

Governor's Employee Safety Awards

AUGUST 22, 2003



STATE OF CALIFORNIA





GOVERNOR GRAY DAVIS

Welcome

**23rd Annual
Governor's Employee Safety Awards Ceremony**

August 22, 2003

It is a great pleasure to extend warm greetings to all who have gathered for the 23rd 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.

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

State Compensation Insurance Fund

California Exposition and State Fair

Department of Personnel Administration

Department of Corrections

Department of Transportation

Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development

Department of Fish and Game

Department of Developmental Services

California State University

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

California State Capitol Museum

California Highway Patrol

California State Railroad Museum Foundation

Sacramento Youth Symphony

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

Sandi Becker

Beverly Chan

Erin Dimmitt

Warren Harris

Ivan Jackman

Debra Kapitan

Sharon McCalister

Robin Blair

Isabel Cortez

Lucy Faria

Trudy Holder

Kari Jackson

Marti Lopez

Martha Wilson

23rd Annual

Governor's Employee Safety Awards

Friday, August 22, 2003—10:30 a.m.

Welcome

Susan Hogg
Chief, Office of Risk and Insurance Management
J. Clark Kelso
Interim Director, Department of General Services

Guest Speaker

Sailaja Cherukuri
Chief of Staff, State & Consumer Services Agency
Director, Office of the Insurance Advisor

Safety Awards

J. Clark Kelso, Announcer
Sailaja Cherukuri, Presenter

Departmental Awards for
Reducing Vehicle Accident Rates

Office of the State Public Defender
Department of Real Estate
California Conservation Corps
Department of Consumer Affairs

Departmental Awards for
Reducing Costs of Work Related Injuries
Fiscal Year Ending 2001

Office of Real Estate Appraisers
Prison Industry Authority
Department of Consumer Affairs
Department of Mental Health

Departmental Awards for
Reducing Costs of Work Related Injuries
Fiscal Year Ending 2002

California Tahoe Conservancy
Office of the State Public Defender
Department of Managed Health Care
Department of Rehabilitation
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Group Safety Awards

Presentation

Individual Safety Awards

Presentation

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

JEFF BISHOP AND JOHN GIRARD

Alcoholic Beverage Control, Santa Ana

Jeff Bishop and John Girard, both investigators at Alcoholic Beverage Control had stopped for gas when they heard a traffic collision nearby. They quickly converged on the scene to find the inside of a vehicle filling with smoke and the driver unconscious. They took control of the scene, directed citizens to extinguish the flames and called 911. Mr. Bishop and Mr. Girard cleared the smoke from the vehicle and assessed the injured driver's condition rendering first aid until the emergency response team arrived.

CHRISTIAN JAGUSCH AND LAWRENCE HARVEY

California State University, Long Beach

Dr. Christian Jagusch, Staff Physician, and Lawrence Harvey, Clinical Coordinator, applied their skills and knowledge to develop and implement an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) program and AED policies and procedures manual at California State University Long Beach (CSULB). The program received approval from the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency and was implemented in May, 2002. Since the program began, Dr. Jagusch and Mr. Harvey have personally trained 84 campus employees on the use of the AED and employees have used the AED to successfully revive six individuals suffering from full cardiac arrest. Thanks in large part to the efforts and dedication of Dr. Jagusch and Mr. Harvey, who spent numerous hours of their own time, six lives have been saved at CSULB.

MILO JENSEN AND PAUL TY RAY

California State University, San Diego

Milo Jensen, Maintenance Mechanic, and Paul Ty Ray, Facilities Worker II, were a part of the Physical Plant

Team that installed the first Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on the San Diego State University campus. Recognizing the need, Mr. Jensen and Mr. Ray developed an AED training program for Physical Plant employees. They became certified to conduct AED and CPR training, and trained over 40 employees in AED/CPR techniques.

EQUIPMENT CERTIFICATION TEAM

Consumer Affairs, Sacramento

Wayne Freese
Paul Hedglin
Joseph Pedrosa

The members of the Equipment Certification Team developed and implemented safety measures in the Bureau of Automotive Repair Engineering and Research Laboratory that exceeded Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards. These measures included the installation of an evacuation system for waste gas removal and the installation of an automated cylinder shutoff system and leak detection alarm that provides protective measures for personnel working with toxic substances and complex tools.

