

Governor's Employee Safety Awards

AUGUST 23, 2002



STATE OF CALIFORNIA





GOVERNOR GRAY DAVIS

WELCOME

22nd Annual

Governor's Employee Safety Awards Ceremony

August 23, 2002

It is a great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all who have gathered for the 22nd Annual Governor's Employee Safety Awards Ceremony.

This event is a wonderful opportunity to recognize this year's honorees for their outstanding commitment to employee safety. By helping to maintain a healthy and safe workplace, they have made a positive and lasting impact on many lives. Their hard work and dedication serve as an inspiration for all Californians.

On behalf of the people of the State of California, I extend best wishes for a successful event.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gray Davis".

Governor Gray Davis

On behalf of the Governor's Employee Safety Awards Program, the Office of Risk and Insurance Management, Department of General Services, extends its appreciation to the following organizations for their generous contributions and assistance:

The Governor's Office

The Governor's Employee Safety Awards Committee

California Exposition and State Fair

State Compensation Insurance Fund

Department of Personnel Administration

California State Railroad Museum Foundation

Sacramento Youth Symphony

Black Tuesday Jazz Band

Prison Industry Authority

California Highway Patrol

Department of Transportation

The Office of Risk and Insurance Management thanks the members of this year's Governor's Employee Safety Awards Committee:

Claudia Alstom

Sandi Becker

Robin Blair

Beverly Chan

Isabel Cortez

Lucy Faria

Jerry Gibbins

Warren Harris

Trudy Holder

Ivan Jackman

Sharon McCalister

Martha Wilson

22nd Annual

Governor's Employee Safety Awards

Friday, August 23, 2002—10:30 a.m.

Welcome	Fred Luzzi, Chief Office of Risk & Insurance Management Clothilde Hewlett, Interim Director Department of General Services
Guest Speaker	Stephen J. Smith, Director Department of Industrial Relations
Safety Awards	Clothilde Hewlett, Announcer Stephen J. Smith, Presenter
Departmental Awards for Reducing Vehicle Accident Rates	Department of Boating and Waterways Employment Development Department Department of Industrial Relations
Departmental Awards for Reducing Costs of Work Related Injuries	Resources Agency California Coastal Commission California Trade and Commerce Agency State Water Resources Control Board Department of Social Services
Group Safety Awards	Presentation
Individual Safety Awards	Presentation
Appreciation Award for Multiple Years of Service on Nomination Committee	Committee Members
Special Safety Achievement Award	Ralph L. Maurer

The State Safety Program of the Office of Risk and Insurance Management congratulates individuals, groups, and departments receiving awards and thanks all who made this awards presentation possible.

GROUP AWARDS

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND CAMPUS POLICE

California State University, Long Beach

Tim Ball

Ed Parra

Greg Pascal

On April 6, 2001 at approximately 10:35 a.m., one of the building services engineers contacted his supervisor, Ed Parra, by telephone/radio complaining of chest pains. Ed Parra contacted his supervisor, Tim Ball. They found the engineer lying on the ground in the workshop, barely breathing. They immediately recognized the severity of the situation, rushed to his side and requested paramedics. Tim and Ed began administering CPR. They were joined by Greg Pascal from Public Safety who assisted by checking the employee's pulse and making sure his airway was open. These individuals continued CPR until Long Beach Fire Department personnel arrived. The employee survived the heart attack and eventually returned to work at full capacity.

PAROLES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION— REGION I EMPLOYEE POST TRAUMA TEAM

Corrections, Sacramento

Carolyn Ahlers

Don Allee

Jenni Avila

Shirley Berry-Wilkes

William Charette

Art Espinoza

Carla Farley

Lou Anne Fisher

Janet Grimes

Kevin Guest

Jason Heine

Pat Houge

Christopher Johnson

Darrol Johnson

Helen Kendricks

Gordon McClaskey

Jim Miller

Nancy Gray

Erin Pancrazio

Barbara Parkins

Elliott Powe

Art Robertson

Lealan Thomas

Susan Velasquez

Ginger Winings

Robert Wright

The Region I team members respond to critical incidents involving staff. They selflessly respond to the needs of fellow employees who have been involved in a serious or

traumatic incident. Recent examples include work-related shooting incidents, death threats and hostage situations, as well as employee murder and suicide. Their purpose is to assist staff in dealing with the post-traumatic stress associated with these incidents and ensure that the employees are getting the assistance needed to make a healthy and rapid return to work.

KEVIN CROUCH and JEFF WILLIAMS

Wasco State Prison Corrections, Wasco

Kevin Crouch and Jeff Williams, Correctional Officers, developed a safer and more secure housing design of the former gym which was converted into additional living space. The gym was overcrowded and potentially unsafe in the event of a fire or emergency. The new design doubled the available dayroom floor space, creating an enhanced recreational area. The bunks were relocated in systematic rows allowing the platform weapons officer to have a full, unobstructed view of the area.

VOCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Developmental Services, Sonoma

Fay Alderson

Jerry Champion

Rhonda Denny

Jeff Hess

Ray Veal

The Vocational Technology Services group at Sonoma Developmental Center developed and adapted shredding equipment to meet the work production, safety, and ergonomic needs of each consumer at the Sunrise Industries Vocational Program. Consumers are paid to shred and bail office paper as part of the Center's recycling program. They currently have 30 industrial shredders and 66 personal office shredders. During the calendar year 2001, thirty-four tons of office paper was shredded. This work program requires vigilant monitoring to prevent injuries from fingers or hair getting caught in the machinery. This year, the

Vocational Technology Services group developed an inspection sheet to ensure that equipment malfunctions were identified early and that staff checked all shredders at the end of the workday. Sunrise Industries has maintained a zero rate of serious injuries related to shredding paper. This team's work and vigilant equipment monitoring has provided consumers a safe place to work.

AIRBOAT CLASS GROUP 2001

Fish and Game, Sacramento

Andy Atkinson	Brad Burkholder
Alex Hunter	Joe Powell
Lori Powers	Bob Teagle

On January 23, 2001, the members of this group were participating in a basic airboat training class at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, as either students or instructors. While maneuvering one of the airboats slowly through an obstacle course a student lost consciousness. Mr. Powell, upon noticing that this airboat was on a collision course with another airboat, quickly removed the stricken student's foot from the accelerator, slowing the boat even further, thereby lessening the impact of the collision. The other members of the group worked quickly and calmly to assess the victim's condition and began rescue breathing and eventually CPR (CPR was administered for approximately 30 minutes). Others in the group either assisted in the medical treatment or communicated the emergency conditions to dispatch and helped transfer the victim to a larger boat and to shore where paramedics took over CPR efforts and transported the victim to the hospital. Although the victim eventually succumbed to the massive heart attack, the members of this group made a valiant effort to save his life.

MAIL OPERATIONS SAFETY STUDY TEAM

Franchise Tax Board, Sacramento

Rebecca Cartwright	Fred Cordano
Deanne Cote	Nicole Doble
Andy Farinias	Laura Farmer
Lyn Hall	Julie Hamilton
Clara Jewell	Tony Kentroti
Janie Lackey	Diane Lawrence
Jody Langeland	Martin Lopez
Gloria Pantoja	Candy Pederson
Dennis Putzel	James Shook
Karen Thomas	Tiphonie Weiss

Given the events of the September 11, 2001 attacks, followed by anthrax poisoning at various locations in the United States, a study team of Franchise Tax Board (FTB) employees was formed to identify and recommend special measures to ensure safe working conditions. The FTB receives and processes high volumes of mail and employs a large number of temporary help during the peak tax-filing season. This makes it extremely difficult to ensure everyone working with and handling mail is well trained in the areas of identification, protection and exposure. It was critical for the department to review and evaluate the existing freight and mail handling processes to best protect staff and the state's revenue. With the urgency of this project, the limited expert knowledge and information on anthrax, this study team prepared a comprehensive "White Paper on Mail Operations Safety." This Paper identified several alternatives to mitigating the risks and proposed recommendations for immediate and long-term action within 30 days of the assignment. The recommendations were immediately approved by the department's Executive Officer and the Paper continues to serve as FTB's implementation guide.

BIO-TERRORISM/HAZARDOUS MATERIALS GROUP COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SECTION

Highway Patrol, Sacramento

Motor Carrier Specialist I Michael Chaffee

Officer Vincent Curry

Sergeant Robert Ghiglieri

Officer Willie Hernandez

Lieutenant Joseph McEnulty

Sergeant Dana Sampson

The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States dramatically changed our lives and the daily operations of the California Highway Patrol (CHP). While the Department's primary mission remains "Safety and Service," we have expanded our areas of responsibility to allow for increased involvement in new security measures to protect the citizens of our state against the possibility of additional terrorist attacks. In response, the Department formed a Bio-Terrorism Task Force which developed an anthrax/mail handling training program. The Task Force traveled throughout the state, educating state employees about the anthrax bacteria and teaching safe mail handling procedures. Through the efforts of the Bio-Terrorism Task Force, the CHP has taken a positive step in combating bio-terrorism and ensuring the safety of all state employees.

NORTHERN DIVISION AIR OPERATIONS UNIT

Highway Patrol, Redding

Officer Grant Barrows

Officer James Gilmore

Officer James Griffith

Officer Robert Lobeck

Officer John Morales

Officer Brian Singleton

Sergeant Paul Stein

Officer Thomas Tilman

Officer Gerald Bonnett

Officer Terry Gordon

Officer Charles Kramm

Officer John McDermott

Officer Michael Sherman

Officer Steven Solinski

Officer Robert Stetser

Sergeant Steven Youngs

From August 1994 through August 2001, the Northern Division Air Operations Unit conducted flight operations

totaling more than 24,000 hours flown without an accident or incident. Some of the unit's accomplishments have included providing back-up to California Highway Patrol and allied law enforcement officers participating in searches for lost persons, evidence, suspect rescues, and emergency medical incidents. The Northern Division Air Operations has earned strong support throughout Northern California with praise and accolades from the media and the public.

