- Promptly notify the supplier and follow instructions for handling/returning the cylinder.
- Do not remove or change the marks and/or numbers stamped on compressed gas cylinders. In addition, any labels shall be left in place for identification purposes.
- Cylinders that are heavy or difficult to carry by hand may be rolled on their bottom edge, but they should never be dragged.
- Do not tamper with safety devices in valves or on cylinders.
- Consult the supplier of the gas or the appropriate Safety Data Sheet (SDS) when there are doubts concerning the proper handling of a compressed gas cylinder or its contents.

Transporting Cylinders

- Load to allow as little movement as possible.
- Remove regulators and put valve protection caps in place.
- Secure cylinders to prevent violent contact or falling.

MACHINE GUARDING SAFETY

Guarding Requirements

- Guards shall be affixed and secured to any machine, where possible.
- A guard shall not offer an accident hazard in itself.
- Repair any guards, as necessary.
- The point-of-operation of machines where the operation presents a hazard to employees shall be guarded.
- Revolving drums, barrels, and containers shall be guarded by an enclosure that is interlocked with the drive mechanism.
- When periphery fan blades, such as those found on ventilation fans, are located less than seven feet above the floor or working level, the blades shall be guarded with a protective covering with openings no larger than one-half inch.
- Machines designed for a fixed location, such as a drill press or bench grinder, shall be securely anchored to prevent walking or moving of the machine during operation.

Machine Guard Requirements

- Guards must prevent hands, arms, fingers, feet, or any other part of the employee's body from making contact with moving parts. A good safeguarding system eliminates the possibility of the operator or other employees from placing parts of their bodies near hazardous moving or energized parts.
- Employees should not be able to easily remove or tamper with guards. Guards and other safety devices should be made of durable material that will withstand the conditions of normal use and must be firmly secured to the machine.
- Guards should ensure that no objects can fall into moving parts.
- Guard edges should be rolled or bolted in such a way to eliminate sharp or jagged edges.
- Guards should not create interference which would hamper employees from performing their assigned tasks.
- Lubrication points and feeds should be placed outside the guarded area to eliminate the need for guard removal.

WELDING & CUTTING SAFETY

- Welding and cutting shall only be performed by experienced and properly trained personnel.
- The work area shall be inspected for potential fire hazards before any cutting or welding is performed.
- When welding or cutting in elevated positions, precautions shall be taken to prevent sparks and hot metal from falling onto people or material below.
- Suitable fire extinguishing equipment shall be immediately available at all locations where welding and cutting equipment is used.
- Proper strikers shall be used in lighting torches. Matches and cigarette lighters shall not be used.
- A fire watch shall be maintained whenever welding or cutting is performed in locations where combustible materials present a potential fire hazard. A fire check should be made of the entire area after completion of welding or cutting activities.
- Machinery, tanks, equipment, shafts or pipes that could contain explosive or flammable materials shall be thoroughly cleared and decontaminated prior to the application of heat.
- In dusty or gaseous spaces where there is a possibility of an explosion, welding or cutting equipment shall not be used until the space is adequately ventilated.
- Adequate ventilation or approved respiratory equipment shall be used while welding in confined spaces or while cutting, brazing or welding zinc, brass, bronze, stainless steel, galvanized or lead coated materials.
- Welders shall wear clothing made of fire resistant fabrics, gloves, appropriate footwear, sleeves and a buttoned collar. All protective clothes and equipment should be worn in a manner that provides the most efficient protection from slag or other hot material.
- When using an arc welder, use No. 10 or No. 12 shade lenses. When using acetylene torches for welding or cutting, use No. 5 or No. 6 shade lenses.
- Regular shaded safety glasses do not provide adequate protection for welding or cutting operations.
- Proper eye protection in the form of safety glasses and a face shield should be worn during any portable grinding activities. Safety glasses should also be worn during any slag chipping activities.

Gas Welding

- Suitable eye protection, protective gloves and clothing shall be worn during welding or cutting operations or while cleaning scale from welds. Helpers or attendants shall wear proper eye protection. Other employees shall not observe welding operations unless they use approved eye protection.
- Matches shall not be used to light a torch. A torch shall not be lit on hot work.
- When gas-welding equipment is not in use, the cylinder valves shall be closed and the pressure in the hose released.
- Gas hoses shall not be positioned so they create tripping/slipping hazards.
- Always inspect oxygen or fuel gas hoses for leaks, burn spots, worn places, or other defects before pressurizing.