ROADSIDE TEAM

Consumer Affairs, Sacramento

Mike Baranik	Javier Chavez
Richard Erceg	Joe Lopez
Paul Moone	John Opjorden
Howard Pittman	Rilo Rodriguez
Brian Vu	

The Roadside Team developed and implemented solutions to a number of identified safety-related problems to improve the safety measures that were in place at the Bureau of Automotive Repair. Among these solutions were purchasing light emitting diodes (LED) to replace the bulbs in directional arrow boards and to ensure that the boards stay lit during hours of operation;

purchasing and using stools with cushioned mats which would relieve the strain on feet, ankles and knees; isolating hazardous areas where metal fabrication was being conducted and requiring staff to use safety protection before entering; providing members of the crew with hearing protection devices; and fabricating a modified ramp designed to minimize the requirement to set down or lift the ramp.

RAPAPORT TEAM

Developmental Services, San Jose Developmental Center, Agnews

Lourdes Aguilar	Elizabeth Estrellanes
Dana Graham-Hill	Roy Johnson
Michael Khamis	Allison Klayman
Noemi Lao	Bismark Lee
Grace Menor	Marcella Ramirez
Jessica Shlager	Teresita Tembrina

In January 2001, the Rapaport Team, at Agnews Developmental Center, identified a problem—that a significant number of injuries were caused by manual lifting of non-ambulatory clients. In response, the team researched and purchased electric operating lifts and mesh slings which resulted in reduced client lifting by staff and fewer client skin breakdowns and also implemented a “no manual lift zone”. The project was fully operational in January 2002. In the year 2000, there were 17 injuries resulting in 365 restricted duty days and 915 lost workdays. In the year 2001, there were 12 injuries resulting in 168 restricted duty days and 68 lost work days. During the “no manual lift zone” year 2002, there were only 4 injuries resulting in 117 restricted duty days and 104 lost work days. Thanks to the Team’s diligence and hard work the number of injuries and resulting restricted and lost work days have markedly decreased.

PEGGY J. BARKER AND TERRI L. MARTIN

General Services, Sacramento

Peggy Barker and Terri Martin, Bindery Supervisors, witnessed an employee who is diabetic, displaying symptoms of acute insulin shock (low blood sugar). Ms. Barker and Ms. Martin, both familiar with this disease, immediately reacted to help stabilize their co-worker. While Ms. Barker sat the employee down and applied a cool compress to the back of his neck, Ms. Martin went to get some orange juice and instructed the employee to drink it. The employee quickly began to feel better and was able to go home after the incident with some assistance from his wife. The quick response of this team prevented their co-worker from lapsing into unconsciousness and from potentially serious injury.

EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS COURSE UNIT (EVOC)

Highway Patrol, Sacramento

Sergeant Dean Bogios	Officer Jason Cavett
Kenny Chang	Officer Brian Cook
Officer Brian Dabalos	Officer Robin Johnson
Lieutenant Ruben Leal	Raul Mendoza
Alan Rayder	Officer Allen Romero, Jr.
Officer James Williams	

The EVOC Unit is responsible for the testing of new vehicles and components including tires, brakes, and suspension parts. During the year 2002, the EVOC staff identified the need to enhance safety features on the high-speed training vehicles at the Academy. The vehicles used for high-speed training and demonstrations include the Ford Crown Victoria and Chevrolet Camaro. Although the current roll cage used in the high-speed vehicles afforded a high level of protection, the Team proactively fabricated a device that would provide maximum protection without compromising visibility and creating the possibility of other restrictions. The redesign of the roll cage includes a rear cross bar

configuration and center support to compensate for higher top-end speeds and alleviates concerns of roof intrusion during a rollover collision.

ENHANCED OFFICER SAFETY TRAINING TEAM

Highway Patrol, Vallejo

Sergeant Michael Anderson **Officer Eric Bisellach**
Officer Donald Davis **Lieutenant Greg Ferrero**
Sergeant Mark Gomez **Deputy Chief Kevin Green**
Officer Mike Hagen **Officer Gilbert Lee**
Lieutenant Carlos Marquez **Sergeant Mark McAfee**
Sergeant Bill Myers **Officer Steven Rauch**
Sergeant Eric Rozenoff **Officer Quintin Shawk**
Sergeant Aristotle Wolfe **Officer Todd Yager**

In addition to mandated Officer Safety Training, the Golden Gate Division recognized a need for an Enhanced Officer Safety Training (EOST) Program. This Team, comprised of officers, sergeants and lieutenants from various area offices leave their normal work duties for four days to facilitate the training on a monthly/semi-monthly basis. The EOST utilizes scenario-based training to teach officers instinctive reaction which better prepares them for “real world” encounters. Class curriculum includes combat shooting, boxing, wrestling, ground fighting, gun retention, and gun take aways. The training enables the officer to demonstrate, through the utilization of scenario-based training, the relationship between mental and physical aspects of action and reaction. Participants have indicated overwhelming support and very positive feedback. Officers leave the training better prepared with a heightened level of safety awareness and confidence and with tools to utilize when confronted by aggressive suspects preventing many injuries in the line of duty.

