



**COLUMBIA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

SAFETY

PROGRAM

UPDATED MARCH 10, 2011

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SECTION I SAFETY POLICY

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

The safety of the County's employees is a basic concern and prime area of consideration of the Board of County Commissioners. All County facilities shall provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions and follow operation practices which safeguard each employee of the County.

It is the policy of the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners to do all that is practical to prevent injury to persons and damage to property, and to protect the interest of its employees, the County, and the public from the results of accidents.

Safety is a subject which in the County not only has complete management support, top management insists that safety practices, safety directives, and safety instructions of the Safety Director be followed by each and every employee.

The County is not only concerned with the high cost of accidents, it is genuinely concerned about the welfare of its employees. The very nature of our work involves hazards too numerous to mention when safety practices are ignored.

Accident prevention in the work place is largely a matter of education, vigilance, cooperation and common sense. Hard and fast rules alone will not insure safety on the job. This can only be achieved by ongoing employee safety training programs, proper accident reporting and investigation, first aid training when applicable, and full cooperation of each Supervisor, Foreman and employee.

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners are convinced of the need to control accidents and are willing to give the program the support required for effective results including a realistic sum of money to implement safety training and procedures.

The Safety Director will be responsible for the safety program. This responsibility will include periodic job inspections and keeping records of any accident or job-related illness. These records must comply with Safety Policies and Regulations implemented by the Board of County Commissioners.

The Safety Director will have the authority to condemn any item not conforming to the said requirements, until corrections are made. The safety training program for employees will also be the responsibility of the Safety Director and will be implemented through the Department Heads/Directors.

In summary, the Safety Director will have overall responsibility for the Safety Program, and will be vested with the authority necessary to establish and maintain the program.

SECTION II SAFETY COMMITTEE

Safety Committee Organization

A Safety Committee has been established to recommend improvements to our workplace safety and health program and to identify corrective measures needed to eliminate or control recognized safety and health hazards. The Safety Committee members will be one person for each of the following departments and will include an alternate:

Public Works
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
Landscape

Landfill
Maintenance
Fire Department

Safety Committee meetings will be held at least quarterly and may be called more frequently as needed. The Safety Director or his appointee will prepare an agenda in advance of each meeting indicating time schedules for:

Reviewing and acting upon items addressed in previous Safety Committee meetings as deemed necessary;

Reviewing accident investigation and near-miss reports and recommending changes or additions to Section VII of this safety and health manual, or recommending changes to the work practices or work place;

Reviewing reports by members assigned to conduct safety and health inspections and to monitor safety and health training conducted for employees since the previous safety committee meeting;

Addressing the present focus for safety and health awareness including, but not limited to, proposed improvements to the safety and health program.

The Safety Director or his appointee will provide copies of meeting minutes to each Safety Committee member for posting on individual department bulletin boards. Minutes will be prepared and posted within one (1) week.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. MANAGEMENT

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COUNTY MANAGER

The implementation of the Safety Program is the responsibility of management. It will be the responsibility of management and supervision to promote and enforce all safety regulations.

It will be the responsibility of management to appoint only competent employees as Supervisors, who shall be responsible for the safety of those under the supervision and to enforce all safety rules.

It will be the responsibility of management to provide adequate automotive equipment, tools, personal protective devices, and insist on the proper use and maintenance.

It will be the responsibility of management to fully investigate all serious accidents and take proper remedial steps to prevent repetition of similar accidents.

2. THE INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEE

The individual County employee is responsible for acting in the interest of their own safety and that of other employees. It is definite responsibility to follow all safety regulations and safety instructions. Failure on the part of the employee to comply with the safety regulations will result in disciplinary action which could result in termination of employment. Each employee is so advised.

It is the **definite** responsibility of each employee to conduct themselves while at work that they assume:

- Safety for themselves
- Safety for their fellow employees
- Protection for the public
- Protection for County property, and for private property

It is the responsibility of each employee to report to the person in charge all unsafe conditions or acts which they see on the job.

When an employee is requested to do any work under conditions not believed to be safe, they should not start work without first calling these conditions to the attention of their Direct Supervisor/Foreman.

It is the responsibility of each employee to acquaint themselves with the principles of first aid as soon as training is offered.

THE INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEE continued

It is the responsibility of each employee to attend as many safety meetings as possible and to take an active part in safety procedures.

It is the responsibility of each employee to know and understand the safety rules of this manual which apply to the work they are performing:

3. THE DIRECT SUPERVISOR/FOREMAN

The direct Supervisor has the responsibility of ensuring that employees perform in accordance with standard safety practices as set forth in the manual. They must also ensure that equipment, materials and work conditions are acceptable according to standards as established in the manual.

Some direct responsibilities are as follows:

1. Properly instruct all employees regarding accident prevention, and ensure all employees know what the procedures are in the event of an emergency. This involves proper selection of people for jobs, placement, training, and regular follow-up.
2. Consider safety factors in determining job standards.
3. Ensure that an inspection program on equipment and materials is carried out as outlined by the Safety Director or his appointee, County policies, safety regulations, and manufacturer guidelines.
4. Investigate all job related accidents and illnesses in a timely basis.
5. Responsible at all times for the execution of the work in a safe manner and for the job performance of all employees under their direction.
6. Will be held accountable for all accidents and employee actions unless investigation shows they were due to conditions beyond the Supervisor/ Foremen's control.
7. Shall instruct all new employees on the reporting of all accidents and the prompt receiving of first aid.
8. Shall be responsible for the training and instruction of new employees and of employees transferred to their supervision.

THE DIRECT SUPERVISOR/FOREMAN continued

9. Shall fully understand the safety rules of this manual and comply with them. They shall also make certain that the safety rules are understood by the workmen under their supervision.
10. Shall insist on workmen observing these safety rules and shall use disciplinary measures if necessary to obtain compliance.
11. Shall be responsible for the proper use of safety devices and equipment, including workers' personal tools, used on work under their supervision.
12. Shall make certain that no work is assigned an individual who is unqualified or incapable of doing the work safely.
13. Before leaving a job, the direct Supervisor/Foreman shall see that it is in as safe a working condition as possible. They shall arrange adequate warning of any condition which might endanger other workman and/or the general public.
14. Ensure that all employees have a safety manual and have read and fully understand its contents.

4. SAFETY DIRECTOR

The Safety Director will function on the staff level and report directly to the County Manager. He will have the overall responsibility of the Safety Program as prescribed by the Policy set forth by the County and as stated in the manual. The Safety Director will have the authority to administer the policy and program, working through the various lines of management, in the County.

Some specific responsibilities are as follows:

1. To develop and administer the Safety program.
2. To assist Supervisors in the investigation and reporting of all job related accidents and illnesses, maintaining proper records.
3. To develop standard safe practices which will be used in updating and maintaining the manual.
4. To make periodic inspections of buildings, job sites, tools, equipment, and material used by the County in the performance of its business and recommend corrective or preventive measures.