ATASCADERO STATE HOSPITAL CENTRAL PROGRAM SERVICES

Mental Health, Atascadero

Lee Cowart

Richard Koll

The vocational instructors recognized the hospital would need day-room furniture for six new residential units under construction. Several prototype chairs were constructed and input was solicited from unit staff and safety committees. With this information and other suggestions, new prototypes were constructed. The custom safety features were designed to eliminate the potential of patients using the chairs as weapons. The new chair construction increased the weight of the chair, included beveled edges that make it difficult to have hand or finger holds, improved the feet guides to allow safe and easy movement for floor cleaning and removed all loose parts which could be used as weapons. The new design is currently in use hospital-wide and has resulted in a 50% reduction in chairs being used as weapons.

PIA SAFETY AUDIT TEAM

Prison Industry Authority, Folsom

Martin Acosta	John Adkins
April Anderson	Dan Ang
Jim Angelini	Nyle Baker
Steve Beane	Larry Bischoff
Larry Caruthers	Preston Cary
Carlos Chavez	Bill Conforti
Benny Dillon	Ron Glenn
Arnold Gomes	Ron Gough
Ron Heier	Rick Hirtzel
Dick Jones	Don Kaufman
John Maloney	Mike Mayes
Jesse Mendoza	Richard Montgomery
Del Morris	Norman Perry
Frank Quint	Patrick Schmidt
Jim Scott	Dwight Smedley
Greg Smith	Phil Smith

Robert Stockwell

The Safety Audit Team designed an audit tool to review every factory, office, Injury and Illness Prevention Program, safety program, training, safety documentation, and physical site in Prison Industry Authority (PIA). A site inspection of 135 sites in 25 locations was conducted in February of 2001. Enterprises including dairies, farms, printing plants, laundries, furniture and license plate factories were inspected. Serious violations were corrected immediately while regulatory violations were corrected through a corrective action plan submitted by the PIA operation. The corrective action plans were audited in August of 2001, assuring all noted safety hazards were corrected. The safety audit tool designed and administered by the safety audit team provided required information to hone PIA's safety programs and established the framework for continued safety program evaluations protecting the health of prison factory inmate workers and civil servants.

ROCK SCALING TEAM

District 1, Transportation, Eureka

Kevin Balke	Todd Bryant
Stan Buschman	Mel Crawford, Jr.
Casey Dye	Robert Freeman
Dave Harper	Jason Hayes
Andy Holberg	Aaron Holcomb
Greg Kaye	Brennan Ladao
Mark Leonhardt	Casey Lund
Nick Motto	Kevin Parks
James Reese	Jeff Reynolds
Shad Rose	Heriberto Ruiz
Clayton Schneider	Darin Sullivan

Bryan Thompson

During the 2001 calendar year, the District 1 Rock Scaling Team responded to seven roadway locations where rock falling onto the highway created an extreme safety hazard for Caltrans maintenance personnel and for the traveling public. The team consists of maintenance employees in a variety of classifications that are skilled in climbing with ropes. They volunteer to serve on a team to remove hazardous rocks and debris from above the highways. Their efforts protect the traveling public from encountering rocks on the highway and reduces the exposure of Caltrans maintenance crews from working under adverse rock fall conditions. No lost time accidents have occurred performing this critically important task during the last six years since this special team was formed.

MICHAEL KELLY and DAVE ANGELL

District 4 Transportation, Orinda

Michael Kelly, Worker, Tunnels and Tubes, and Dave Angell, Operator, Tunnels and Tubes, designed, installed and implemented a test valve and gauge in the Caldecott Tunnel lane change pop-up system which is used to detect leaks in the 120 psi air pressurized pop-up system.

Air leaks occur often in the underground hoses and are extremely difficult to locate. The old method entailed placing a barrier vehicle behind an employee who walked up the cone line listening for the hissing sound that indicated a leak. Even with all safety precautions, it meant working two feet from a hot traffic lane. The employees' implementation of a test valve and a gauge in line with each individual pop-up isolates the line pressure with a valve. With this new design method, the air compressor's running time has been reduced by half, the crew is not exposed to live traffic, and it has saved Caltrans \$10,000 per year.

SPECIALTY REGION EAST SIGN CREW

District 4

Transportation, San Francisco

Arthur Adams, Jr.	Manuel Almendarez, Jr.
Steve Anderson	David Brady
James Conway	Richard Devereaux
Ray Fox, Jr.	Kenneth Gini
Marlon Kalugdan	Gary ten Broek

The Specialty Region East Sign Crew took an existing state approved mail box anchoring support system, worked with the manufacturer and Traffic Operations to adapt it, and applied it to a pedestrian barricade installation. These barricades are usually located on the edge of the roadway in high traffic volume areas that provide a minimum of space for protection. The established system takes a minimum of 30 minutes to replace when damaged. The new system, after the initial installation, takes approximately 5 minutes to replace. This greatly reduces the employees' exposure time to traffic and therefore, makes it safer for the employees to do the job.