UCP SAFE DEPOSIT BOX UNIT

State Controller’s Office, Sacramento

Tammy Green **Ted Irwin**
Rosemary Stevenson **Barbara Stoner**

The Safe Deposit Unit Team’s regular course of business is opening, determining the value and taking inventory of the contents of unclaimed safe deposit boxes that are sent to the Division of Collection’s Unclaimed Property Bureau. It was business as usual until they discovered an unknown substance in a small sealed bottle labeled “Sodium Azide”. They called the California Highway Patrol who advised them that the substance was not volatile in its current state as long as it was sealed and was not handled by anyone. They also conducted research on the Internet. Exposure to heat, shock or friction could have caused an explosion and if ingested or inhaled in a confined space could become toxic. Their immediate actions and the precautionary measures that were taken resulted in the safe removal and disposal of this hazardous substance and prevented what could have been a potentially disastrous workplace situation.

BLASTING AND BANK SCALING TEAM

Transportation—District 6, Fresno

Wesley T. Byrne **Bernie Eaton**
Frank Ketscher **Robin Mathieu**
Richard L. McComb **Reid Patten**
Brett Robertson **David Schroeder**
Al Tucker

The Blasting and Bank Scaling Team was formed to respond to rockslides and to mitigate any hazards associated with potential rockslides on state highways. The employees volunteer to serve on this team which consists of a variety of Caltrans maintenance classifications. They use their various skills to remove rock from above the roadway and to blast those that require it, both above the roadway and on the roadway, thus improving safety for the public and for Caltrans

maintenance crews. The team has not sustained a single lost time personal injury accident or a preventable motor vehicle accident while performing these hazardous but necessary tasks.

CAPLES LAKE MAINTENANCE

Transportation—District 10, Alpine County

Donald Jardine

John Kearns, Jr.

Tom Lupton

On August 12, 2002, the employees were completing routine highway maintenance on SR 88 in Alpine County near Caples Lake. John Kearns, Jr. noticed a couple fishing along the lakeside. At that moment, the woman stood up only to fall to the ground and lose consciousness. Mr. Kearns immediately called to his co-workers for assistance. Donald Jardine coordinated emergency response while Tom Lupton responded to the scene. The ambulance finally arrived to take the woman to the hospital in Lake Tahoe. She was later diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor and is recuperating at home after an operation. These remarkable maintenance employees were not only able to complete their job tasks by maintaining traffic control in the area but were also able to respond quickly to assist others in an emergency.

JOHN FRYE AND SUSANA FAUSTINO

Transportation—District 2, Susanville

John Frye and Susana Faustino, Caltrans Equipment Operators, arrived upon an accident scene in which a van had overturned and landed upside down in a creek. Mr. Frye and Ms. Faustino entered the water and found the driver unresponsive. They removed the driver and performed CPR before emergency personnel arrived on the scene. They also removed two small children who were still buckled in their seats in the back of the vehicle.

FRANCISCO NUNO AND BRUCE JACKSON

Water Resources, Bakersfield

On May 19, 2002, Francisco Nuno, Hydroelectric Plant Operator, and Bruce Jackson, Plant Maintenance Superintendent, saved the lives of a man and a boy by pulling them from the swift waters of the California Aqueduct. Using a life ring to gain access to the pair, Mr. Nuno and Mr. Jackson were able to prevent two individuals from drowning.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

SPENCER JONES

Alcoholic Beverage Control, Cerritos

Last November, Spencer Jones, an Investigator II with Alcoholic Beverage Control, was driving home from work in the midst of a severe rainstorm. Driving conditions were extremely poor as Mr. Jones witnessed an overturned tour bus on the opposite side of the highway. He immediately radioed the California Highway Patrol to notify them of the location of the accident. Mr. Spencer took the next exit and headed back in the direction of the accident. Once he arrived on the scene, he immediately began assisting the passengers on the bus. He set out flares to warn oncoming motorists of the hazard, and began helping the passengers evacuate the bus. Thanks to Mr. Spencer's quick actions, the passengers of the tour bus were able to receive timely medical attention, and the potential for further traffic collisions was averted.