SAFETY DIRECTOR continued

5. To assist with inspections made by insurance or government agents or agencies and to ensure that all recommendations are immediately considered. Management is to be informed of any such inspections and of action taken.
6. To supervise the procurement, distribution and use of personal protective equipment and other safety devices.
7. To develop evacuation plans for County buildings.
8. To inspect all areas where business is performed for items such as housekeeping and safety.
9. To comply with fire prevention and protection regulations.
10. Provide technical guidance and direction to County personnel at all levels of management in the implementation of the Columbia County Safety and Accident Prevention Program.
11. Provide management with statistical studies of accident data for use in promoting accident and property damage prevention programs.
12. Aid in establishing and monitoring safety related committees.
13. Assist in the scheduling of first-aid training for all levels of County Government.
14. Assist in job placement of employees able to return to work after serious or disabling injuries.
15. Keep abreast of new developments in the field of accident prevention, personnel protective equipment, first aid equipment and make such information available to all County employees.
16. Review all accident reports received from Supervisors or foremen for proper classification of causes and appropriate corrective measures.
17. Conduct follow-ups on all of the above until resolved or closed out.
18. Whenever deemed necessary to conduct safety investigations or perform routine inspections, the Safety Director or his appointee shall have right of entry to any County property, work area or facility.

SECTION III SAFETY AND HEALTH TRAINING

A. SAFETY AND HEALTH ORIENTATION

Workplace safety and health orientation will be a part of initial job training. Safety and health orientation must consist of the following:

1. Each employee must have access to a copy of the County Safety Manual, through their Supervisor, for review and future reference, and will be given a personal copy of the Section VII - Rules, Policies and Procedures pertaining to their job description.
2. Supervisors will be available to answer questions to ensure knowledge and understanding of rules, policies, and job-specific procedures described in this manual.
3. All employees will receive instructions from their Supervisor that compliance with the work place safety and health rules described in this manual is required as a condition of employment.

B. JOB-SPECIFIC TRAINING

If it is determined that an employee requires specific training, the Supervisor or an experienced employee acting as his/her appointee will train the employee on how to properly perform assigned job tasks safely using the following procedure as a guideline:

1. The Supervisor/appointee will carefully review with the employee the specific safety rules, policies, and procedures that are applicable and that are described in Section VII.
2. The Supervisor/appointee will give employees verbal instructions and specific directions on how to do the job safely.
3. When necessary, a demonstration will be provided using safe work practices.
4. Employee will be observed by the Supervisor/appointee while performing the work previously demonstrated to them. If deemed necessary, remedial instruction will be provided to correct any training deficiencies before the employee is allowed to perform without supervision.
5. Safe operating instructions will be received from the authorized equipment vendor prior to new equipment being used. This training may be provided for an entire group of employees or to designated individuals who will train other employees prior to the equipment's use.

C. PERIODIC RETRAINING OF EMPLOYEES

All employees will participate in ongoing safety training. The Safety Director or his appointee will document and maintain a schedule of general safety training activities, including safety meetings, for review by the Board. These activities may include, but are not limited to:

1. Reviewing and discussing sections of this Safety Manual or one part of the job-specific safety rules.
2. A discussion of on-the-job accidents and near-miss accidents, including possible ways of preventing them.
3. First Aid training, to include general instructions and review of emergency procedures
4. A review of changes and/or updates made to this manual.

All employees will be periodically retrained for the following:

1. When a notable injury trend has been identified either by the Safety Director, Safety Committee or Management.
2. After a work related injury requiring medical treatment, when traceable to a specific unsafe act.
3. When a Supervisor observes employees displaying unsafe acts, behaviors, or attitudes.

SECTION IV FIRST AID PROCEDURES

A. MINOR FIRST AID TREATMENT

First Aid kits are kept in locations accessible to all employees. If you sustain an injury or are involved in an accident requiring minor first aid treatment the following actions should be taken:

1. Inform your Supervisor of all first aid incidents, regardless of severity.
2. Obtain first aid treatment for minor injuries as directed by your Supervisor.
3. If a first aid kit is used, indicate usage on accident investigation report. Access to a first aid kit is not intended to be a substitute for medical treatment.
4. Provide details necessary for the completion of the accident investigation report.
5. First aid kits are to be installed and kept in adequate supply in all County vehicles at all times. At no time is the first aid kit to be removed from the County vehicle except in the event of an actual emergency. First aid kits that have supplies depleted must be replenished in a timely manner. Contact your Supervisor to request replenishment of supplies for a first aid kit.

B. NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

For non-emergency work related injuries requiring professional medical assistance, authorization for treatment must be obtained from the County Manager's office. If you sustain an injury and require treatment other than minor first aid:

1. Inform your Supervisor immediately.
2. Proceed to the authorized medical facility. Your Supervisor will provide any assistance necessary.
3. Provide complete details for the completion of the accident/incident investigation report to your Supervisor.
4. The Supervisor is to report accident/incident to the Department Head at the time of the incident.
5. The Department Head has the responsibility to report the accident/incident to the Safety Manager at the time of the incident.

C. EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

If you sustain a severe injury requiring emergency medical treatment:

1. Call for help and/or seek assistance from a co-worker.
2. Notify your Supervisor as soon as practicable.
3. Proceed to the authorized medical facility. Your Supervisor will provide any assistance necessary.
4. Provide complete details for the completion of the accident/incident investigation report to your Supervisor.
5. The Supervisor is to report accident/incident to the Department Head at the time of the incident.
6. The Department Head has the responsibility to report the accident/incident to the Safety Manager at the time of the incident.
7. Use emergency telephone number and instructions posted in your work area to call EMS personnel for assistance and transport to the local hospital emergency room.
8. Report details to your Supervisor. Supervisors will fill out an accident investigation report within 24 hours. The Supervisor will then report the incident to the Department Head and the Department Head will report the incident to the Safety Department.
9. Authorization for treatment of any emergency work related injury must be obtained from the County Manager's office.

D. FIRST AID TRAINING

All employees will receive basic first aid training. Supervisors will periodically review employee understanding of established first aid and medical treatment procedures.

SECTION V ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES

ALL ACCIDENTS, INCIDENTS OR NEAR HITS MUST BE REPORTED IN THIS MANNER AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT:

- 1. TO YOUR SUPERVISOR, WHO WILL REPORT**
- 2. TO THE DEPARTMENT HEAD, WHO WILL REPORT**
- 3. TO THE SAFETY DEPARTMENT.**

Columbia County has exact procedures for conducting investigations of all workplace accidents, injuries, and occupational diseases. The investigation's purpose is not to place blame but to identify measures to prevent those injuries from recurring. Investigations are performed by the Department Head at the location where the accident occurred. The Safety Director will be responsible for conducting additional investigation and seeing that the Board of County Commissioner's accident report is completed. These investigations may take place simultaneously or separately.