STRIPING CREW

District 9

Transportation, Bishop

John Conroy	Mike Donnelly
Roland Naylor	Luke Stone
Wayne Vega	

On December 12, 2001 on Highway 395, Kern County, near the Searls Lake turn-off, a Caltrans paint striping operation was involved in a serious accident. The accident happened on a clear day, with the striping operation traveling in a moving lane closure at 20 mph painting the shoulder edge line. A gasoline tanker truck passed the advanced warning vehicle on the shoulder at 55 mph striking the shadow/nurse truck that was protecting the employees performing the striping operation. The impact spun the truck 180 degrees, coming to rest on its side in the roadway trapping the Caltrans driver, Roland Naylor. Wayne Vega and John Conroy prevented Mr. Naylor from drowning in spilled striping paint by providing first-aid and cutting the safety belt to free the employee. Crew members, Luke Stone and Mike Donnelly, made radio notifications and stopped all traffic from going through the accident scene. Their quick actions prevented a possible fire and exposing the traveling public to a hazardous roadway. If it were not for the fast actions by all of the employees on this crew, the outlook for Roland Naylor's survival of this accident would have been greatly diminished.

WEST TREE CREW

District 11

Transportation, San Diego

Mike Abernathy	Dale Bellavance
Bill Connolly	Thomas Hallett
Daniel Lopez	Greg Moody
Craig Scott	Jim Townsel

The West Tree Crew designed a barricade that stops errant logs from going into traffic when one rolls down

an embankment. The barricade has improved safety for the traveling public. In the past, either private cars have been hit by the logs or they have run into them. The barricade consists of two standards fabricated from scrap metal to accommodate two pieces of tree rope strung through the top and bottom rings of the standards and pulled tight. A canvas tarp is then draped over the ropes and secured to the bottom rope. The standards are secured in place by the weight of the trucks with the tires parked on the standard base plate.

performed immediately adjacent to busy, fast-moving freeway traffic, in the vicinity of heavy construction equipment and in all environmental settings. This Branch has always kept safety at the top of its priorities: tailgate safety meetings every two weeks; group discussions after close calls; and extensive planning for all hazardous situation surveys. Credit is given to safety-minded personnel and supervision over this remarkable seventeen-year period.

SURVEYS BRANCH

District 11

Transportation, San Diego

Diego Alvarado	Ben Amiri
Rick Bergeron	Harold Bryan
Dennis DeCelles	Brandon Farmer
Sherrie Ford	Cynthia Gerhold
Robert Hagler	Jim Halverson
Bob Hayden	Marc Houston
Paul Jennings	Aggie Jimenez
Vern Klassen	Jim Lindsay
Jim Mainprize	Rob McMillan
Alphonso Medellin	John Mieling
Bessy Montag	Dave Olander
Jim Remele	Crecensiano Reyes
Andrew Rice	Bob Robinson
Jose Ruelas	Ned Salman
Kurt Scherer	George Schuh
David Sparks	Alan Stormes
Wayne Strong	Bruce Urquhart
Steve Van Buren	Ramon Vasquez
Ramon Vasquez, Jr.	Mike Wartenberg
Matthew Watkins	Mark Wyatt

The District 11 Surveys Branch has achieved 1,116,215 consecutive person-hours of no lost-time injuries from October 3, 1984 through December 31, 2001, including 83,114 hours in 2001. The work that they carry out daily in conducting transportation surveys is hazardous by the mere fact that much of their work must be

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

TESSA D'USSEAU

California Conservation Corps, Yosemite

Tessa d'Usseau was newly appointed to supervise a crew of 17 young individuals repairing 45 miles of remote trail during the summer of 2001. Her crew performed over 14,000 hours of intense physical labor with only two minor injuries. Besides safe-guarding the members during their workday, Ms. d'Usseau taught them how to safely explore their surroundings on their free time by setting up buddy systems, pre-approving itineraries, teaching map-reading skills and techniques to avoid attacks by wild animals. In addition, Ms. d'Usseau took extra steps to ensure that the health of each member of her crew was maintained.

ALEJANDRA "ALEX" PEREZ

California State University, Bakersfield

Alex Perez orchestrated the reorganization of the Science Stockroom. She acquired funding with which she paid student assistants to facilitate completing the task. As a result, the Stockroom is now in compliance with Earthquake Guidelines regarding overhead storage and it has far fewer hazards that could contribute to slips, trips and falls, which were the most frequent type of injury at CSU Bakersfield in 2001. Ms. Perez also added safety presentations to the training program for students.

LORNA ABBOTT

California State University, Chico

Last year Lorna Abbott designed and fabricated custom safety features and safety equipment regularly used in the Nutrition and Food Sciences Laboratory of the Biological Sciences Department. By fitting the lab lecture room with removable "countertop extenders" (designed, constructed and painted by Lorna), students can now

safely use the top of an extended drawer for either a laptop computer or notebook during classroom lectures. Ms. Abbott also constructed a curved floor lip to safely place lab carts in a storage stall. Previously, staff was concerned that a cart with breakable glass beakers could tip while negotiating a precariously raised floorboard in front of the cart stall.