CRAIG STUBLER

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

As an Instructional Support Technician at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), Craig Stubler took it upon himself to improve the manner in which safety programs in the science laboratories on campus are administered. He facilitated the purchase and installation of portable eyewash stations, inventoried and cleaned out a chemical storage room, established a compatible storage system for hazardous chemicals, and improved the identification process for hazardous waste. Thanks to Mr. Stubler's special efforts, the science labs at Cal Poly are safer for students, faculty, and staff.

PAUL L. FROST

Conservation, Cypress

As a Field Engineer for the Department of Conservation, Paul Frost became concerned that field personnel in the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources were using unsafe procedures when entering various, confined space worksites. Recognizing this, Mr. Frost set up training for the involved field personnel to help illustrate why the procedures were unsafe and to remedy the hazards. Additionally, he was able to convince supervisors that the existing procedures were unsafe, and that changes in the division's policy were needed. As a result of his efforts, Field Engineers at the Department of Conservation now have a reduced risk of injury while on the job.

JAMES BELL

Corrections, Centinela State Prison, Imperial

James Bell, Vector Control Technician, has technical and operational knowledge in the use of N95 respirators. He volunteered to be the institution's first Respirator Protection Program Coordinator. He ensures appropriate and detailed information is provided to those who work in areas with a potential to cause an exposure of hepatitis, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. He instructs the users in the proper use of respirators and their limitations and ensures that they are regularly cleaned, disinfected, and stored in a sanitary location.

T.B. BLACK

Corrections, California Correctional Institution, Tehachapi

T.B. Black, Correctional Officer, was instrumental in developing procedures to improve communication between staff and inmates regarding acquisition of Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) samples. He developed

manuals for custody and medical staff, which clarified who needed DNA testing. As a result of his efforts, the inmates were more compliant and confrontations between inmates and staff were reduced.

MARY DIANE COWELL

Corrections, Paroles—Region IV, Diamond Bar

Radio communication is vital to the safety and effectiveness of a law enforcement agency. Mary Diane Cowell, Parole Agent II, developed an inventory system of both radios and mutual aid agreements, and developed and implemented a training program that improved the telecommunication system for the region. In order to do this, Ms. Cowell negotiated mutual aid agreements with over twenty police/sheriff agencies which was a difficult task since these agencies had proprietary interests in sharing their frequencies. The system she developed improved the safety of staff and the partner agencies.

RICHARD A. HESS

Corrections, Chuckawalla Valley State Prison, Blythe

Richard Hess, Correctional Officer, developed a plan to address a problem with the critical tool issuance procedure. He recognized that knives issued to inmates in the kitchen could potentially be removed from the work area and possibly be used as weapons. He researched the situation and discovered that some institutions were utilizing cables to fasten the knives to the food preparation table. He submitted a proposal and acquired a sample cable. The cables were approved and are now in use.

PAUL HOLLIS

Corrections, Chuckawalla Valley State Prison, Blythe

Paul Hollis, Vocational Welding Instructor, significantly reduced injuries of staff and inmates. He replaced plastic wheels with pneumatic wheels, which improved the movement of carts used by Correctional Counselors and reduced wrist and knee injuries. He welded a new floor on the bed of the kitchen delivery truck, which reduced slips and falls. He repaired broken chairs in the visiting department by welding stronger metal straps to reinforce the chairs.

LINDON LEWIS

Corrections, Paroles—Region IV, Escondido

Lindon Lewis, Parole Agent I, developed a fleet map, which facilitates each parole agent's ability to communicate with each other as well as other law enforcement agencies. He worked with the San Diego Sheriff Department in order to have the Parole Department included in the San Diego County Regional Radio System. Through his efforts, he developed a strong partnership with the county and other police agencies to obtain the appropriate radio channels for parole agents working in the community. He has become the lead Radio Trainer and Coordinator for San Diego County.