Electric Welding

- No electric welding machine, either AC or DC, shall be operated until the frame or case of the machine is electrically grounded for protection from potential shock hazards.
- All ground and electrode lead cables will be inspected before use for bad or damaged connectors. Only connectors designed for joining or connecting will be used for that purpose.
- Welders shall wear an approved welding helmet, proper protective gloves and fire-resistant clothing during welding activities. Proper eye protection in the form of safety glasses and/or a face shield should be worn by the welder and any helpers in the area when chipping slag, grinding, etc. Other employees shall not observe electric welding operations unless they use approved eye protection.
- Welders shall wear proper eye protection to guard against flying particles when the helmet is raised.
- Welding screens shall be used whenever practical to help control potential ultraviolet light exposures to other personnel in the area.
- Welding machines will be placed at least 4 feet apart.
- Fire extinguishers should be placed in the immediate area and a fire watch used as necessary to control any fire potential.

WEATHER-RELATED ILLNESS PREVENTION

Educate employees on the symptoms, treatments and preventive measures for heat-related problems.

Cold-Related Illnesses

- Hypothermia is when the body's temperature drops below normal, causing uncontrollable shivering, weakness, drowsiness, disorientation, unconsciousness, and even death. Persons working outdoors during the winter months should follow the guidelines listed below:
 - Dress in layers
 - Keep dry
 - Work with co-workers when possible

Heat-Related Illnesses

- Heat stroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps and heat rash are health-related problems associated with working in hot environments. Heat-related illnesses can be caused by prolonged exposure to hot temperatures, limited fluid intake, or failure of temperature regulation mechanisms in the brain.
- The most serious health disorder associated with working in a hot environment is heat stroke. Symptoms of heat stroke include hot dry skin, no sweating, high body temperature, rapid heartbeat, mental confusion, or a loss of consciousness. While medical help is being called, the victim should be moved to a cool area and his/her clothing soaked with cool water. Vigorous fanning of the body will increase cooling. Death can occur if prompt first aid and medical help is not given.
- Heat exhaustion occurs as a result of excess fluid loss and failure to replace the minerals and fluid lost during sweating. Signs of heat exhaustion include extreme weakness or fatigue, giddiness, nausea, or headaches. The skin is clammy and moist and the body temperature is relatively normal. The best treatment for heat exhaustion involves resting in a cool place and drinking plenty of fluids.
- Heat cramps are painful muscle spasms, which are caused by excessive fluid and salt loss. Such cramps can be treated by consuming fluid replacement beverages.
- Heat rash is likely to occur in hot and humid environments where sweat cannot be easily evaporated from the skin surface. It can be prevented by resting in a cool place and allowing the skin to dry.
- By following a few basic precautions, health problems associated with working in hot environments can be prevented:
 - Those unaccustomed to working in the heat should be given time to adjust to work in a hot environment.
 - Wear light, loose fitting clothing and protect yourself by wearing a hat. Sunscreen should also be used when prolonged exposures to sunlight may be possible.

- Drink plenty of fluids to help prevent dehydration. Five to seven (5-7) ounces of fluid are recommended every fifteen to twenty (15-20) minutes when working in extremely hot or humid conditions. Beverages containing alcohol or caffeine should be avoided to prevent dehydration.
- Alternate work and rest periods. Heavy work should be scheduled for the cooler parts of the day if possible.

PESTICIDE & HERBICIDE SAFETY

- Pesticides/herbicides should only be applied under favorable time and weather conditions.
- When applicable, all employees who apply pesticides or herbicides shall be licensed.
- Before using any pesticide or herbicide, employees shall read the label carefully and follow the directions and precautions.
- Pesticides shall be stored in a properly labeled, tightly sealed container and under lock and key at all times. The building, or structure shall be clearly marked with pesticide warnings.
- Before handling any pesticides/herbicide, the user should review the safety data sheet and label to identify any personal protective equipment that will be needed to prevent a possible exposure.
- Mix the pesticides/herbicides in a well-ventilated, well-lit area. Mix only a recommended rate and apply only at specified dosages.
- Check application equipment for leaking hoses or connections, plugged or worn nozzles, and examine the filter to ascertain that it is free of debris.
- Employees shall avoid contact with skin or inhalation of mists or spray.
- Safety data sheets (SDS) shall be maintained and kept near material and storage locations.
- Spray equipment shall be cleaned daily when using oil-based solutions.
- Pesticides/herbicides shall not be stored or disposed of where they could contaminate people, property or waterways.
- Empty containers shall be disposed of in a safe manner.
- Do not eat, drink or use tobacco products while handling pesticides/herbicides.