Department Heads are responsible for completing the accident-incident reports for all accidents for their departments and should be submitted to the Safety Director as soon as completed. If the accident-incident involves a vehicle accident, a copy of the Law Enforcement report should be added to the county reports.

Employee accidents requiring minor first aid treatment must be reported to your Supervisor as soon as possible. The Supervisor will then report the incident to the Department Head and the Department Head will report the incident to the Safety Department. Employee accidents resulting in medical treatment or hospitalization must be reported immediately. Employees are encouraged to report incidents that do not result in injury that are often coined "near-hits" and are responsible to cooperating with the investigation procedures.

SECTION VI RECORD KEEPING PROCEDURES/FORMS

The Administrative Office of the Board of County Commissioners controls and maintains all accident and injury records except for the Board's Accident Report and the Supervisor's Accident Report. These two (2) reports are maintained in the Safety Director's Office. Records are maintained for minimum period of three (3) years.

1. Worker's Compensation Notice of Injury Report (Form DWC 1)
2. Log and Summary of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (Form LES SAF 200)
3. Supervisor's Accident Report
4. Accident Report (follow up investigation report - Safety Director)

FIRST REPORT OF INJURY OR ILLNESS



DFS-F2-DWC-1.pdf



Microsoft Office Word
Document

Insert

Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security, Division of Safety
Log and summary of Occupational Injuries, Diseases and Illnesses

C. SUPERVISOR'S ACCIDENT REPORT

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SUPERVISOR'S ACCIDENT REPORT

Department _____

Employee: _____

Date of Accident: _____ Date of Report: _____

Location: _____

Type of Accident: _____

Extent of Injury: _____

Details of Occurrence: _____

Unsafe Act(s): _____

Conclusions: _____

Witness: _____

Employee Signature: _____ Date: _____

Supervisor' Signature: _____ Date: _____

Safety Director's Signature: _____ Date: _____

ACCIDENT – INCIDENT REPORT

(A COPY OF THIS REPORT IS NOT AUTHORIZATION FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT)

For Employee use items 1,2,4,5,6,7 For Non-Employees use items 1,2,3,4,5,6,7

| | | | | | |
|---|-------|--|--|---|-------|
| 1. ACCIDENT | | | | | |
| Date of Loss: | | Time of Loss: AM PM | | Location of Loss: (Be Specific) | |
| 2. CLAIMANT (WORKER'S COMPENSATION CLAIMS –injury to County employee in course and scope of employment) | | | | | |
| Name of Employee: | | Age: | Occupation & Department: | Part of Body Injured: Type of Injury (i.e. cut, bruise, etc.) | |
| Address: | City: | State: | Zip Code: | Phone Number: () | |
| Does employee wish to seek medical attention: Today? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO A "NO" answer above does not waive the employee's right to request Medical attention at a later date. | | If "YES" Designate Referral: (Name of Physician, Clinic, Hospital) | | Will Employee require time off from work? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO | |
| | | Date injury first reported: | Time injury first reported: | Return to work date: | |
| 3. CLAIMANT (GENERAL LIABILITY CLAIMS – include Non-County employees and/or property not owned by the County) | | | | | |
| Name of Claimant: | | Age: | (a) Part of the body injured and type of injury, or (b) Damaged Property | | |
| Address: | City: | State: | Zip Code: | Phone Number: () | |
| 4. PROPERTY (County Owned) | | | | | |
| Describe damaged or stolen property: | | | | | |
| | | | Estimated costs of damage or value of stolen property: | | |
| 5. WITNESS(ES): | | | | | |
| Name: | | Address: | | City & State: | |
| | | | | Phone Number: () | |
| Name: | | Address: | | City & State: | |
| | | | | Phone Number: () | |
| 6. DESCRIBE ACCIDENT (to be completed by claimant if at all possible) | | | | | |
| DESCRIBE IN DETAIL THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO AND PRECEDING ACCIDENT If additional space is needed please use page 2. | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| 7. Signatures | | | | | |
| Name of Person Describing Accident | | | | | |
| Signature of Claimant: | | Date: | Signature of Department Head: | | Date: |
| Signature of Supervisor: | | Date: | Signature of Safety Director: | | Date: |
| ATTACH ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTS RELATED TO THIS ACCIDENT/INCIDENT USE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM FOR DIAGRAM OF ACCIDENT/INCIDENT | | | | | |

E. FORM A RECEIPT OF POLICY

EMPLOYEE NAME (print) _____

EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

DATE EMPLOYED _____

DIRECT SUPERVISOR'S NAME _____

SAFETY DIRECTOR _____

The above mentioned employee acknowledges that he/she has received a copy of the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners Safety Program. The employee further acknowledges that he/she will read all components of the Safety Program thoroughly. Upon reading and understanding the program, the employee will acknowledge by signing Form B of the Safety Program and returning the form to Human Resources for documentation. See form on page 23.

F. FORM B STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

EMPLOYEE NAME (print) _____

EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

DATE EMPLOYED _____

DIRECT SUPERVISOR'S NAME _____

SAFETY DIRECTOR _____

The above mentioned employee acknowledges that he/she has read and understands all the components of the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners Safety Program. The employee also agrees to work for the County with full knowledge and acceptance of this Safety Program.

SECTION VII FUNDAMENTALS OF ACCIDENT PREVENTION

A. ACCIDENTS ARE PREVENTABLE

Unfortunately, many people, either through ignorance or misunderstanding, believe that accidents are the inevitable results of unchangeable circumstances, fate, or a matter of bad luck.

It must be emphasized that accidents do not happen without cause, and the identification, isolation and control of these causes are the underlying principles of all accident prevention techniques.

No person can be effective in accident prevention unless he or she fully believes that accidents can be prevented and constantly strives to do so.

There are many methods of determining the causes of accidents. Below is a description used by the National Safety Council.

B. CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS

Causes of accidents can be divided into three (3) major categories:

- Unsafe acts of people,
- Unsafe physical or mechanical conditions, and
- Acts of God (floods, hurricanes).

According to the National Safety Council statistically; 88% of all accidents are a result of unsafe acts of people. Approximately 10% of all accidents are caused by unsafe equipment or unsafe surroundings. The other 2% of all accidents are caused by Acts of God. Therefore, elimination of unsafe acts of people will be the main thrust of any effective safety program.

C. UNSAFE ACTS

Some causes of unsafe acts include:

- Failure to follow a proper job procedure.
- Cleaning, oiling, adjusting or repairing equipment that is moving, electrically energized or pressurized.

UNSAFE ACTS continued

- Failure to use appropriate personal protective equipment such as gloves, goggles, hardhats and seat belts.
- Failure to wear safe personal attire.
- Fail to secure or warn.
- Improper use of equipment.
- Improper use of hands or body parts.
- Making safety devices inoperative.
- Operating or working at unsafe speeds.
- Taking unsafe position or posture.
- Unsafe placing, mixing, or combining of materials.
- Using tools or equipment known to be unsafe.
- Driving errors.
- Horseplay.