STEVE W. REPPOND

Corrections, Pelican Bay State Prison, Crescent City

Steve Reppond, Correctional Sergeant, on his own initiative, designed and created the Behavior Control Jumpsuit. The jumpsuit is a fully secured, tear proof, padlocked garment. When worn, inmates are prevented from engaging in inappropriate activity and from

concealing any contraband or weapons resulting in a decreased number of sexual harassment and employee litigation claims.

MIKE WEBSTER

Corrections, Pleasant Valley State Prison, Coalinga

Mike Webster, Correctional Sergeant, was instrumental in preparing emergency procedures regarding the prevention of exposure to potentially dangerous contaminants. Since institutions are self-contained, they are required to handle these issues themselves. Sgt. Webster developed the institution's Emergency Action Checklist-Response for Suspicious Mail/Packages which outlined specific steps for staff to adhere to during potential emergency situations. He was responsible for local revisions, Operations Procedures, Post Orders, and other memorandums to ensure that staff were continuously updated on this subject.

PAUL S. JACOBS

Developmental Services, San Jose Developmental Center, Agnews

Paul Jacobs, Physical Therapy Assistant at Agnews Developmental Center, was walking from one side of the campus to the other, when he noticed a consumer taking a cigarette break. He noticed fire coming from the consumer's shirt. Mr. Jacobs immediately yelled for help and ran to the consumer, who was in a wheelchair and with his hands started to put out the flames as there was no fire extinguisher in the patio area. Mr. Jacobs did not pull at the shirt, as he was not sure of the degree of the burns that may have been sustained. Assistants came and applied ice to the consumer's chest, where the skin appeared reddened. He was seen by a physician, who diagnosed first-degree burns to the chest, face, neck, and inside arm. Without Mr. Jacob's quick and selfless response, the consumer's injuries could have been more life-threatening.

DANNY STEELE

Developmental Services, Porterville Developmental Center, Porterville

Danny Steele, Heavy Equipment Mechanic at Porterville Developmental Center, noted that training procedures did not exist for staff to secure wheelchair bound clients into handicap-equipped vehicles. On his own initiative, he gathered information regarding the proper methods to secure wheelchairs and developed a written training program, complete with a demonstration training board. He incorporated this new program into the existing driver-training program at Porterville Developmental Center. As a result of Mr. Steele's efforts, the driver-training program has been enhanced and the clients are safer.

SHELLY TARVER

Employment Development Department, Bakersfield

The Employment Development Department (EDD) has partnered with sixteen agencies to provide services to the community at ten One-Stop Centers serving three counties. EDD employees are stationed at these centers providing mandated services. In addition to her regular duties, Shelly Tarver, an Employment Program Representative, volunteered to be part of the Kern One-Stop Career Services Center Best Practices Committee. Ms. Tarver saw the need for staff in each of the ten centers to be trained in First Aid/CPR and scheduled and organized CPR training classes for approximately 350-400 EDD employees. She also pointed out the need to have an updated Safety Procedures Manual at each site and was instrumental in gathering information and assembling the new manuals. Because of her efforts, One-Stop Center employees in these counties are more prepared to respond quickly in the event of an emergency.

WILLIAM M. GROVE**Fish and Game, Fresno**

While on duty one morning last November, William Grove, Fish and Game Warden, responded to a call for assistance from the Fresno County Sheriff's Department involving an armed man who was barricaded in a house and threatening suicide. Mr. Grove was able to remain calm and use his public address system to talk to the man inside the house while other law enforcement personnel took up strategic positions. He continued to speak to the man inside the house, and was ultimately able to convince the man to surrender. Thanks to Mr. Grove's level-headedness and calm demeanor, a potentially fatal incident was avoided.

RICHARD NOONAN**Forestry and Fire Protection, Ukiah**

Richard Noonan, Heavy Fire Equipment Operator for the Department of Forestry (CDF) and Fire Protection, researched accidents and near misses related to the D4E dozers. There are a large number of safety hazards associated with dozers used in firefighting on uneven terrain, steep slopes, and in low visibility due to smoke and weather conditions. Adding an unsafe vehicle to these hazards increases the risk of a serious accident or fatality. After interviewing several CDF Heavy Equipment Operators, his safety concern for staff operating these dozers was confirmed. Mr. Noonan then researched the technical specifications and subsequent modifications which demonstrated that the D4E dozer is unsafe to operate. He wrote a report including all of the facts and recommendations which led to field tests that confirmed the instability and unsafe operability of this dozer. CDF removed the D4E dozers from service thus preventing further accidents, injuries, or fatalities.

