

FEBRUARY

Safety message

Division of Environmental Services

Trapper Slough 2005

...from the Division Chief

The Division of Environmental Services' has one of the youngest and most active staffs of any Division in the Department. Mountain biking, Running, Kayaking, Snow Skiing (Boarding), Soccer, Rugby, Hiking, Bicycling just to mention a few activities. Young and active staff members may be at risk for incidents because they will happen. If you are active in water sports or work on, or around water, please take a few moments and watch this "Cold Water Boot Camp" video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1xohI3B4Uc> It could save your life so share the videos information.

Also, I would like my supervisors and staff to review your project's Health & Safety Plans. The Health & Safety Plans including Pre-Work Safety Plans and JHA's, and Tailgate meetings should identify and document all safety concerns. Don't forget to address new concerns for example, are you aware of the latest Department Safety policies and procedures – the Code of Safe Work Practices? Do your Health & Safety Plans address any "what-ifs"? Are staff properly trained to do the work using the proper equipment? Do you have the proper safety equipment? Has that safety equipment been inspected? Does it need to be inspected? Staff should be prepared for the just-in-case situations for example, a tow rope, shovel, board/tarp, cell phone with a contact list should be part of the equipment that staff have with them while conducting remote work. Contact a member of the DES Safety Sub-Committee for assistance with these types of safety issues.

Life Story - recently two DES four-wheel drive vehicles needed assistance to get out of the mud. If your project requires staff to drive off-road and they are using a DWR vehicle equipped with four-wheel drive then prior to conducting field work staff should be trained to use the vehicles four-wheel drive equipment.

At your staff next tailgate or staff meeting discuss safety issues and prepare for any "what-ifs". No staff member should be working in the office, laboratory, or field without proper training, an understanding of the work to be conducted including policies, documentation, safety procedures and equipment.

Live Safe, Work Safe.

Sincerely,

Dean Messer, Chief
Division of Environmental Services

February tips:

- State Water Project Code of Safety Work Practice (COSWP). <http://swpsafety.water.ca.gov>. The Field Divisions require all DWR staff working in Field Division to address concern identified in the COSWP.
- Cold Water Boot Camp:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1xohI3B4Uc>

Safety Suggestions:

- DES Safety Sub-committee received an anonymous safety suggestion in the safety suggestion box. The committee will review and address the issue to the benefit of all staff within DES.
- Door signage for the door opening hazards was a suggestion and the signs are working to reduce the risk and eliminate the potential hazard.

Think Safety visit <http://dessafety.water.ca.gov>; <http://swpsafety.water.ca.gov> for more information.
Send Safety suggestions to: dessafety@water.ca.gov.