Unsafe acts can usually be attributed to one of the following:

- Lack of knowledge, skill, coordination or planning.
- Improper attitude.
- Physical or mental defects.
- Lack of safety awareness.

D. UNSAFE CONDITIONS

Most unsafe or hazardous conditions can be grouped into one of the following classifications:

- Defective or unsuitable tools, machinery, equipment or materials.
- Sloppy housekeeping.
- Unsafe or lack of methods or procedures.
- Employee not mentally or physically compatible with job requirements.

E. CONTROL OF ACCIDENT CAUSES

There are three (3) main methods utilized to control accident causes. They are engineering, education and training, and enforcement. These three (3) methods are sometimes referred to as the "three E's of Safety" are outlined below:

CONTROL OF ACCIDENT CAUSES continued

1. **Engineering.** Causes of accidents, or unsafe conditions, can sometimes be eliminated through the application of engineering controls. When an operation is mechanically and physically safe, it is unnecessary to be as concerned about the uncertain behavior of people. Machines are less apt to fail than people. It may be necessary to make mechanical revisions or modifications to eliminate existing unsafe conditions and, in some cases, to prevent unsafe acts. Design of machine guards, automobile brakes, traffic signals, pressure relief valves, and hand rails are varied examples of safety engineering at work.
2. **Education and Training.** Just as safety engineering is the most effective way of preventing accident causes, safety education is the most effective tool in the prevention of human causes. Training is a particularly important accident prevention control; it gives each employee a personal safety tool by developing habits of safe practice and operation. Through adequate training and instruction, personnel gain useful knowledge and develop safe attitudes.
3. **Enforcement.** Usually, accidents can be prevented through adequate safety engineering and education. However, there are some people who are a hazard to themselves and others because of their failure to comply with accepted safety standards. It is these persons for whom the strict enforcement of safety practices is necessary, backed by prompt corrective action. No organized accident prevention effort can be successful without effective enforcement because accidents are frequently the direct result of violations of safety principles.

To be completely effective; accident prevention controls cannot be applied "hit or miss." All engineering, education, training, supervision and enforcement measures will be directed toward the solution of specific problems. These are based on the collection of facts relating to unsafe acts or unsafe conditions.

F. ELIMINATION OF UNSAFE CONDITIONS

One of the most effective means of preventing accidents is the elimination of unsafe conditions. To stress safety while permitting unsafe conditions to exist is bound to create an obstacle to the cooperation required from employees. Employees are encouraged to report any unsafe conditions to their Supervisors. The Supervisor must take the initiative to abate unsafe conditions and protect employees and the public without the need for instruction from upper management. If abatement is beyond the Supervisor's scope of authority, the matter must be brought to the attention of the Department Head. If the Department Head is unable to resolve the unsafe condition then the Safety Manager must be contacted to resolve the situation.

ELIMINATION OF UNSAFE CONDITIONS continued

The following unsafe conditions must not be permitted to exist:

1. Obstacles and impediments to the safe movement of personnel, vehicles or machines, such as blocked fire exits.
2. Unsafe working and walking surfaces.
3. Worn, damaged or misused tools.
4. Failure to provide proper equipment and rigging for the hoisting and movement of heavy objects.
5. Operation of equipment with guards for moving parts of machinery removed and/or defeated.
6. Allowing employees to work without using required protective equipment such as goggles, gloves, hardhats, adequate footwear or seat belts.
7. Worn and/or damaged or unguarded electrical wiring, fixtures or power cords.
8. Absence of required signage warning of particular hazards in the area.

The important factor in eliminating unsafe conditions is doing so before an accident occurs. Near-miss occurrences need to be investigated and corrected as they are a warning of a condition that may eventually lead to an accident. A near-miss occurrence is an example of an incident resulting in neither an injury nor property damage. However, a near-miss occurrence has the potential to inflict injury or property damage if its cause is not corrected.

All employees are to search out hazardous conditions and eliminate them before they bring about any injuries or cause work interruption. Too often an unsafe condition is allowed to exist simply because it has not caused an accident - yet.

G. REPORTING UNSAFE CONDITIONS

All Columbia County employees are to keep alert for unsafe conditions.

If an unsafe condition is identified, it is to be reported to a Supervisor. The Supervisor will evaluate the risk of personal injury, public liability and damage to property or equipment. The Supervisor will initiate steps for immediate correction of the unsafe condition.

If the problem is not corrected in a timely manor or the hazard is not secured, the employee is to call the Safety Office to report the unsafe condition.

H. CORRECTING UNSAFE ACTIONS

Regardless of the degree to safety built into a job, unsafe actions on the part of employees will always be a cause of injuries. Teaching employees safe work habits means showing them how to do their tasks with less risk to themselves, less spoilage of materials and less damage to equipment. Much of this instruction can be boiled down to a few simple principles or job rules. By concentrating on these safe habits, by showing "why" as well as the "how" of safety and by constantly supervising employees safe work habits, they will become the accepted method for the employee to perform tasks.

Actual demonstrations of the right way of doing tasks should be conducted, accompanied by the basis for preferring one work habit to another. Equally important as this initial instruction is the review of subsequent performance. When the right way has been presented and agreed to by the individual worker, it is essential that failure to comply be noted and corrected.

Flagrant or repeated disregard of safety rules should be met with appropriate disciplinary action.

SECTION VII-1 PROTECTING THE PUBLIC

Columbia County reviews and enforces the Florida Maintenance of Traffic Standards (FMOT) for construction, maintenance work or utility work. See your Safety Director for more in-depth clarification of regulations.

When field conditions warrant such action in the control of traffic the following conditions will be enforced either singularly or in combination:

- Work Zones
- Flag man
- Barricades and/or vertical panels
- Cones and/or tubular markers
- High intensity flashing lights
- Steady burning lights
- Reflective vests, flags, shirts, and/or jackets
- Caution signs

The public shall be kept away from locations where work activity presents hazards.

Holes, trenches, and obstructions shall be barricaded. When exposed to traffic, holes, trenches, and obstructions shall be marked with warning signs, and flags in daylight and electric flashers at night so located as to give the traveling public ample time to stop if necessary.

When leaving material, equipment or other obstructions on a right of way over night, the following precautions shall be taken:

- Shall be at least twenty four (24) feet from road right of way.
- Equipment shall not be left adjacent to fire hydrants or directly in front of entrances to parks, playgrounds, churches, houses, schools, or other places of public entry.
- Equipment shall be locked or otherwise secured so that unauthorized persons cannot start, move or operate them.
- Any obstruction shall be adequately protected by approved warning devices.

Warning devices and barricades shall be placed to adequately protect the public and employees before excavations or trenches are opened. They shall not be removed until excavations have been back filled and the area made safe.

Trucks, air compressors, welding machines, and other equipment shall be so placed as to present the least hazard to traffic consistent with a safe working space for employees.

