

NC Industrial Commission

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Safety Bulletin

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Accidents hurt - safety doesn't. ~Author Unknown

August - 2006

Greetings Friends in the Name of Safety:

We finally got around to sending our Safety Bulletin again! I apologize for the last several months' absence, but we just haven't been able to find or take the time to send it. So many good things have been happening with our Safety Section, thanks to YOU!

We have a new Program Assistant in our Raleigh office, Billie Gay. Please feel free to send her your Video Library request and do not hesitate to call her as she too stands ready to serve your safety needs. Her email address is gayb@ind.commerce.state.nc.us and her phone number is 919-807-2603.

Also, we would like to thank Jeanne Whitney, who has worked with our section temporarily filling in until we could fill the Program Assistant position. She has done a great job keeping us moving and has been making calls updating the Western Piedmont and Western Carolina Safety Council mail lists. We will continue to make progress in this area in the upcoming months.

Thank you for your patience and support!

As always, we continue to update our email list. These mailings are the life-blood for attendance of our Nine Regional Safety Councils and without good contacts; the word will not get out. If you know of someone who might wish to receive these mailings, please send their contact information along to me at parnell@ind.commerce.state.nc.us or to their area Safety Representative as soon as possible. For those of you with SPAM software, you will need to add brantomail@blast.com to your "ACCEPT ALWAYS" list. Your Internet Provider service can help you with this. If that is not an option, provide us with a personal email address if you have or can create one.

What Will This Hurricane Season Bring

By Randy Jackson, Hazardous Weather Preparedness Institute

When I look back at all of the talks and presentations that I have conducted over the last four or five months the most often asked question is about the upcoming hurricane season. "How bad will it be this year?", or "Is it going to be our turn this year?" are among the favorites. It does not matter if the topic at hand is winter weather, lightning issues or tornadoes; it seems everyone is focused on what those tropical clouds will produce this time around.

With many of us still trying to understand what we saw in both the 2004 and 2005 tropical weather seasons, questions like those are really not a surprise. The past two years have produced the most

frequently occurring strikes to areas of the U.S. coastline than we have seen in modern times. A few of the storms have also clearly demonstrated that planning for such an occurrence is a necessity but being able to successfully execute those plans is imperative. I can't begin to convey how many times I am told, "We have a plan for that", but when I ask when the plan was last tested, I am met with blank stares and a variety of excuses. The planning is one thing, but the execution of those plans is what makes us or breaks us; a lesson learned by many following last year's deadly and destructive season.

Experts tell us to be prepared for another active tropical weather season. Dr. William Gray and the forecast team at Colorado State University indicated the following in their April prediction:

- 17 named storms; 9.6 in an average year
- 9 hurricanes; 5.9 in an average year
- 5 major hurricanes; category 3 or higher; 2.3 in an average year

This year's predictions pale in comparison to the 27 named storms and 15 hurricanes that took place during the 2005 season. Before you get too excited about fewer storms this year than last, you should know that the April predictions for last year's season were for 13 named storms, 7 hurricanes and 3 intense hurricanes. Those estimates were a long way from the reality of the season.

North Carolina has had its share of problems over the past two seasons. Ophelia brushed the Outer Banks this past year and produced some damage and erosion. A minor mishap compared to what occurred to our south. North Carolina's mountains were badly scarred by the remnants of several 2004 storms like Francis and Ivan, but still not a direct hit.

Our state however has quite a hurricane history in itself. From Hazel in 1954, to Fran and Bertha in 1996, to Floyd in '99; and every storm in between the scars and memories remain for many. I remember asking Dr. Gray about Bertha and Fran in 1996. "Why is this happening"? I asked; "two storms in the same place in such a short period of time".

Dr. Gray looked at me and said, "It is just an unlucky period." I guess we just never know when our luck will run out.

So while other areas have received the brunt of nature's fury, our time will again come. We must continue to plan, test plans for effectiveness and learn from the experiences of others. I am sure you remember how people wandered about during Katrina; lost, dazed and looking for any refuge. Remember those pictures; they make the point very clear as to why educating and training our employees is so important. We never know the time and place these events might occur, so the readiness of our workforce both on and off the job becomes a key strategy to our business survival and recovery.