CAROL LYNN CROUCH**Franchise Tax Board, Sacramento**

While on the way back to her office after taking a break in the cafeteria, Carol Crouch witnessed a co-worker choking on a bagel. Ms. Crouch, Senior Personnel Specialist, immediately came to the aid of her co-worker. She was able to perform the Heimlich maneuver and dislodge the obstruction from the co-worker's throat. Thanks to her quick action, a potentially fatal situation was avoided.

MYRON DUBOSE**General Services, Sacramento**

Myron Dubose, Janitor Supervisor, received a call from an employee who was at home. The employee said he was not feeling well and was having pain in his neck, shoulders and arms and that he would not be reporting to work that day. Mr. Dubose sensed there was something seriously wrong and consulted an acquaintance with medical knowledge about the situation. The acquaintance advised that the employee could be having heart problems and advised that he seek immediate medical attention. Mr. Dubose left work, went to the employee's residence, and took him to the hospital, where he underwent surgery to repair two blocked arteries. Thanks to Mr. Dubose's astute judgment and corresponding action, the employee was able to receive the appropriate medical attention.

OFFICER WULFRANO CORRINGTON**Highway Patrol, Napa**

Officer Wulfrano Corrington is the Training Officer for the Napa area where his innovative techniques and personal commitments have assisted his area in achieving their safety goals for 2002. One of his accomplishments is the defensive driving rodeo which he planned and implemented for all personnel, including members of the

Senior Volunteer Program. The only required driving instruction for the senior volunteers is the Department of General Services, Defensive Driver Training Course. The Senior Volunteer Program is not one of Officer Corrington's work responsibilities; however, one of his ideas was to provide additional safety training for them. He developed a special driving course for the volunteers addressing high visual horizon, time and distance braking formulas which can be utilized as a participant of the program and also when operating their personal vehicles.

MILTON "CHARLIE" HANSEN

Highway Patrol, Mission Grade

In July, 2002, Commercial Vehicle Inspection Specialist (CVIS), Charlie Hansen, designed and built an inspection booth for the Mission Grade Inspection Facility. Many of the CVISs frequently complained about the lack of heating in the inspection bays. Mr. Hansen designed an inspection booth with an overhead heater with two heating elements that can be operated independently or together, depending on the temperature. The inspection booth also has a fan that brings in fresh air from outside. The fresh air fan allows the inspector to have a continuous supply of fresh, unpolluted air. The inspection booth is three feet wide, nine feet long, and eight feet high with glass windows on three sides which allow for maximum visibility.

MIKE DALY

Mental Health, Napa State Hospital, Napa

Mike Daly, Television Specialist, came to the aid of a co-worker in distress. While walking past the Chapels, Mr. Daly witnessed a co-worker trying to perform the Heimlich maneuver on herself. He rushed in and after confirming that she was, in fact choking, he was able to perform the Heimlich maneuver on the choking co-worker and dislodge the piece of grapefruit on which she was choking. Thanks to Mr. Daly's quick and decisive response, a potentially fatal situation was avoided.

PATRICIA DUTRA

Mental Health, Atascadero State Hospital, Atascadero

Patricia Dutra, Supervising Registered Nurse, developed a method of shaving forensic patients that replaced the use of a blade razor. Ms. Dutra implemented the use of rechargeable razor bases and individual razor heads which replaced the use of a blade razor. This method reduced the potential for injury caused by using blades to attack staff and patients, in patient suicide attempts and in preventing staff and patient exposure to bloodborne disease from contaminated blades.

MYRON C. BERRY

Motor Vehicles, Hawthorne

Myron Berry, Department of Motor Vehicles Manager I, was the first person on the scene when a customer lost control of his vehicle while taking the behind-the-wheel driver license renewal exam. While moving forward in the drive test lane, the customer hit the vehicle in front of him, crashed into the building, reversed his vehicle, jumped over the curb into a landscaped area and uprooted a tree before coming to rest. Mr. Berry first assisted and calmed the customer who was agitated, disoriented and complaining of chest pains. He then assisted the License Registration Examiner (LRE) whose vehicle was struck and who was experiencing back and chest pains. He also assisted the LRE's customer who complained of an injured hand. Mr. Berry checked to see if anyone else was injured, assisted law enforcement personnel in securing the perimeter of the building and assisted in informing and calming the employees working inside the building. Mr. Berry played a vital role in stabilizing and maintaining a safe work environment for employees as well as customers with his immediate and systematic response to the unexpected situation.