SECTION VII-2 CHEMICAL SAFETY

A. *RIGHT TO KNOW*

The Florida Right-To-Know Law, Chapter 442, Florida Statutes, requires employers to inform their employees of the toxic substances to which they are exposed in the work place and provide training in safe handling practices and emergency procedures.

The Law also requires notification to the local fire departments of the location and characteristics of all toxic substances regularly present in the work place.

B. *DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAM*

Each County Department which has employee exposure or potential exposure to hazardous substances shall develop, implement, and maintain a Chemical Safety/Right-To-Know Program; in accordance with the Florida Law and, as applicable, other Federal, State or Local Standards.

The Chemical Safety/Right-To-Know Program Shall:

1. Inform each employee of the hazardous substances which he/she may be exposed to in the course of pursuing authorized activities related to his/ her job.
2. Provide training, at least annually, to employees regarding:
 - a. The chemical and common names of the hazardous substance in the work place (unless claimed as a trade secret by the manufacturer).
 - b. Proper and safe handling practices.
 - c. Symptoms of overexposure, and first aid treatment.
 - d. Adverse health effects of the substance.
 - e. Proper procedures for clean-up of leaks or spills.
 - f. Potential for flammability, explosion, or reactivity.
 - g. Appropriate emergency procedures.
 - h. Proper protective equipment and procedures to utilize when working with the substance.

DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAM continued

- i. Special Department or County procedures to protect against hazards under normal use and emergency conditions.
 - j. The location of the substance in the work place.
 - k. The location of the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) in the work place and that an employee may request a personal copy of the MSDS for any hazardous substance with which he/she works.
1. The rights of the employee under the Right-To-Know Law are printed on the Right-To-Know poster which must be posted in the work place. Posters may be obtained, free of charge, by calling the Florida Toxic Substances Information Center at: 1-800-367-4378
2. NOTE: Information of items "a" through "h" is available directly from the MSDS
NOTE: Documentation shall be maintained of all employee training.
3. Ensure all containers which contain hazardous substances are properly labeled with the chemical name; appropriate hazard warnings; and the name and address of the manufacturer or vendor.
4. Maintain Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) on all hazardous substances used, applied, or stored by County employees or on County property. A MSDS form is supplied by the manufacturer, vendor, or distributor of a material, which provides vital information regarding the hazards of threat material.
5. Review the MSDS with the employee for each hazardous product the employee will use. Provide a personal copy of the MSDS to the employee upon request or within five (5) working days of his request. Maintain documentation of employee review or receipt of a MSDS.
6. Ensure the least hazardous product, capable of performing the desired purpose, will be selected and utilized in all County operations and locations. Whenever, possible, hazardous products shall be replaced with less hazardous substitutes.

DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAM continued

7. Ensure priority is placed on utilizing feasible administrative and/or engineering controls to reduce employee exposures to hazardous substances in the work place.
 - a. Administrative controls include substitution to less hazardous products/processes; or reducing employee exposures by rotation of the work force.
 - b. Engineering controls include enclosing or containing hazardous processes; or installing adequate ventilation; or both.
 - c. Personal Protective Equipment (e.g., respirators, gloves, etc.) will be used when the above controls are not feasible or to supplement the above controls in reducing employee exposures.
8. Make available to fire emergency personnel the location and characteristics of hazardous substances regularly present in the work place.

C. VEHICLE SAFETY (DRIVERS)

The following guidelines are intended to aid in the prevention of accidents caused by faulty equipment, unsafe surfaces and poor driving practices.

D. VEHICLE/DRIVING SAFETY

1. Briefly inspect the vehicle before using it (tire pressure, brake pressure, lights, steering, etc.) any faulty or damaged equipment to your Supervisor. The Supervisor will then report the incident to the Department Head and the Department Head will report the incident to the Safety Department.
2. **FASTEN SAFETY BELTS PROPERLY. SAFETY BELTS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES IN COUNTY VEHICLES.**
3. Drive at safe speeds, slow down when crossing rough terrain, making a turn or when pedestrians are present. Obey posted speed limits.
4. No racing or horseplay at any time.
5. Observe traffic patterns and signs at all times.

VEHICLE/DRIVING SAFETY continued

6. Come to a complete stop at stop signs or signals. Make sure the path of travel is clear before proceeding on.
7. Keep hands, fingers, head, and feet clear when closing doors, hoods and trunks.
8. Stand clear of vehicles being driven by others.
9. Do not open doors or attempt to enter or exit a vehicle while it is in motion.
10. Always park in an established parking area. Obey all signs posted in the parking lot.
11. Watch for overhead clearances when driving in unfamiliar areas.
12. Watch for hazardous surfaces when driving or getting in and out of vehicles.
13. **Passengers must sit only in seats provided by manufacturer. At no time will an employee ride in the bed of a pickup truck, in a trailer or on the side boards of any vehicle.**
14. All vehicles will be kept in a clean, neat and sanitary condition.

E. TRAILER SAFETY

1. Inspect ball connection and safety chain for proper connection before moving trailer.
2. Set the parking brake in the towing vehicle and chock to wheels of the trailer before removing any equipment.
3. Secure equipment and fuel tanks to eliminate or minimize shifting of the load.
4. At no time will anyone be permitted to ride in the trailer.
5. Where applicable, use ramps to load and unload equipment from the trailer.
6. Take slow, wide turns when towing trailers.
7. If possible, avoid backing vehicle with trailer attached.
8. Chock wheels or trailer when parked on slopes.
9. Do not exceed the load capacity of the trailer.
10. Evenly distribute the weight of the load on the trailer.

F. FUELING SAFETY

1. Turn the vehicle off before fueling.
2. DO NOT SMOKE while fueling a vehicle.
3. Wash your hands using soap and water if you spill gasoline on them.
4. All fuel cans that are transported by County Vehicles must be OSHA or NFPA approved. No privately owned fuel cans are allowed in County Vehicles, **absolutely no exceptions will be allowed.**

DEFINITION OF OSHA OR NFPA APPROVED FUEL CAN:

SHALL MEAN A CONTAINER OF NOT MORE THAN 5 (FIVE) GALLONS CAPACITY, HAVING A SPRING CLOSING LID AND SPOUT COVER SO DESIGNED THAT IT WILL SAFELY RELIEVE INTERNAL PRESSURE WHEN SUBJECTED TO FIRE EXPOSURE.

5. All fuel cans shall be clearly labeled as to contents.
6. All fuel cans used to transport small quantities of fuel (ex: five gallons) in any County vehicle or for use in the shop areas shall be color coded to the following specification:
 - a. **A red OSHA/NFPA approved five gallon fuel can is to be used for gasoline only.**
 - b. **A yellow OSHA/NFPA approved five gallon fuel can is to be used for diesel fuel only.**

SECTION VII-3 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

Vehicular accident and property damage is defined as any accident occurring between a County vehicle and another vehicle, pedestrian, animal, or fixed object.