Keep in mind that tropical weather systems are not just coastal events. More people in our state lost their lives to fresh water inland flooding and drowning in Hurricane Floyd than any other element of that storm. Flooding in Raleigh was extreme in Hurricane Fran and Hazel, and other storms challenged the population as well. It has happened before and it will happen again. As this season develops let me suggest the following:

- Review and update all plans for your facilities; test vital areas.

- Make sure your workforce clearly understands your policies and procedures.
- Set up training sessions with employees that outline preparedness actions to be taken in their home and family environment.
- Encourage employees to develop "emergency supply kits" for their homes and vehicles. Lead by example; have "emergency kits" in your facility.
- Increase awareness of the hurricane season; bulletin boards in common areas, email communications, safety contests and training sessions can get employees involved and aware of conditions. It is also a natural way for you to communicate changes in plans, policy or other pieces of information that are important to your operation.
- Make sure you have access to the latest information as systems develop.
- Don't be afraid to make timely decisions.

In the preparedness business we often use the phrase, "It is not a matter of if it will happen; it is a matter of when it will happen." It is a phrase that has been proven correct over and over again.

The author is owner of the Hazardous Weather Preparedness Institute, Greensboro, North Carolina. For more information on training programs and other services visit www.weatherpreparedness.com

Insight...

- A TRUE LEADER...HAS THE CONFIDENCE TO STAND ALONE, THE COURAGE TO MAKE TOUGH DECISIONS AND THE COMPASSION TO LISTEN TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS. HE DOES NOT SET OUT TO BE A LEADER, BUT BECOMES ONE BY THE QUALITY OF HIS ACTIONS AND THE INTEGRITY OF HIS INTENT...
- Most workers want to make a difference in their workplace. Safety, smart employers have learned, is a great way to channel that interest and involvement. Perhaps no workplace institution has the potential to do more than a health and safety committee. When they're humming, accident rates, morale, and productivity all stand to improve.
- In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are "limbs," therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, "Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg."
- In the U.S., approximately every 2 hours a train collides with a person or a vehicle.

Drugs in the workplace -Update

Industry continues to face serious problems with illicit drugs in the workplace. These problems range from accidents to on-premises dealing. Consider the following:

- 47% of workplace accidents are drug related. (US Congress)

- 44% of employees admit selling drugs to co-workers (Streetdrugs)
- 38% bought drugs from co-workers (ONDCP)
- 32% of employees know of the sale of drugs in their workplace. (Gov. Survey)
- 20% of young employees admit use of marihuana on the job (Streetdrugs)
- 17% of truck drivers test positive for use of marihuana or cocaine. (Streetdrugs)

How do these drug using employees impact our business?

- They file five more times workers comp claims. (US Congress)
- They have 3½ times more on the job accidents. (US Congress)
- They function at 67% of normal work rate. (US Congress)
- They are late for work three more times as often. (US Congress)
- They have 300% higher health benefit utilization (US Congress)
- 75% report having gone to work under the influence. (Streetdrugs)
- 64% admit drugs adversely affected job performance. (Streetdrugs)

It is clear that a serious problem continues in our workplaces even with the benefits of testing programs. Now a new and additional tool is beginning to be made available to deter the use and presence of drugs in the work place. This method uses narcotics detector dogs to deter drugs in the work place.

This process works by first demonstrating the detection capability of the dogs to the employees and explaining that the sweeps are done on an unannounced and random basis. This is an effective low cost and non-invasive deterrent technique that augments current testing procedures.

For more information contact: Joe C. Glover, National Drug Search LLC, 3826 Obriant Place Greensboro, NC 27410 336-668-3132 phone, 336-668-9676 fax, 336-402-4114 cell gloverjoe@aol.com

NC OPERATION LIFESAVER IS NOW OFFERED BY NCIC SAFETY EDUCATION SECTION!

What is Operation Lifesaver?

Operation Lifesaver is a program designed to help save your life at the most dangerous spot on any highway or road -- the highway-rail grade crossing. Operation Lifesaver is an active, continuous public information and education program to help prevent and reduce crashes injuries and fatalities by improving driver performance at the nation's approximately 270,000 public and private highway-rail grade crossings and on rights-of-way. To achieve its mission, Operation Lifesaver developed a program that emphasizes Education, Engineering and Enforcement activities. These activities are called the Operation Lifesaver 3-Es.