RONALD V. SCHIGUR

Motor Vehicles, Santa Ana

During the past three years since Ron Schigur was hired as a Motor Vehicle Field Representative, he has gone above and beyond his job duties in creating a safe and secure work environment for his Santa Ana field office. In a field office with no safety coordinator, Mr. Schigur has developed an emergency manual, has provided safety training for employees, has conducted research on his own time, has provided co-workers with updated security and safety practices, and has maintained the office emergency preparedness supplies. His diligent safety efforts have resulted in a safer work environment and a significant decrease in workers' compensation claims during the past three years from 15 claims in 2000, 7 claims in 2001 to zero claims in 2002.

NATHANIEL A. WILLIAMS

Motor Vehicles, Sacramento

Responding to a call for help from fellow employees, Nathaniel Williams, Office Services Supervisor, came out of his office to find a fellow employee choking. Using exemplary judgment, Mr. Williams quickly took charge of the situation and successfully administered the Heimlich maneuver to the choking employee. Thanks to his quick action, a potentially fatal situation was avoided.

JOSE L. BENAVIDES

State Compensation Insurance Fund, Riverside

At the State Compensation Insurance Fund (SCIF), responsibility for employee safety begins with the Risk Management Department and in turn is delegated to District/Program Managers. Although safety is not part of Jose Benavides' normal duties as a Loss Control/Retention Manager, he has volunteered his time to

author and implement a 60 page Crises Preparedness Program for the Riverside District Office, he serves as the back up to the office's Disaster Recovery Team, he strengthened the office's Business Continuity Plan, he has assisted a number of SCIF District offices in the development of their emergency preparedness programs, and he often serves as a technical resource to other SCIF offices. Thanks to Mr. Benavides' efforts, the Riverside District Office as well as other offices are more prepared in case of an emergency or crises situation.

LARRY DIAZ

Transportation—District 7, Commerce

Larry Diaz, Caltrans Equipment Operator, acted to prevent a potentially fatal incident involving two crew members working on foot. On October 19, 2002, during a freeway lane closure operation, the crew was working to retrieve a ramp closure. The workers had just stepped out of their work truck and were preparing to remove signs and barricades. Mr. Diaz who was driving a crane truck noticed a gap that was not covered by a barrier vehicle on the closed portion of the right lane and shoulder, jeopardizing workers on foot. He also noticed an errant vehicle that had entered the lane closure upstream. He moved his truck into a position to fill the gap to protect the workers on foot. The errant vehicle accelerated and attempted to pass Mr. Diaz' truck and continued to the closed freeway off ramp. The vehicle then skidded and struck his truck broadside. Mr. Diaz' quick thinking and decisive response to a very dangerous situation is credited with saving two crew members from serious injury or even death.

RORY FRENCH

Transportation—District 1, Garberville

On November 26, 2002, Rory French, Caltrans Equipment Operator, was driving a motorgrader south on US 101. A small sedan rear-ended his grader and

impaled itself upon the grader's rear rippers. Mr. French stopped but remained in the #2 lane, as there were occupants inside the vehicle. The driver and her toddler, who was in the back seat, escaped the wreckage. A twelve-year old boy was trapped in the passenger seat, the ripper teeth inches away from his face. Mr. French climbed into the mangled vehicle with the boy, careful not to cause any movement that could have complicated the boy's situation. He monitored and stayed with the boy for over three hours while paramedics treated the boy's severe facial lacerations. Mr. French and others freed the boy's pinned legs and he was then flown to a hospital where he made a full recovery.

DAVID S. FRY

Transportation, Headquarters , Shop 2, Redding

On October 10, 2002, David Fry, Caltrans Highway Mechanic Supervisor, assisted in a traffic accident involving the driver of a big rig and a pickup truck. Mr. Fry performed CPR and first aid on the big rig driver. Mr. Fry also assigned others in the vicinity to traffic control and requested emergency personnel, who arrived by helicopter after approximately 10 minutes. The California Highway Patrol stated that the pickup was in front of the big rig going northbound. When the driver of the pickup pulled to the right shoulder of the road, the big rig proceeded to pass the pickup on the left. For reasons unknown to the big rig driver, the pickup turned to the left, directly in his path. Unfortunately, the driver of the pickup did not survive his injuries.