Although Law Enforcement is called in to investigate all County accidents, it is incumbent upon the employee to ensure that all facts are obtained with respect to the other driver.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE SHOULD ANY COUNTY EMPLOYEE MAKE ANY STATEMENT RELATIVE TO GUILT.

A. *VEHICLE ACCIDENT REPORTING PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES*

- Offer first aid or call for medical assistance if necessary.
- Notify Law Enforcement.
- Notify Supervisor (Supervisor will notify Safety Director).
- Don't argue with anyone on accident scene.
- Don't admit any guilt
- Describe other vehicle, i.e., two door, four door, make, color, etc
- Be able to identify the other driver(s) and passenger(s).
- Only discuss the **facts** to the law enforcement officer if asked.
- Submit paperwork [injury notice, Supervisor's report, a narrative explaining exactly what happened and a copy of the accident report) to the Safety Director within twenty four (24) hours of accident. (See Supervisor for required reports)

SECTION VII-4 OFFICE/CLERICAL PERSONNEL

1. Store sharp objects such as pens, pencils, letter openers or scissors in drawers or with the points down in a container.
2. Carry pencils, scissors and other sharp objects with the point down.
3. Heavy office furniture and equipment will be moved only by properly trained and qualified individuals.
4. Use handrails when ascending or descending stairs or ramps.
5. Open only one file or desk drawer at a time.
6. Close drawers and doors immediately after use.
7. Use handles when opening and closing drawers.
8. Put heavy items in bottom drawers.
9. Do not tilt the chair you are sitting in on its back two legs.
10. Do not stand on furniture to reach high places. Use a ladder or step stool to retrieve or store items that are located above your head.
11. Splintered jagged edges or other defects found on office furniture will be reported immediately.
12. Report tough, splintered, uneven, protruding nails, holes, or other floor defects to your Supervisor.
13. Never kick objects out of pathways; push or carry them out of the way.
14. Do not lift more than one box of paper at a time. If you have to carry more than one box of paper, request assistance.
15. When using any type of blade for opening boxes, etc., always cut away from you and your co-workers.

OFFICE/CLERICAL PERSONNEL – Continued

16. When stocking shelves, position the materials to be shelved so you do not have to twist when lifting and stacking materials.
17. Do not allow items to overhang into walkways.
18. Do not try to catch a box, case or package if it is falling. Get out of the way.
19. When using a tape dispenser, direct the cutting edge away from your body.
20. Do not carry knives, scissors or other sharp tools in pockets unless they are first placed in their sheaths.
21. Do not attempt to catch any falling blade instrument.
22. Do not use extension or power cords that have the ground prong removed or broken off.
23. Do not use frayed, cut or cracked electrical cords.
24. Use a cord cover or tape the cord down when running electrical or other cords across aisles, between desks or across entrances/exits.
25. Do not connect multiple electrical devices into a single outlet.
26. Always use a staple remover for removing staples, not your hand.
27. Turn the power switch to “off” and unplug office machines before adjusting, lubricating or cleaning them.
28. Turn the power switch of the equipment to “off” when it is not being used.

SECTION VII-5 EMS PERSONNEL

A. *GENERAL SAFETY*

1. Keep work and common areas clean and orderly.
2. No horse play or other misconduct will be tolerated.
3. Do not obstruct or block stairwells, exits or accesses to safety and emergency equipment for any reason.
4. No department member shall report to work under the influence of intoxicant drugs.
5. The use of illegal substances and/or alcoholic beverages on the job is prohibited.
6. Any department member taking medications or who has a medical condition which might impair their ability to perform certain tasks shall report this to their Supervisor.
7. Employees shall wear provided safety equipment when involved in emergency operations.
8. Allow sufficient time for your eyes to adjust when entering low light areas.
9. Do not remove, bypass, or tamper with electrical equipment fuses, switches or safeguards.
10. Follow, all additional safety instructions, warnings, signs, procedures, and rules as written, posted, or communicated.

B. LIFTING SAFETY

1. Perform a test lift of all materials prior to lifting. Get help or use a lifting device when lifting awkward or heavy materials.
2. Crouch as close to the load as possible. Do not get into a full squat, but bend your legs at the knees. Spread your feet into a comfortable position to maintain a good balance.
3. Keep your back straight, but bend at the knees so you are over the load.
4. Do not jerk. Lift slowly and evenly with your leg muscles and not with your weaker back muscles.
5. Do not twist your back to turn, when lifting. If you must change direction while lifting, pivot with your feet and turn your entire body to change direction.
6. When setting objects down, reverse the above described procedure. Make the leg muscles and not the back muscles do the work.
7. Do not lean over the object when lifting to an elevation. Lift normally, and when at the proper elevation, set the edge of the load on the elevated position and slide the object in.
8. Keep heavy or bulky items at waist level to avoid lifting.
9. When positioning items for lifting, push, do not pull.

C. STATION SAFETY

1. Do not take shortcuts; use aisles, walkways and sidewalks provided.
2. Mop/clean-up oil, hydraulic fluid, water or grease from floor surfaces immediately upon detection. Report spill to Supervisor. The Supervisor will then report the incident to the Department Head and the Department Head will report to the Safety Department.
3. Keep all foreign objects from floors to prevent falls.
4. Clean up all spills immediately, especially wet spots around sink and coffee machines, in bathrooms, kitchen and hallways.
5. Do not jump from vehicles or any other elevated area, regardless of height.

STATION SAFETY continued

6. Use only proper climbing devices. Use them only for the purpose designated. Keep climbing devices on a firm level base.
7. Do not leave tools where they will obstruct walkways or work areas.
8. Do not run electrical and other cords across doorways, aisles, or between furniture.

D. EMS VEHICLE SAFETY

1. Determine the emergency vehicle's readiness prior to the start of each shift by checking the lights, tires, brakes, fluids, windshield wipers, mirrors, emergency warning devices and seat belts. If during the shift an equipment failure occurs, the problem to your Supervisor immediately.
2. All personnel riding in an emergency vehicle shall be seated and belted while the vehicle is moving, unless providing direct patient care.
3. Keep emergency vehicles clean, neat and sanitary.
4. Observe all traffic laws when operating vehicles under routine or non-emergency conditions.
5. Do not ride on any emergency vehicle outside the cab or patient compartment.
6. Avoid backing vehicles whenever possible. Where backing a vehicle is necessary, use a spotter. When a spotter is unavailable, dismount and walk completely around the vehicle to ensure an unobstructed path before backing.
7. Do not open doors or exit a vehicle while it is in motion.
8. Secure all medical equipment/items prior to vehicle operation.

E. INFECTION CONTROL

1. Utilize disposable/trauma gloves any time there is patient contact and when there is contact with body fluids or contaminated equipment. Reverse gloves for removal and discard immediately in marked disposal container.

