

From: [David De Angelis](#)
To: [Monica L. Hughes](#); [Sandee L. Policello](#)
Subject: FW: DPW Safety Practices
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 5:08:07 PM

For admin

From: Richard Paul Jr
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 1:00 PM
To: David De Angelis <ddeangelis@elmgrovewi.org>
Subject: DPW Safety Practices

DPW Safety Practices

The Department of Public Works participates in multiple safety related activities throughout the year.

Our Department consists of 6 Full Time employees and 5-9 Seasonal employees, who on a daily basis, handle heavy equipment, power equipment, work in traffic, work in aerial work platforms, and handle high temperature and (at times) corrosive materials. They perform these tasks on uneven surfaces, subterranean and in inclement weather as well. As a result, it is imperative that our employees are always approaching a project with safety in mind.

The following are a look at a handful of our activities:

Annual Utility/Excavation Safety Meeting Sponsored by multiple utilities and Digger's Hotline that discusses the hazards that are present whenever excavating for utility repair, etc. This a presentation along with the ability to network with other municipalities, utility contacts, contractors that have safety equipment and/or offer services to assist with utility location.

Confined Space Entry Training – This spring we had a full refresher course for our DPW crew to update on new requirements, practices in confined space taught by Lindberg Compliance Services Group. It was through this training where we found we had to update a few of our safety devices. We updated our tripod and hook system for compliance and ease of use.

Flagging Safety/Traffic Control – Every couple of years, as the training comes available in our area, crew members attend this course as a refresher. It covers work zone safety topics from work zone set up, training, signage, etc. This is a frequently repeated class as it is a necessary reminder to be aware of the hazards when working on the road and in traffic.

Seasonal Employee Orientation – Every season (whether new or returning) employees view safety videos with varying topics ranging from PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), Traffic Control/Flagger's Safety, Safe Backing, Safety Awareness while on the job site to specific equipment safety videos relative to the equipment they may operate. (I.e. zero turn mowers, etc.) The Foreman, Crew Chief (also our Safety Coordinator) along with other staff participate in the training and refresher topics for the seasonal employees. The full time crew leaders also ensure the Seasonal employees can perform the hands on tasks before they are added to a crew. This is important to them as they are also counting on these individuals to keep them safe while working in traffic.

CDL Pre Trip Inspection – Besides replying on our Fleet Maintenance Supervisor to ensure all equipment is in proper working order, each day it is required that employees perform routine pre trip inspections on the equipment as well. This is also a legal requirement for anyone with a Commercial Driver License.

United Heartland – Our Work Comp Carrier regularly performs site visits/field reviews at random to monitor what the DPW crews are doing out in the field. They will then follow up with feedback from their visit. This could include suggestions, training opportunities, grant opportunities for safety equipment, etc. They will also come out to visit the site should there be any claims that had been filed. T

Tailgate Talks – Each day before a project is undertaken, the crew will have a brief meeting to discuss what safety devices and PPE that will be required, along with discussing a game plan for the work to be performed. Equipment as well as communication is mandatory.

Fire Dept. – Since the entire full time DPW crew is also on the Fire Dept., we have the unique advantage of additional monthly training under differing circumstances, but that can relate similarly to work we do. The fact that we have a pretty tight knit group of employees, the bond with the Fire Dept. in addition to their daily work, helps build a culture of concern and care for their fellow employees.

Whenever an opportunity comes up to discuss a safety issue that is relevant, we use it as a teachable moment. This could include something we heard of from another community, a recent event or a video that was found that relates to the work we do and the hazards we work in.



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