DOUGLAS HARVEY

Transportation—District 5, San Luis Obispo

Douglas Harvey, Caltrans Equipment Operator, volunteered to become a member of the Caltrans Critical Incident Stress Debriefing team (CISD). This required that the employee take the appropriate training to provide peer defusing after a triggering event occurs in

the workplace. Shortly after his training, he conducted a close call debriefing when a near-miss traffic incident occurred in one of their work zones located on Hwy 101 in Santa Barbara. An errant vehicle came close to running one of his co-workers over but was deflected away by a Caltrans barrier truck. The CISD session led by Mr. Harvey was held shortly after this event. It provided the crew an opportunity for peer group ventilation of reactions to the close call incident and an opportunity for the crew to obtain stress-related information.

JAMES HOOVER

Transportation—District 3, Nevada City

Caltrans maintenance personnel are confronted with many challenges during the course of their work. One such incident occurred on January 1, 2002, at the Kingvale westbound off-ramp on I-80. James Hoover, Caltrans Equipment Operator, encountered an act of domestic violence in progress. A woman in the back seat of a vehicle was being kicked by her enraged brother. Mr. Hoover was instrumental in notifying the authorities and intervening to prevent further injury to the woman. Getting out of his plow truck, Mr. Hoover walked over to the brother and asked him what he was doing. The brother responded that it was none of his business. Since the brother was not going to stop his attack on his sister, Mr. Hoover returned to his plow truck and eased his plow into a position blocking the brother from gaining access to her. His quick thinking and decisive actions thwarted further attacks without unduly jeopardizing his own personal safety. Mr. Hoover's ingenious response to this event clearly saved this woman from further injury.

JERRY ISBELL

Transportation—District 11, El Centro

Jerry Isbell, Caltrans Equipment Operator, came up with the idea of using an air horn mounted on the end of the conveyor belt to assist the truck drivers and grinder operator while operating the Wirtgen 52 Asphalt Grinder. The trucks catching the grindings from the conveyor belt are traveling in front of the grinder. In order for the truck drivers to be able to follow the hand signals of the grinder operator, they are forced to look in their right side mirrors while still looking forward for other objects that could be in their line of travel. At night, the drivers are not able to see the grinder operator at all. To make the job of the drivers safer and without modifying any equipment, Mr. Isbell used some spare parts to fabricate an air horn system that plugs into the air system on the grinder. The drivers are signaled by using a different number of short blasts for each maneuver. The addition of the horn is greatly appreciated by the truck drivers, ground people, and supervisors.

DAVE NELSON

Transportation—District 4, San Jose

Dave Nelson, Caltrans Maintenance Area Superintendent, devised a unique litter trap design to be incorporated with highway sound wall construction projects. The device traps litter at one specific roadside location to reduce the need for extensive, time-consuming roadside litter control operations. The litter trap is placed in conjunction with a maintenance vehicle pullout for safe, off-road access. It has statewide application with design standardization. Its efficiency enhances the safety of Caltrans employees, roadside volunteers and alternative work groups, and the motoring public. In addition to safety, this design implementation also has positive economic, environmental, and public relations benefits.

MELVIN ROBERSON

Transportation—District 4, Oakland

On October 20, 2002, Melvin Roberson, Maintenance Mechanic, prevented a man from committing suicide. While working at the Transbay Transit Terminal in San Francisco, Mr. Roberson observed a young man acting strangely. Mr. Roberson watched the young man frantically cross the street and disappear into an alley. Although he continued with his work, he decided to go into the alley and discovered the young man unconscious, hanging from a rope, attached to bars on the terminal. Without hesitation, Mr. Roberson held the young man by his legs, pushed him in an upward motion and yelled for assistance to help him cut the rope. The young man was taken to the hospital and was expected to recover.

LYNNE CLAIR

Youth Authority, Preston Youth Correctional Facility, Ione

Lynne Clair, Senior Youth Correctional Counselor, came to the aid of a choking co-worker. She and her co-worker were on duty at Ironwood Lodge, a lock up facility for the most aggressive, violent, and dangerous wards assigned to Preston Youth Correctional Facility. When her co-worker began choking, she activated a silent alarm, positioned herself and the staff member in a safe location, monitored the wards, and gave them instructions. She positioned herself behind her stricken co-worker and began applying abdominal thrusts dislodging the blockage just as he was about to collapse to the floor. Her quick and decisive actions not only saved the life of a co-worker but was also a key factor in maintaining control of the wards.



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