CHARLES PERRY

California State University, Northridge

Since the 1994 Northridge Earthquake at CSU Northridge, university officials have contracted with literally hundreds of firms and spent more than \$480 million in construction costs to repair the devastation. In 2001 alone Mr. Perry, a Plumbing Supervisor in the Physical Plant Management, reported, investigated and took action on more than 100 safety infractions. Due in large part to Mr. Perry's proactive efforts, the CSU Northridge Physical Plant Management department reduced its accident rate by over 58% since the '94 earthquake. His safety contributions help make the campus a safer place for everyone.

MICHELLE "MICKI" BINNALL

California State University, San Diego

Parking Services Officer Micki Binnall single-handedly developed San Diego State University's (SDSU) Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program. Working with the Chief of Police, the Director of Environmental Health & Safety and the Director of Student Health Services, Ms. Binnall initiated efforts to place AEDs in first responder (police) units as well as in public locations around the campus. By providing the critical "extra margin" of response time, SDSU's AED program is almost certain to save the lives of persons stricken with congestive heart failure.

BILL BENNETT

Consumer Affairs, Fresno

On the morning of February 5, 2001, Bill Bennett was traveling northbound on Highway 99 in extreme foggy conditions when traffic stopped due to a multi-car accident. People were trapped in their cars and there were reports of possible fatalities. Mr. Bennett proceeded to the accident scene on foot and assisted the Selma Fire Department and California Highway Patrol extricate two of the victims, both of whom survived. Mr. Bennett also assisted with performing a systematic search for other victims for several hours, after which time he continued with his normal duties at the Fresno Field Office.

THEODORE LENZIE

Consumer Affairs, Sacramento

Theodore Lenzie, an Air Quality Engineer I, has consistently pursued safety in the engineering laboratory and in the on-road emission test program. Staff members working in these environments are exposed to a multitude of potential dangers. In the last three years there have been very few injuries due, in part, to Mr. Lenzie's diligence in continuously improving safety measures. In 2001, Mr. Lenzie has contributed much to make the workplace safer. For example, he worked with the Health and Safety Unit to establish a requirement for safety boots and sunscreen for staff working in the field, he instituted the use of orange safety shirts for staff working in the on-road emission inspection program, he provided safety helmets and facemasks for loading and unloading the test dynamometer, and he provided improved warning signs to make consumers aware of the roadside work area and to maintain a safe distance from potentially dangerous equipment.

LANCE GROMME

Corrections, Centinela State Prison, Imperial

Lance Gromme, Maintenance Mechanic, demonstrated his commitment to safety by researching and revising the Confined Space Entry Program. Mr. Gromme arranged for the purchase of all calibrated equipment needed to test and monitor confined space atmospheric conditions. This equipment tests oxygen levels, detects such hazards as combustible and toxic gases and vapors, and determines if acceptable entry conditions are being maintained.

KAREN BAEZ

Corrections, Chuckawalla State Prison, Blythe

Karen Baez, Correctional Officer, provided emergency assistance to a two-year old visitor. The child was beginning to lose consciousness and Ms. Baez placed the child head down in her arms and delivered five blows to his back. She then directed the mother to clear the child's mouth as she continued to administer care. Due to her quick response, a potentially fatal situation was avoided.

TIEN NGUYEN

Corrections, California Rehabilitation Center, Norco

Tien Nguyen, Pharmacist II, developed the Nursing Master Control Log Sheet, which assists the Registered Nurses in administering medications to inmates. Mr. Nguyen also organized the Nighttime Document Cabinet in the Outpatient Housing Unit. As a result of his efforts, medication errors and nurses' charting time have decreased. Mr. Nguyen is always willing to go beyond his scope of duties to help other departments improve their working conditions. He is even willing to spend long hours at home working on ways to enhance the department's Health Care Services operations.

DARREN JAMES**Corrections, Corcoran State Prison, Corcoran**

Darren James, Food Services Manager, designed a one-piece grill that is tamper resistant. Prior to this new design, the traditional oven racks could be broken and used for, or converted into, deadly weapons. The new grill design has eliminated the potential safety issue and has resulted in cost savings associated with searching the ovens for broken parts.

DONALD HADDOCK**Developmental Services, Fairview
Developmental Center, Costa Mesa**

A staff member on Residence 22 was seeking relief from lower back strain caused by having to transport consumers in wheelchairs to and from numerous locations. This triggered an investigation, which resulted in the assessment that the employee's height (over six feet) and the height of the wheelchair handles caused him to bend over in order to maneuver the chair. A search for a commercially available solution proved unsuccessful. Donald Haddock, an Assistive Technologist I at Fairview Developmental Center, devised what he describes as an adjustable and removable wheelchair hand grip device. Utilizing materials from around the work site, Mr. Haddock constructed a handle that expands in width and height, thus enabling it to be used on a variety of chairs. This innovative device has saved the employee's lower back strain and substantially reduced the loss of work-hours due to a work injury.