CHAINSAW SAFETY

Personal Protective Equipment

Employees operating a chainsaw or related equipment shall, at a minimum, wear:

- safety glasses and/or face shields
- head protection
- hearing protection
- gloves
- cut-resistant chaps
- work shoes or boots
- fall protection, if necessary

Chainsaw Operation

- When starting a chainsaw, it shall be placed on the ground or against a solid support. Do not hold the chainsaw off the ground when starting.
- Ensure the chain brake, if equipped, is locked before starting.
- The operator shall grip the chainsaw with both hands during the entire cutting operation.
- The saw bumper shall be against the tree or limb before starting a cut.
- Chainsaw operators shall regularly clear the immediate area around their work to make certain that brush or limbs will not interfere with the chainsaw or operator.
- Chainsaws shall not be modified in such a way to allow locking of controls in the “on” position.
- The saw engine or motor shall be stopped when:
 - Working on any part of the chain or cutting bar.
 - Being moved from one location to another.
 - The unit is unattended.
- Gasoline driven chainsaw engines shall be stopped when being refueled. If gasoline is spilled on the chain saw during refueling, it shall be wiped off before the engine is started.
- A gasoline driven chainsaw shall not be used above shoulder level. Employees shall not approach the chainsaw operator with the reach of the saw blade while it is in operation.
- Ropes, pulleys, etc. should be used as necessary to lower larger limbs that may endanger persons and property if allowed to “free-fall”.
- The proper use of fall protection and/or ladders should be reviewed with all employees prior to working from a position other than ground level.

TREE CUTTING & TRIMMING SAFETY

Before attempting to trim, cut, or remove any tree, carefully consider its characteristics. Items to be considered include:

- Tree lean
- Tree size
- Wind conditions
- Nearby structures
- Nearby utilities
- Other trees or brush in the vicinity

Before cutting, clear the ground around the tree(s) where the work will be performed, carefully, removing any underbrush or other obstructions. This will provide clear vision, unrestricted movement, and an unhampered escape route when the tree or limb begins to fall.

In advance of the cutting, plan an escape route to the side or rear, depending upon the situation and likely direction of tree and limb fall.

As the tree or large limb begins to fall, stop the saw and lay it in a safe place that will allow unrestricted escape.

Trimming & Cutting Procedures

- Hold the saw firmly with both hands.
- If cutting entire tree, make a cut close to the base of the tree but high enough to conveniently avoid running the saw near the soil.
- Cut through trees up to 8-inches in diameter with one cut.
- On larger trees, notch (undercut) at least one-third of the trunk diameter on the fall side of the tree. Then, make a lower cut of the 45-degree notch first to prevent pinching or binding of the chain by wedge cut, if used.
- Make the cut to initiate the fall on the opposite side of the trunk about 2-inches above and parallel to the horizontal notch. Leave wood fibers intact to act as a hinge to keep the tree from twisting and falling in the wrong direction or kicking back on the stump.
- Guide the saw into the tree, do not force it.
- Remove the saw from the tree and shut down before the tree falls.

Preventing Saw Kickback

- Hold the saw firmly with both hands.
- Grip the top handle of the saw by wrapping hand and thumb firmly around handle.
- Use a saw equipped with chain brake or kickback guard.
- Watch for twigs or other impediments that could snag the chain.
- Don't pinch the chain bar while cutting.
- Saw with the lower part of the bar close to the bumper, not on the top near the nose.
- Maintain high saw speed when entering or leaving a cut in the wood.
- Keep the chain sharp.

FORKLIFT SAFETY

- Forklifts shall only be operated by authorized persons who have been properly trained in their use. This training should be documented and consistently used with all authorized operators and trainees.
- The operator is responsible for inspecting the equipment before it is used. The brakes and controls shall also be tested by the operator prior to use. Needed repairs shall be reported immediately.
- Equipment shall be operated at a safe speed for existing conditions, moving slowly around corners and avoiding holes and loose materials.
- Seat belts shall be worn when operating a forklift with rollover protection.
- Clearances shall be checked in all directions, particularly overhead clearances.
- Forklifts shall not be fueled while the engine is running.
- Forks shall be placed under the load as far as possible. Loads should not be raised or lowered while traveling. Loaded or empty, forks should be carried as low as possible, but high enough to clear uneven surfaces. (Usually about 6-12 inches on level surfaces.)
- Operators shall always face the direction of travel and also keep their arms and legs inside the equipment.
- Load limits as specified by the manufacturer shall not be exceeded.
- Do not travel with the load raised as this causes the center of gravity to rise, which may affect the tipping potential.
- Only the operator shall be allowed on the equipment during operation, unless a seat is provided for another occupant.
- A secured platform specifically designed for the purpose must be used when lifting personnel.
- Unattended forklifts (i.e., those in which the operator is more than 25 feet away or the forklift not in his/her view) shall have the load fully lowered, controls neutralized, power shut off and brakes set.
- Equipment with internal combustion engines shall not be operated in enclosed areas for long periods of time so as not to exceed the allowable levels of carbon monoxide.