INFECTION CONTROL continued

2. Disposable HEPA face masks shall be worn when dealing with patients who are actively coughing or are suspected of carrying airborne diseases such as tuberculosis.
 - a. Disposable cone medical mask shall be placed on a patient suspected of having active tuberculosis.
3. A respiratory device shall be used to perform artificial ventilation, whenever possible. The order of preference will be:
 - a. Bag valve mask (BVM) with oxygen enrichment.
 - b. Bag valve mask
 - c. Pocket mask with one way valve with or without supplemental oxygen.
4. Wash hands and all other potentially contaminated skin areas with soap and water or waterless cleaner immediately upon removal of protective gloves and equipment.
5. Wash or flush areas with water if skin or mucous membranes incur contact to contamination. Report contact immediately to your Supervisor. The Supervisor will then report the incident to the Department Head and the Department Head will report to the Safety Department.
6. Do not bend, recap, remove, shear or purposely break any contaminated needle.
7. Do not eat, drink, apply cosmetics or lip balm, smoke or handle contact lenses in areas where blood or other potentially infectious materials are present.
8. Decontaminate clothes and equipment which has become contaminated with infectious material prior to reuse or servicing. Equipment decontamination as follows:
 - a. Large rescue equipment will be washed with a disinfectant detergent solution and hot water and air dried immediately upon return to the station.
 - b. Delicate equipment will be wiped down with a 1:10 dilution of household bleach.
 - c. The BVM shall be washed in a disinfectant detergent and air dried. (Only if non-disposable BVM is used).
 - d. Red bag and remove contaminated disposable medical equipment and waste from the scene for disposal.
 - e. Liquid medical waste shall be poured into a sanitary (treated water system) drain.
 - f. Members cleaning and disinfecting contaminated equipment shall wear fluid impervious gloves, apron and face protection.

INFECTION CONTROL continued

- g. Members handling medical waste shall wear medical gloves.
 - h. Members shall remove and clean or dispose of contaminated protective equipment immediately after the completion of equipment disinfection.
 - i. Use the provided, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved, high level disinfectant on O₂ demand valve, bag valve and mask.
 - j. All clothing, uniforms, underclothes, socks, etc, contaminated by blood or body fluid shall be changed as soon as possible.
 - k. Personnel should use examination gloves when washing contaminated clothing.
 - l. Clothing (when removed) should be pre-washed in a disinfectant detergent solution and hot water in a sink, and then laundered in a normal manner. Air drying or machine drying of clothing assists in the decontamination.
 - m. Plastic bags can be used to transport contaminated clothing fluids or other articles that have come in contact with body fluids of a patient.
9. All wounds, regardless of size, shall be properly dressed and bandaged.
10. All exposure or suspected exposure to infectious diseases shall be reported to the Safety Director, EMS Director and EMS Infectious Control person as soon as possible after contact.
11. EMS Run Reports shall be completed indicating that a member(s) was exposed to body fluids.
12. Place blood or other potentially infectious materials in biohazard containers which prevent leakage during collection, handling, storage and transport.
13. Do not use hand to face movements when blood or other infectious materials are present.
14. Do not keep food or beverages in refrigerators, freezers, shelves, and cabinets or counter tops where blood or other infectious material were/are present.
15. Wear masks in combination with eye protection devices whenever splashes, spray, splatter or droplets of blood or other potentially infectious materials may be generated.
16. Caution will be used at all times so as not to expose or contaminate any additional personnel or equipment.

INFECTION CONTROL continued

17. Injuries involving unused, sterile needles should be reported to the Safety Director in a manner consistent with any other minor injury. Care at the time of injury should consist of:
 - a. Local wound care.
 - b. Consideration of the need for tetanus-diphtheria toxoid.

18. Injuries involving used, contaminated needles or needles of unknown status, such as an injury involving a needle in the sharps container or an injury from a needle that was "piggybacked" into intravenous (I.V.) tubing that was infusing into a patient should be reported as an exposure to a possible infectious disease.

SECTION VII-6 SHOP PERSONNEL

A. GENERAL

1. Always carry objects so that you are able to see around them.
2. Wear employer prescribed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as instructed.
3. Ensure that exhaust fumes from vehicles and space heaters are ducted to the outside when the building is closed or when working in a confined area
4. Do not use your hands or fists as hammers. Use proper tools to avoid cuts and bruises.
5. When installing heavy components (engines, transmissions, etc) support yourself to avoid slipping and loss of grip.
6. Wash your hands thoroughly before eating, drinking or smoking.
7. No horseplay is permitted.

B. LIFTING SAFETY

1. Plan the move before lifting; remove obstructions from your chosen pathway.
2. Test the weight of the load before lifting by pushing the load along its resting surface.
3. If the load is too heavy or bulky, use lifting and carrying aids such as hand trucks, dollies, pallet jacks and carts, or get assistance from a co-worker.
4. If assistance is required to perform a lift, coordinate and communicate your movements with those of your co-workers.
5. Position your feet six (6) to twelve (12) inches apart with one foot slightly in front of the other.
6. Face the load.
7. Bend at the knees, not the back.
8. Keep your back straight.
9. Get a firm grip on the object with your hands and fingers. Use handles when present.

LIFTING SAFETY continued

10. Never lift anything if your hands are greasy or wet.
11. Wear protective gloves when lifting objects with sharp corners or jagged edges.
12. Hold objects as close to your body as possible.
13. Perform lifting movements smoothly and gradually; do not jerk the load.
14. If you must change direction while lifting or carrying the load, pivot your feet and turn your entire body. Do not twist at the waist.
15. Set down objects in the same manner as you picked them up, except in reverse.
16. Do not lift an object from the floor to a level above your waist in one motion. Set the load down on a table or bench and then adjust your grip before lifting it higher.
17. Slide materials to the end of the tailgate before attempting to lift them off of a pick-up truck. Do not lift over the walls or tailgate of the truck bed.

C. WRENCHES

1. Do not use wrenches that are bent, cracked, badly chipped or that have loose or broken handles.
2. Do not slip a pipe over a single head wrench handle for increased leverage.
3. Do not use a shim to make a wrench fit.
4. Size the adjustable wrench to fit the nut before turning.
5. Use a split box wrench on flare nuts.
6. Discard any wrench with spread, nicked or battered jaws, or if the handle is bent.
7. Use box or socket wrenches on hexagon nuts and bolts as a first choice, and open end wrenches as a second choice.

D. PLIERS

1. Do not use pliers as a wrench or a hammer.
2. Do not slip a pipe over the handles of pliers to increase leverage.
3. Use pliers with an insulated handle for electrical work.
4. Do not use pliers that are cracked, broken or sprung.
5. When using diagonal cutting pliers, shield the loose pieces of cut material from flying into the air by using a cloth or your gloved hand.