PAUL ESPARZA**Developmental Services, Lanterman
Developmental Center, Pomona**

Paul Esparza, an Assistive Technology Specialist I at Lanterman Developmental Center, contributed to the

ongoing safety of the Machine Department by giving machinery safety training to all employees that work in the machinery area. Mr. Esparza, working together with the Audio-Video Department, created a machine safety video that covers all aspects of his machinery safety orientation. As a result, Lanterman Developmental Center's Machine Department has a safety video specific to their department.

RITA HERNANDEZ**Developmental Services, Porterville
Developmental Center, Porterville**

Rita Hernandez, a Food Service Supervisor I at Porterville Developmental Center, volunteered to compile the Material Safety Data Sheets for all the chemicals used in the 27 kitchen areas. Ms. Hernandez simplified the language of the sheets and inserted pictures of the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment to be used. Ms. Hernandez provided training and distributed the compiled Material Safety Data Sheets to all 27 kitchens. Concerned with the hazardous chemical exposure to staff, Ms. Hernandez researched and submitted a plan to install an automatic system in each kitchen for product dilution, which minimized the risk of chemical splash injuries.

CLINT COOK**Developmental Services, Porterville
Developmental Center, Porterville**

Clint Cook, Nursing Coordinator at Porterville Developmental Center, investigated increasing consumer and staff injuries during translocation/transfer procedures in Program IV. Mr. Cook determined that the use of a transfer/gait belt would reduce injury rates. Mr. Cook researched and purchased the belts, facilitated the identification of consumers who could benefit from their use, provided training to program staff, and monitored their use and effectiveness. As a result, injuries to consumers and clients were reduced by 64 percent.

JIM CHAKARUN

Fish and Game, Niland

During the September 2001 dove-hunting opener on the Imperial Wildlife Area, three dove hunters were struck by shotgun pellets, which were fired by other hunters. Jim Chakarun, the Wildlife Area Manager was notified of the non-fatal injuries the same day. This was Mr. Chakarun's first season as manager of an extremely popular hunting area and he knew that a drastic reduction in the number of hunters allowed would not be a welcome decision. However, he successfully garnered the support of local authorities, including the Imperial County Fish and Game Commission, and immediately drafted a plan to reduce the number of hunters allowed on the facility. His quick, decisive action to provide a safer environment for the hunters and employees alike is highly commendable.

DAVID TALLEY

General Services, Sacramento

David Talley, a Stationary Engineer working the swing shift, was one of the first responders to the horrible crash of the semi-truck into the Capitol Building on January 16, 2001. Mr. Talley had just arrived as the fire trucks were coming onto the scene. He immediately called the Engineer at the Central Plant and had him secure all the fans in the building to slow the spreading of smoke and fire. Mr. Talley then met with CHP dispatch and the Fire Battalion Chief as they were setting up their command post. While all the other maintenance and management personnel were not allowed into the area of the fire and crash, the Battalion Chief requested Mr. Talley go with him to assist in any way needed. All of Mr. Talley's actions were instrumental in assisting the firefighters in their efforts to quickly put out the fire and keep it from spreading further into the Capitol and causing even more destruction or fatalities.

GREGORY CHRISSAKIS

Highway Patrol, Coalinga

In the calendar year 2001, Officer Chrissakis created more than twelve occupational safety posters. Ideas for the safety posters have included scenes depicting accidental weapon discharges in the locker room and abrupt U-turns in front of other vehicles during radar enforcement. Due to their popularity, the posters have been reproduced and distributed throughout the Department. Officer Chrissakis has utilized his innate talent to enhance the Department's Occupational Safety goals and, at the same time, reinforce important safety messages to his peers.

MILTON "CHARLIE" HANSEN

Highway Patrol, Nimitz

Commercial Vehicle Inspection Specialist, Charlie Hansen, designed and built a new workstation podium for the facility. Personnel were restricted by the fixed height of their old workstations. The height of the new workstation can be adjusted 12 inches, from 32 to 44 inches, by raising and lowering the workstation using a hydraulic jack. Personnel can now sit comfortably and look at the monitor at eye level, which prevents back and neck strain. This innovative design has prevented costly lost time injuries.

HARRY LINSCHOTEN

Highway Patrol, Cottonwood

Protective rails were installed on the floor alongside the inspection pits in the Cottonwood Inspection Facility. These rails were six inches tall, and the ends were vertical to the floor. The abruptness of the rail's vertical angle, and eventual sharpening of the edges by truck metal surfaces resulted in ruptured tires and severed fuel lines. This caused ear pain and diesel fume inhalation for

persons standing nearby. This has been a problem common to all inspection facilities with inspection pits. In response, Mr. Linschoten devised an alteration to the rails, which shortened them to an over-all height of four inches, incorporated a rounded pipe at the top, and tapered the edge to a gradual slant. As a result of the modification, tire and fuel line damage has been eliminated. The improvement was accomplished by Department of Transportation, who will incorporate it in newly constructed facilities, and retrofit it to existing commands.