BACKHOE & LOADER SAFETY

- Operators shall be adequately trained and qualified to operate the equipment. The operators shall become thoroughly familiar with the equipment before using it and they must understand the contents of the operator's manual.
- The operator is responsible for inspecting the equipment before it is used. The brakes and controls shall also be tested by the operator prior to use. (Needed repairs shall be reported immediately). Observe proper maintenance and repair of all pivot pins, hydraulic cylinders, hoses, snap rings and main attachment bolts daily.
- Seat belts shall be worn on all equipment with rollover protection.
- Operators should maintain three points of contact with the equipment when entering or exiting. This will allow the operator to regain their balance if a slip occurs.
- Back-up alarms are a useful warning device and should be used when possible, especially on larger vehicles and equipment that may severely restrict your view to the rear of the vehicle. If an alarm is not present, the operator should honk the horn to warn others of the moving vehicle. Back-up alarms should be operable at all times.
- Only the operator shall be allowed on the equipment during operation, unless a seat is provided for another occupant.
- Employees shall never be allowed to ride in the bucket or use the bucket for an elevated platform.
- Walk around the equipment to observe for children and others before starting up. Consider the use of a spotter when backing the equipment.
- Keep bystanders in the clear while operating the equipment. No one is allowed in a ditch while a backhoe is excavating.
- Call 811 to locate underground utility lines and overhead power lines before starting to dig. (Always contact utility companies to physically locate any underground lines). Do not operate a backhoe within 10 feet of an overhead electrical line. Hand-dig in the vicinity of all known underground utility lines and pipelines.
- Never attempt to lift loads in excess of the equipment capacity.
- Never allow anyone to get under the equipment or reach through the lift arms while the bucket is raised.
- Relieve the pressure in any hydraulic lines before disconnecting them to make repairs. Any hydraulic implements that are not relieved, shall be physically blocked to protect against mashing injuries during maintenance or repair activities. Physical blocks may include safety stands, timbers, cinder blocks, etc. that can withstand the force.

- Use care at all times to maintain proper stability. Drive at safe speeds over rough ground, on slopes, when crossing ditches and when turning corners.
- To prevent upsets when operating on a slope, avoid using the full reach and swinging a loaded bucket to the downhill side.
- Always center and raise the boom before moving to a new location.
- Do not attempt to exit the equipment while it is still in motion. Apply the parking brake and shut down the engine before leaving equipment.
- Lubrication activities or mechanical adjustments shall not be attempted while the equipment is running if there is a possibility of contacting a pulley, belt, shaft, etc. that is in motion.
- Park the equipment on level ground when possible. As a minimum, the bucket should be lowered, the brakes set, the transmission engaged and engine killed when parking.
- Use care in attaching towing lines to the equipment. Pulling from the tractor rear axle or any point above the axle may cause an accident.
- Slow moving placards and other warning devices should be used to help other motorists in spotting the slow-moving vehicle from a safe distance.

DUMP TRUCK SAFETY

- Employees or other individuals shall not be carried in the bed for transportation purposes.
- Employees shall not remain in the cab when the bed is being loaded unless the cab is protected against impact.
- Check overhead clearances before raising the bed. Be aware of overhead electrical lines.
- Be sure hoist is not engaged before moving the truck.
- Loose material shall be covered to prevent blowing debris and spillage.
- Close windows during loading/unloading to control dust accumulation inside the cab.
- Operators of dump trucks must possess a valid Commercial Driver License.
- Operators are responsible for cleaning debris, mud, rocks, etc. from the bed, fenders and other body parts that may become dislodged during travel.
- Back-up alarms are a useful warning device and should be used when possible, especially on larger vehicles and equipment that may severely restrict your view to the rear of the vehicle. If an alarm is not present, the operator should honk the horn to warn others of the moving vehicle. Back-up alarms should be operable at all times.
- All mirrors should be maintained in clean, good working condition and adjusted to assist the operator in viewing obstructions or other vehicles.
- Operators should maintain “three point of contact” with the equipment when entering or exiting the cab. This will allow the operators to regain their balance if a slip occurs.