Operation Lifesaver was born in Idaho in 1972. A Union Pacific Railroad employee was disturbed by the number of the vehicle-train collisions and created the first public railroad safety education Program. The result? At the end of the first year, the highway-rail grade crossing fatalities decreased a resounding 43 percent. Autonomous Operation Lifesaver programs currently exist in 49 states and have contributed significantly to the over 50 percent reduction in crashes and casualties

at highway-rail grade crossings since 1972. North Carolina Operation Lifesaver was started on April 27, 1979 after the North Carolina Rural Safety Council decided to take it on as a safety project.

Operation Lifesaver's Goal...

To make highway-rail collisions obsolete by encouraging every motorist to...

LOOK, LISTEN - AND LIVE!

We are proud to be associated with NC Operation Lifesaver. Our staff has recently been trained to present this program across the State. Please give us a call to schedule a program!

From the Desk of Dennis Parnell, Director Safety Education...

We held our first 30 Hour Accident Prevention Certificate Awareness Program in March in Clemmons, NC with great success. We had over 110 attendees and the comments were wonderful. We have taken our 30 Hour program to approximately 10 different companies onsite with a couple still going on. August is full with 3 week-long programs, one in High Point, one in Asheville and one at Atlantic Beach, which is full. We still have one more scheduled for the last week in September in Winston-Salem. We encourage you to give us a call if you have an interest in hosting a program onsite.

Safety Education Position update... Still waiting! We will let you know when all approvals are complete and ready to be posted.

Stay tuned for our next program schedule...Dennis ☺

The NC Industrial Commission Safety Education Section stands ready to assist you with your Safety training needs. We offer a variety of courses, designed to suit your needs. Please give one of our Industrial Safety Representatives a call...

- [Mel Harmon](#) - Mid-State Area and Defensive Driving Instructor - 919-218-9049 - Temporary Cell 919-777-5281 - Office
- [Alvin Scott](#) - Eastern, Northeastern, and Southeastern Carolina Areas and Defensive Driving Instructor - 919-218-2792 - Cell 252-291-1370 - Office
- [Eric Johnson](#) - Western Carolina, Blue Ridge & Southern Piedmont Areas 919-218-3567 - Cell
- [Randy Cranfill](#) - Western and Central Piedmont Areas - 919-218-2986 - Cell 336-679-8493 - Office
- [Billie Gay](#) - Program Assistant - 919-807-2603
- [Dennis Parnell](#) - Director Safety Education - 919-218-3000 - Cell 919-807-2602 - Office

We Are Working For You!

[NC INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION](#)

[CLIP AND SAVE]
Upcoming Events...

- ⊙ **August 1, 2006 - Western Piedmont Safety Council 3rd Quarterly Meeting -Brushy Mountain Smokehouse, Wilkesboro, NC - 6:00 p.m. Make reservations with *Stephanie Mathis*, Bernhardt Furniture Company, Lenoir, NC 28645, 828-759-6484**
- ⊙ **August 22, 2006 - Northeastern Safety Council Quarterly Meeting - Nixon Family Restaurant, 327 River Rd, Edenton, NC - 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Make reservations with Northeastern Safety Council c/o Perdue Farms, Thomas Alston, P.O. Box 460, Lewiston-Woodville, NC 27849 Phone 252-813-3948**
- ⊙ **August 22, 2006 - Southern Piedmont Safety Council Hoist Safety Seminar, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon - Rocky River Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant 6400 Breezy Lane, Concord, NC 28026 · 704-637-0760, ext. 383 - TO REGISTER: Please FAX (704-639-0735) your information to RCCC to reserve your space at the seminar.**
- ⊙ **August 24, 2006 - Southern Piedmont Safety Council - Safety After Hours - SOUTH PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE Old Charlotte Highway Campus Room 233 4209 Charlotte Highway, Monroe, NC - 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Light refreshments will be provided along with various informational literature. There is no cost for this event.**
- ⊙ **August 28 - September 1, 2006 - 30 Hour Accident Prevention Certificate Awareness Program - Atlantic Beach Sheraton.**
- ⊙ **September 14, 2006 - Central Piedmont Safety Council Fall Workshop - The Hawthorne, Winston-Salem, NC**
- ⊙ **September 19, 2006 - Mid-State Safety Council 3rd Quarterly Meeting - TBA**
- ⊙ **September 25-29, 2006 - 30 Hour Accident Prevention Certificate Awareness Program - Ag Center, Winston-Salem, NC**