WILLIAM MARCHANT, (RETIRED)

Highway Patrol, West Los Angeles

As an instructor in a transitional area, with a high number of newly appointed officers, Officer Marchant not only provided clear instruction but he also demonstrated the techniques in accordance with policy to each officer. In addition, he displayed an outstanding grasp of the departmental manuals relating to uniformed personnel for Officer Safety, Motorcycle, and Firearms. As the Area's Weapons and Range Officer, he was extremely skilled in the safe and proper maintenance of departmental firearms. As a Certified Motorcycle Training Officer, he created a safe learning environment by providing positive constructive evaluations and promoting occupational safety. Officer Marchant's mature attitude and conscientious effort, made Officer Safety, Weapon Safety, and Occupational Safety, number one priorities to each of the officers he trained, mentored, or instructed.

JOHN MCDERMOTT

Highway Patrol, Redding

Officer John McDermott, Airplane Pilot, while on a routine flight mission, piloting a newly acquired Cessna T206, experienced total engine failure. He skillfully changed course and was able to "dead-stick" the plane for

approximately nine minutes, until he safely landed at a private airport located west of Red Bluff, California. The detection of a mechanical problem associated with this aircraft led to the grounding of all departmental fixed-wing Cessna T206 aircraft and the subsequent correction of a mechanical problem prevalent within the state. This detection has prompted a nationwide effort to resolve the issue in other aircraft as well. Officer McDermott has operated departmental aircraft safely for over 20 years, and his efforts helped detect and resolve a major safety hazard associated with the aircraft.

VICTOR BANUELOS

Mental Health, Patton State Hospital, Patton

On the morning of November 8, 2001, a patient attempted to hang himself. While he was preparing to do so, a peer noticed he was attempting suicide. The peer alarmed the nearest staff member and called other staff to the room for help. First on the scene was Victor Banuelos, janitor for the unit. Mr. Banuelos and others responded quickly during a very busy morning routine. The quick response of Mr. Banuelos to this emergency resulted in saving this patient's life.

JOSE PEREZ

Motor Vehicles, Long Beach

At approximately 2:40 p.m. on April 1, 2001, Jose Perez, a Licensing Registration Examiner, had returned from a drive test examination and was preparing to administer the next when he observed a customer crash her vehicle into the north-side building. Mr. Perez immediately ran to the vehicle and noticed that the customer was in shock. The tires of the vehicle were smoking, the engine was running and the customer's foot was stuck on the accelerator. Mr. Perez directed a security guard to turn the key to the "off" position. Mr. Perez then went to the driver's side and assisted the guard to remove the customer from the vehicle. He further assisted customers

inside to assess injuries, translate, prepare reports and assist paramedics and management. The quick response and intervention of Mr. Perez resulted in no serious injuries.

TINA HARRIS

Motor Vehicles, Tracy

On December 6, 2001, a customer who was being served by Motor Vehicle Field Representative, Tina Harris, became incoherent and was losing his balance. Ms. Harris took immediate action by calling 9-1-1 and contacting the supervisor in charge. Ms. Harris was able to assist the paramedics by giving them a detailed description of what had happened. As a result of the information provided by Ms. Harris, the paramedics were able to determine the person was a diabetic and treated him accordingly. Without the quick thinking and calm response of Ms. Harris, the customer's condition could have been fatal.

JOHN WALKER

Prison Industry Authority, San Luis Obispo

During the time John Walker has worked as an Industrial Supervisor in the Prison Industry Authority (PIA) Shoe Factory, he has voluntarily participated in the Hazardous Materials and Safety Programs for the PIA at the California Men's Colony. Some of his undertakings and accomplishments include completing the 40-hour HAZWOPER Training, developing and monitoring the disposal system for contaminated material in PIA, overseeing the removal of the material to the approved disposal site, evaluating inmate respirator use including ensuring proper masks and filters are being used, and fitting, testing and training inmates for respirator use. Mr. Walker has also extensively studied many other aspects of safety for the benefit of PIA. His dedication and concern for his fellow workers has directly resulted in a safer work environment.

GARY NELSON

State Controller, Sacramento

On his own initiative, Gary Nelson, a Staff Information Systems Analyst, assumed responsibility for overseeing safety issues at the Cannery Business Park. In 2001, Mr. Nelson was pivotal in solving two safety problems: 1) He discovered the fire alarm system's panel appeared to have a faulty sensor and during the replacement, further problems in the wiring and dead back-up batteries were identified; 2) Water leaked into a clogged basin and overflowed into the hallways and the Data Control Room when a contractor failed to make proper repairs to a water heater. Mr. Nelson directed building management to clean up the water and set up cones to prevent employees from entering the area. His quick thinking and response to this situation eliminated potential slips and falls.

FRANK CHAPMAN, JR.

District 2

Transportation, Alturas

On December 20, 2001, Frank Chapman, Jr., a Caltrans Equipment Operator, was driving his Caltrans plow on Highway 299. He passed a home at Rattlesnake Bridge around 3:00 a.m. when he noticed smoke coming out from under the eaves. He stopped his vehicle and awakened the family inside. He also assisted the family in moving some of their belongings out of harm's way and was on hand until the fire department arrived. The family credits Mr. Chapman with saving their lives as the house was later completely destroyed by the fire.