TRACTOR & SHREDDER SAFETY

- The operator shall wear a securely fastened seat belt if the tractor/shredder is equipped with rollover protection.
- Guards around chains, shafts, pulleys, gears, etc. shall always remain in place while the equipment is in operation.
- Use caution when operating near slopes, cuts, depressions, drop-offs, soft shoulders, ditches, etc. Operators shall constantly watch for hidden objects and uneven ground. Hazardous areas shall be pre-cleaned and special hazards removed prior to mowing.
- Use care when entering traffic areas, crossing railroad tracks, etc.
- Operators should maintain three point of contact with the equipment when entering or exiting. This will allow the operator to regain his/her balance if a slip occurs.
- Back-up alarms are a useful warning device and should be used when possible, especially on larger vehicles and equipment that may severely restrict your view to the rear of the vehicle. If an alarm is not present, the operator should honk his horn to warn others of the moving vehicle. Back-up alarms should be operable at all times.
- Only the operator shall be allowed on the equipment during operation, unless a seat is provided for another occupant.
- Lubrication activities or mechanical adjustments shall not be attempted while the equipment is running if there is a possibility of contacting a pulley, belt, shaft, etc. that is in motion.
- Take sharp turns at low speed.
- Proper personal protective equipment shall be worn at all times. On a tractor with an uncovered cab, the operator should as a minimum wear safety glasses and hearing protection. Other personal protective equipment such as gloves, face shields, sleeves, boots, etc. should be evaluated for individual jobs. Sunscreen should also be used in areas where the operator may be exposed to sunlight for long periods of time.
- Slow-moving placards and other warning devices should be used to help other motorists in spotting the slow-moving vehicle from a safe distance.

LANDSCAPING & GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SAFETY

Power Lawn Mowers (Push, Riding, and Zero-Turn Radius)

Prior to use:

- Review the instruction/owner's manual, especially if you are unfamiliar with a particular piece of equipment.
- Ensure that all mowers are equipped with adequate and appropriate guards, which shall remain in place while the mower is in use, including rear shields, grass chute/deflector, and 'dead-man' controls.
- Any adjustments, inspections, or repairs, should be completed while the mower is at a complete stop. A spark plug wire shall be removed if necessary to prevent accidental starting.
- Fill the fuel tank outdoors. No smoking allowed while fueling.
- Walk the area to be mowed, carefully removing any debris including rocks, limbs, logs, or anything else the mower blades could throw while cutting.

Mower Operation

- Proper personal protective equipment shall be worn for the task being performed. Necessary personal protective equipment includes protective eyewear, face shields, hearing protection, gloves, and work boots.
- Avoid directing the discharge opening toward other individuals or vehicles in the vicinity.
- When mowing on a slope or incline, it is safer to mow up and down the hill rather than across the face of the slope. Do not operate mowers on a slope greater than 15 degrees.
- Avoid wet slopes to prevent losing traction and tipping over.
- Keep the mower's movement steady and slow enough to adequately maintain control.
- Maintain a safe distance from drop-offs, water, and other hazards.
- Do not make rapid corrections or turns.

Chippers

- Proper protective eyewear and hearing protection shall be worn by all employees near the chipper and other personal protective equipment may be necessary depending on the activity. In addition, workers must be aware of entanglement hazards involving loose fitting clothes, gloves, etc.
- Chippers shall never be parked directly under the tree being trimmed.

- If the chipper is parked on or near the roadway, advance warning signs, flaggers, cones, etc. shall be used to identify and protect the work area.
- Spectators shall never be allowed to stand near the machine while brush is fed into the chipper.
- Employees shall never place hands or other parts of the body into the brush chipper while the chipper is in operation.
- The battery cables shall be disconnected prior to performing any task that may potentially put you in contact with the cutting blades.
- Tools or other metallic objects shall not be used to push brush into the chipper.
- The ignition key shall be removed when the chipper is left unattended.
- Employees shall be familiar with emergency shut-off procedures and ensure that the emergency shut-off is operational prior to use.

Line Trimmers & Edgers

- Proper protective eyewear and hearing protection shall be worn by all employees near the chipper and other personal protective equipment may be necessary depending on the activity.
- Never install a blade on a trimmer or edger that was not specifically designed for that machine.
- Carefully trim around vehicles, doorways, parking lots, and other areas where others may be as flying debris may cause injury.
- Allow machines to properly cool down prior to re-fueling. Hot engine parts and mufflers may cause a fire should fuels be spilled on or in them.

POISONOUS PLANT (AWARENESS)

Poison Ivy, Oak, and Sumac are classified as *Toxicodendrons* as the substances found in the sap are collectively known as urushiols. Other related plants and/or plant products (fruits, leaves, etc.) also contain similar oils.

Poison Ivy usually has three broad, spoon-shaped leaves or leaflets, but can have more. It may grow as a climbing vine, a creeping vine, or as a bush or shrub, depending upon the surrounding terrain and locale. Leaves are generally 1.5 to 4.5 inches long and 1.5 to 4.5 inches wide and can be shallowly lobed or almost entirely serrated. Poison Ivy is very common throughout Texas, often found along river or creek beds, fencerows, roadsides, and edges of open fields.

Poison Oak has leaves that look generally like oak leaves with usually three, but sometimes up to seven leaflets per group can be anywhere from one to six feet tall. As with Poison Ivy, Poison Oak grows as both a vine and shrub; however, Poison Oak vines generally do not climb. Poison Oak is generally found in more arid, sunny locations.

Poison Sumac has seven to thirteen paired leaflets per leaf stem and the leaves have smooth edge and pointed tips. It is generally found in wooded, swampy areas such as creeks and wetland areas. It is also important to remember that these plants may take on different characteristics during the various seasons and in different locations throughout the country.

- Sensitivity to these plants can vary and some people who do not appear sensitive may develop sensitivity on later exposures.
- Exposures to poison ivy, poison oak or sumac are greatest in the spring and summer months when the oil (urushiol) is most abundant.
- Onset of the rash is from a few hours to several days after exposure. The skin becomes red, blisters appear, usually accompanied by itching. As symptoms progress, swelling and fever may develop.
- If you are going to be in areas where you know poison oak or ivy is likely to grow, wear long pants and long sleeves, and if practical, gloves and boots. Your best protection is to identify the plant and avoid contact. Barrier creams can provide even greater protection and should be used prior to work in affected areas.
- Be aware that the plant's oily resin sticks to almost all surfaces and can even be carried in the wind (on particles of dust) when there is a fire burning.
- If you think you have contacted poison ivy, follow these simple procedures:
 - Wash all exposed areas with cold running water as soon as you can. If this is done within five minutes, the water should neutralize or deactivate the urushiol in the plant's oil before it can bond with your skin and create a rash. Soap is not necessary and may even spread the oil.

- If possible, change clothes. Wash all clothing outside with a water hose before taking it into the work area or home to prevent the oil from being transferred to furniture or rugs. Resinous oils can last on tools and clothing for months unless properly cleaned or laundered.
- Mild rashes can be treated with lotions and by soaking in an oatmeal bath or covering the rash with wet compresses. Contact a physician for treatment of severe cases or if the irritation is not cleared up in three or four days.

PAINTING SAFETY

- Read and follow the manufacturer's directions carefully when applying any finishing materials, such as lacquer, enamel, paint, etc. if questions arise as to the hazards of the substance, refer to the applicable Safety Data Sheet (SDS).
- Personal protective equipment, as recommended by the manufacturer, shall be used when applying the products.
- Any spray painting must be done with an adequate amount of clearance from any potential sources of ignition. When possible, painting should be performed in isolated areas where ignition sources do not exist or are very minimal.
- Proper ventilation and/or adequate respiratory protection must be addressed before any application begins.
- Any flammable substances, such as paints, thinners, etc., must be stored in proper storage areas or in a UL listed metal storage cabinet.
- Any flammable substances removed from their original containers shall be stored in UL listed storage containers, if the original container will not meet the requirements.
- Bond metal containers when transferring flammable liquids, especially those that are known Class I flammable liquids. Refer to Safety Data Sheets for flammability information.
- All employees required to use respirators shall be included in the City of Harlingen *Respiratory Protection Program* and trained on the proper use of the assigned respirator. The employees shall also be made aware of any limitations of the respiratory protection.
- Never have more than one day's supply of flammable substances outside of an approved storage area.
- Clean up all spills promptly and in accordance with the requirements on the Safety Data Sheet (SDS).
- Dispose of oily, paint or solvent-soaked rags in metal containers with tight fitting lids to prevent possible chemical reactions that may result in "spontaneous combustion."
- Use properly designed and erected ladders, scaffolds, elevated mobile work platforms, etc., when painting above ground level. Do not work or place elevated equipment within 10 feet of power lines.
- When using spray guns and compressed air:
 - Follow all rules concerning the safe handling of combustible and flammable materials.
 - Exercise caution in the handling of compressed air equipment.

- Adjust and regulate the air pressure on the spray gun before starting work.
- Clean the spray gun and other equipment thoroughly after each use.

- Read and follow the manufacturer's directions carefully when applying any finishing materials, such as lacquer, enamel, paint, etc. if questions arise as to the hazards of the substance, refer to the applicable Safety Data Sheet (SDS).

- Personal protective equipment, as recommended by the manufacturer, shall be worn when applying the products.

- If a spray booth is available, it should be used whenever possible. All employees should be trained on the use of the booth ventilation system and it should be in operation during every spraying operation.