BRUCE HARTMAN

District 3

Transportation, Marysville

Bruce Hartman, Senior Transportation Engineer, organized an evacuation plan in a new building located at Gateway Oaks which houses approximately 300 employees. He organized an evacuation team and ensured that the members had first aid and CPR training, personal protective equipment, and items for members to carry in a “response bag” during evacuations. He then coordinated an evacuation/fire drill with employees, building owners, and security personnel participation. After the drill, Mr. Hartman followed up with an evaluation of the results of the drill, and recommended changes to the Emergency Action Plan for the building. Changes were made based on his recommendations to the diagram of the floor plans depicting evacuation routes, location of first aid kits, and fire extinguishers. He held regularly scheduled meetings with the evacuation team members updating them on issues with the building. As a result of Mr. Hartman’s efforts, the employees of Gateway Oaks have a heightened level of awareness of safety in the workplace.

JOSH CARTER

District 5

Transportation, Templeton

In August of 2001, Josh Carter, Caltrans Equipment Operator, along with a co-worker were working on Highway 41 in San Luis Obispo, picking up salvage guardrail post left by a contractor. While working on the westbound shoulder, a car spun out of control just west of his location. The car then crossed the eastbound lane and rolled down a steep fill area. He instructed his co-worker to radio in for assistance and then ran to the accident site and climbed down the steep embankment. After the vehicle rolled over several times it came to a rest at the bottom of the fill. There was a strong smell of

burning electrical wires. To escape the danger of a potential fire, Mr. Carter assisted the accident victim out of the vehicle. He stayed with the victim until the emergency personnel arrived and he assisted in carrying the injured person up the steep slope to a helicopter that transported the victim to the hospital where he was treated for serious head wounds.

GREG WEIRICK

District 9

Transportation, Bishop

On January 26, 2001, Greg Weirick, Caltrans Equipment Operator, was plowing snow on Inyo County’s Route 168, during R-1 road conditions and heavy snow fall. This is a two-lane, mountain road with sharp drop-offs on much of the eastbound shoulder. Mr. Weirick observed wheel tracks leading over a 400-foot embankment and decided to get out of his vehicle and investigate. He discovered that a vehicle was at the bottom of the embankment. He then radioed in for assistance and began searching for the vehicle on foot. After walking for approximately one-fourth of a mile, Mr. Weirick gained access to the vehicle and encountered two victims – one deceased and one critically injured. He stayed with the accident victim until the emergency personnel arrived.

EVAN MARIN

Headquarters—Shop 9

Transportation, Bishop

On the night of February 12, 2001, Evan Marin, Caltrans Heavy Equipment Mechanic, was road testing a grader that he had been repairing to ensure that it was operational. As he pulled into the yard at Crestview he observed a person standing next to the sand shed. At the time it was windy and snowing hard, which created “white out” conditions. Mr. Marin walked over to the

sand shed and discovered an elderly woman dressed in light clothing standing barefooted in the snow. When he attempted to talk to her, she appeared very confused and disoriented. Initially, the woman refused to get out of the weather so Mr. Marin radioed his supervisor for assistance. She was given warm coats and eventually agreed to sit in a vehicle until emergency personnel arrived. The CHP and ambulance finally arrived and transported her to Mammoth Hospital for treatment.

LAWRENCE ORCUTT

Headquarters

Transportation, Sacramento

As a result of a tragic and serious accident on January 19, 2001, Lawrence Orcutt, CEA, became acutely aware of the personal loss and suffering that injured employees experience after a major accident occurs. Mr. Orcutt has made a concerted effort to promote safety in the workplace through aggressive marketing of the concept. He has supported the Caltrans safety program by securing increased funding, instituting a statewide safety program that includes a dedicated safety van stocked with the latest in personal protective equipment and safety information. The Division's Maintenance Safety Liaison travels statewide in the safety van to maintenance stations promoting safety and changing attitudes.

JOSEPH MORONES, JR.

Headquarters

Transportation, Sacramento

Joseph Morones, Jr., Transportation Engineering Technician, was innovative in making an agreement with three coupon book vendors to include a second full page advertisement in their booklets regarding the Caltrans safety awareness project, "Slow for the Cone Zone". He recognized the importance of safety to the traveling public and highway workers from suggestions made at the District 8 safety meetings. He negotiated with the

vendors and put together the full-page ads. The agreement was reached in December of 2001 and the ads began printing in February of 2002. The inclusion of this advertisement will reach many of the travelers on our freeway and highway system informing them of our Department's Safety Awareness Campaign. The agreement means savings to the Department while also getting the word out to the traveling public on work zone safety.



State of California—**Gray Davis**, *Governor*

State and Consumer Services Agency—**Aileen Adams**, *Secretary*

Department of General Services—**Clothilde V. Hewlett**, *Interim Director*