OFFICE SAFETY

- Employees shall walk cautiously up and down stairs and use handrails whenever possible.
- Caution shall be exercised when walking around blind corners.
- Desk drawers and file cabinets shall be kept closed when not in use.
- Only one drawer of a file cabinet shall be pulled out at a time.
- Boxes, chairs, buckets, etc. shall not be used in place of ladders.
- The floor shall be kept clear of tripping hazards such as telephone cords, electrical extension cords, paper cartons, etc.
- Employees mopping or waxing floors shall place warning signs to alert co-workers of the potential for slippery floors. In addition, all liquid spills shall be cleaned up immediately and signs put in place until the hazard is alleviated.
- Material shall be stored on shelves in a manner to prevent falling; heavy objects shall be placed on lower shelves.
- Hallways and aisles shall be kept clear of obstructions.
- All emergency exits, electrical panels, fire extinguishers, and emergency equipment shall be kept clear of all obstructions.
- Solvents or other toxic substances shall be used only with adequate personal protection or in well-ventilated areas. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) should be accessible to all employees who are using these substances.
- Employees shall not attempt to clean, oil or adjust any machine that is running. If the machine is not equipped with a starting switch that can be locked in the “off” position, it shall be disconnected from the power source.
- Unsafe electrical cords, faulty equipment, or any other hazardous condition shall be reported and taken out of service until the repairs are completed.
- Broken glass and other sharp objects shall not be placed in wastepaper containers.
- Extension cords are solely for temporary use.

ERGONOMICS AWARENESS

Work Stations

- Chairs should be easily adjustable and provide good lumbar support. If feet cannot rest firmly on the ground, a footrest may be provided. Chairs with a five-point base are recommended due to the stability that is provided.
- Sufficient leg room must be allowed for seated operators.
- Position the monitor directly in front of the operator. The operator's eyes should be level with the top of the screen. Viewing distance between the user's eyes and the screen should be approximately 16 to 22 inches.
- The equipment or sources of light should be positioned so that glare or bright reflections on the display screen are minimized.
- Adjust the height of the chair and/or keyboard so that the shoulder-elbow-arm angle is approximately 70-90 degrees.
- Keyboard heights and placement should be adjustable. Use a cushioned palm rest if needed to keep user's hands and fingers in the same plane as the forearm and avoid resting wrists and forearms on sharp table edges.
- Work surface heights should range from 23 to 28 inches for seated work stations. In addition, your work area should be well organized with routine operations within easy reach and easily accessible.
- Document holders should be placed adjacent to and at the same height as the display screen.
- Operators should adjust positions frequently and get up and move around to help avoid fatigue.

Lighting, Noise and Heat

- Adequate but not excessive heat should be provided during cooler weather.
- Windows should be equipped with adjustable blinds.
- Use task lighting where extra illumination is required.
- Noise above 85 to 90 decibels (DBA) may be harmful to workers. When exposed to high noise levels, employees shall utilize hearing protection equipment to ensure proper working conditions.
- Whenever possible, isolate noisy machines and equipment in a remote location.
- Tailor work practices to prevent heat/cold-related disorders. Employees exposed to hot environments must know the appropriate medical steps to counteract life threatening situations such as hypothermia, heat stroke, heat exhaustion, and heat cramps.

AGGRESSIVE ANIMAL AWARENESS

- Any employees who are likely to encounter an aggressive animal during the performance of their normal duties, such as police officers, firefighters, meter readers, utility workers, etc. should be provided basic instructions to protect themselves.
- Call Animal Control immediately if you contact an aggressive animal.
- Clear the area of other people while waiting for Animal Control. Crowds may scare the animal and cause it to attack.
- Call for the animal's owner or handler, if possible.
- Do not run away.
- Back away slowly while continuing to speak in a firm, calm voice ; do not make eye contact.
- Back against any available object to prevent an attack from the rear if more than one animal is present.
- If attacked, use a baton, billy club or stick to strike the animal rather than throwing anything at it. Sprays may also be useful as a deterrent if available, but should only be used if you are not downwind and have been made familiar with its use.

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE AWARENESS

Recognition

Recognize signs that may precede violence in your co-workers or customers and report them to your supervisor. Be cautious when you deal with a person who.

- Makes verbal threats on the job about getting “even” with co-workers or with your employer for disciplinary action or dismissal.
- Regularly threatens or intimidates others
- Claims people are out to get him or her
- Talks a lot about weapons
- Holds grudges
- Blames others for problems or setbacks
- Gets angry very easily and often
- Is defensive when criticized

Reporting

Report the following situations, events, or behaviors to your supervisor.

- A customer that becomes unusually angry with you because of perceived slow service, perceived poor conduct quality or lack of information
- A customer who talks abusively when making a telephone complaint
- A customer who threatens you or co-workers.

Respond

Respond effectively to a threatening or violent situation.

- Take all threats seriously
- Stay calm and be polite, look the person in the eye and do not argue or threaten
- Address each customer with a friendly greeting when you are on the phone or meeting the customer in person
- Be courteous at all times
- Notify the police if you are frightened-or use a warning signal to alert co-workers
- Ask your employer for training to help you deal with the public.

Protect

Protect yourself and co-workers on the job.

- Keep security and police department numbers near your phone.
- Know how to use an alarm or alert staff to possible danger.
- Develop a danger signal you can use to alert others to possible danger.
- Meet visitors in the lobby and escort them to your work area.
- Report any unusual packages to appropriate personnel, do not open suspicious packages.
- Lock purses and personal belongings in a desk or locker.
- Report signs of a break-in and missing items immediately.

Security

Follow security policies and procedures:

- Keep locked doors locked, do not prop them open.
- Wear name tags or badges at all times.
- Do not share access cards or entry codes.
- Do not allow non-employees (including ex-employees) to avoid sign-in and other visitor entry procedures.
- Do not engage in fistfights or other aggressive behavior at work.
- Do not drink or use drugs at work, or work under the influence.
- Report all threats and security violations.

After-Hours Work

Take special precautions when working late or alone.

- Inform someone that you are working late.
- If possible, relocate your vehicle closer to the building.
- Advise the Police Department that you are working late and request a close patrol or escort when you leave.
- Lock the door to your work area if you are alone.
- Work near a phone, when possible.
- Work with lights on.
- Avoid using dark stairways or halls.
- If working with others, try to leave and walk to transportation together.
- Have your car keys ready as you leave the building.
- Make a visual check under and inside your car before unlocking it.
- Lock your car as soon as you are seated in it.
- Walk confidently and quickly to show that you know where you are going and what you are doing.
- Try to run away from an attacker if possible.
- Yell if you are being attacked to alert others.
- Give an attacker money or jewelry on demand.

INDOOR AIR QUALITY

Regular and thorough cleaning is important to ensure good indoor air quality. Unsanitary conditions attract insects and vermin leading to possible indoor air quality (IAQ) problems from animals, insects, allergens or pesticide use. The presence of dirt, moisture, and warmth also stimulates the growth of molds and other microbiological contaminants. While janitors or custodians typically clean administrative offices, you can also play an important role in promoting and maintaining workplace cleanliness. The following items should be considered to ensure proper air quality in your work environment.

General Items

- Make sure that the office is dusted and vacuumed thoroughly and regularly.
- Make sure trash is removed daily.
- Make sure that food is not kept in offices overnight.
- Look for signs of pests.

Spills and Drain Traps

- Clean up spills on carpets involving liquid immediately.
- Make sure to pour water down drain traps periodically to minimize possibility of backups and the potential to allow sewer gases in rooms.

Moisture

- Excess moisture is the result of condensation on cold surfaces, leaking or spilled liquids, or excess humidity in the air.
- Periodically check for condensation on cold surfaces such as window glass, sills or frames, and air-condition vents. A routine maintenance program would help identify potential issues before they escalate into long-term problems.
- Seasonally inspect and repair leaking roofs to prevent water from entering the building.
- Check crawl spaces for standing water.
- Drain, clean, and decontaminate drip pans, cooling towers, room air conditioners, humidifiers, and dehumidifiers on a regular basis according to manufacturer's specifications.
- Replace water-damaged carpets, furnishings, ceiling tiles or building materials as necessary.

Temperature and Humidity

- Generally, temperature should range between 72-76 degrees Fahrenheit to ensure adequate comfort factors in the workplace.
- Humidity levels should range between 30% to 60%.

Local Exhaust Ventilation

- Local exhaust fans are recommended to prevent air pollutants from accumulating and spreading beyond the local area or room where pollutants are generated. Areas where exhaust ventilation should be considered will include smoking areas, kitchens, and break-rooms.

Air Exchange Ventilation

- Have the heating, ventilating and air conditioning system inspected on a regular basis.
- Ensure that the ventilation system is working correctly to allow indoor air to be exhausted outside and outside air is drawn into the building.
- Make sure to periodically check unit ventilators, air supply, and return vents to ensure that they are working properly. To confirm that the air is flowing into the room from the air supply vents:
 - Hold a tissue or strips of lightweight plastic near the supply vents. If air is flowing, the plastic or tissue will flutter away from the supply vent.
 - Make sure that the airflow is not diverted or obstructed by objects.

Printing and Duplicating Equipment

- Printing and duplicating equipment can generate indoor air pollutants. Common types of equipment found in the workplace include photocopiers and computer laser printers. To reduce indoor air quality concerns with this type of equipment:
 - Make sure the equipment is located in a ventilated area.
 - Have safety equipment available such as dust mask, respirator, gloves, and eye protection to minimize contact.
 - Provide routine maintenance for equipment to ensure that is operating correctly.

APPENDIX- FORMS