E. CLAMPS

1. Do not use C-clamps for hoisting materials.
2. Do not use a C-clamp as a permanent fastening device.

F. LADDERS AND STEP LADDERS

1. Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions label affixed to the ladder if you are unsure how to use the ladder.
2. Do not use ladders that have loose rungs, cracked or split side rails, missing rubber foot pads, or are otherwise visibly damaged.
3. Keep ladder rungs clean and free of grease. Remove buildup of material such as dirt or mud.
4. Do not stand on the top two rungs of any ladder.
5. Do not stand on a ladder that wobbles, or that leans to the left or right.
6. Do not try to "walk" a ladder by rocking it. Climb down the ladder and then move it.
7. When performing work from a ladder, face the ladder and do not lean backward or sideways from the ladder.
8. Allow only one person on the ladder at a time.
9. Do not use a metal ladder on roof tops or within 50 feet of electrical power lines.
10. Do not place ladders on boxes, loose bricks, pails, trash cans or other unstable bases.

G. CLIMBING A LADDER

1. Face the ladder when climbing up or down it.
2. Maintain a three point contact by keeping both hands and one foot or both feet and one hand on the ladder at all times when climbing up or down.
3. Do not carry items in your hands while climbing up or down a ladder.

H. ELECTRICAL POWERED TOOLS

1. Do not use power equipment or tools on which you have not been trained.
2. Do not use tools with cords that have splices, exposed wires, or cracked or frayed ends.
3. Do not carry plugged in equipment or tools with your finger on the switch.
4. Do not carry equipment or tools by the cord.
5. Disconnect the tool from the outlet by pulling on the plug, not the cord.
6. Turn the tool off before plugging or unplugging it
7. Do not leave tools that are "on" unattended.
8. Turn off electrical tools and disconnect the power source from the outlet before attempting repairs or service work. Note that the tool is "out of service".
9. Do not remove the ground prong from electrical cords.
10. Do not connect multiple electrical tools into a single outlet.
11. Do not run extension cords through doorways, through holes in ceilings, walls or floors.
12. Do not drive over, drag, step on or place heavy objects on cord.
13. Do not stand in water or on wet surfaces when operating power hand tools or portable electrical appliances.
14. Do not use a power hand tool to cut wet or water soaked building materials or to repair pipe leaks.
15. Do not use a power hand tool while wearing wet gloves.

I. HAND TOOLS

1. Carry all sharp tools in a sheath or holster.
2. Tag all worn, damaged or defective tools "out of service" and do not use them.
3. Do not use a tool if its handle has splinters, burrs, cracks or splits, or if the head of the tool is loose.
4. Do not use impact tools such as hammers, chisels, or punches that have mushroomed heads.
5. When handing a tool to another person, direct sharp points and cutting edges away from yourself and the other person.
6. When using knives, shears or other cutting tools, cut in a direction away from your body.
7. Transport hand tools only in tool boxes or tool belts. Do not carry tools in your clothing.

J. HAMMERS

1. Use a claw hammer for pulling nails.
2. Do not strike nails or other objects with the cheek of the hammer.
3. Do not strike one hammer against another hammer.
4. Do not use a hammer if your hands are oily, greasy or wet.
5. Do not use a hammer as a wedge or a pry bar.

K. SAWS

1. Keep control of saws by releasing downward pressure at the end of the stroke.
2. Do not use an adjustable blade saw such as a hacksaw if the blade is not sharp.
3. Do not use a saw that has a dull blade.
4. Keep hands and fingers away from the saw blade while using the saw.

SAWS continued

5. Do not hold the work piece against your body while using the saw.
6. Do not carry a saw by the blade.
7. When using a hand saw, hold the work piece firmly against the work table.

L. SCREWDRIVERS

1. Always match the size and type of screwdriver blade to fit the head of the screw.
2. Do not hold the work piece against your body while using a screwdriver.
3. Do not put your fingers near the blade of the screwdriver when tightening a screw.
4. Use an awl, drill or nail to make a starting hole for screws.
5. Do not force a screwdriver by using a hammer or pliers on it.
6. Do not use a screwdriver as a punch, chisel, pry bar or nail puller.
7. Use a screwdriver that has an insulated handle for electrical work.
8. Do not use a screwdriver with wet, oily or greasy hands.
9. Do not use a screwdriver to test the charge of a battery.
10. When using a spiral ratchet screwdriver, push down firmly and slowly.

M. SLIPS, TRIPS, AND FALLS

1. Wear closed toe, non-slip soled shoes.
2. Keep mats and carpets flat on the floor.
3. Keep electrical cords in a position so that they do not pose a trip hazard.
4. Route hoses and cords to avoid tripping. Do not allow hoses and cords to loop or coil.

SLIPS, TRIPS, AND FALLS continued

5. Take short steps when slippery conditions exist.
6. Do not run on wet, slippery, or greasy surfaces.
7. Use caution signs/cones to barricade slippery areas.
8. When cleaning floors, wet only a small area at one time, and dry mop it before cleaning another section.
9. Immediately clean up spills, water, oil, grease, fluids, anti-freeze, and other liquids from the floor.
10. Keep work area clean at all times. Pick up tools when through using.

N. BURNS AND TEMPERATURES

1. Properly use employer prescribed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
2. Warn others of hot items such as engines, power or pneumatic tools, etc.
3. Release the pressure before opening pressurized systems.
4. Use caution when working on air conditioning systems. The pressure lines can blow allowing freon to escape causing freeze burns.
5. Allow radiators to cool before opening.
6. Allow exhaust systems to cool before servicing.

O. COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS

1. Always handle empty or full compressed gas cylinders carefully as they present the potential for explosion.
2. Cylinders must not be dropped, struck or allowed to strike each other.
3. Isolate compressed gas cylinders must be moved more than a few feet.

COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS continued

4. Roll gas cylinders on their bottom only. Use a cylinder truck when cylinders must be moved more than a few feet.
5. Screw caps on firmly when cylinders are being moved or not in use.
6. Cylinders designed for vertical use must be stored, used or transported in a vertical position.
7. Keep cylinders, cylinder valves or regulators free from oil, grease or soap.
8. When oxygen or acetylene cylinders are in stationary storage (whether empty or full) they shall be separated from combustible materials and each other by a minimum of twenty (20) feet or by a combustible barrier of at least five (5) feet high having a fire resistant rating of at least one (1) hour.
9. Compressed air shall not be used for cleaning purposes except where reduced to less than thirty (30) psi - and then only with effective chip guarding and personal protective equipment.
10. Test the relief valves on a regular basis.
11. Open the drain valve on a regular basis to prevent a buildup of moisture in the system

P. WELDING

1. Have adequate fire protection available at the work site when welding or cutting is being done.
2. Avoid breathing welding fumes. Use proper ventilation or respiratory protection. These fumes may be toxic.
3. Wear required personal protection equipment during the welding and burning operation.
4. Personal clothing must cover the chest, arm and legs.
5. Keep welding and burning areas free from flammable materials.
6. Electrical welding grounds should be made as close to the work as possible.
7. Immediately tag out and report any defective welding leads, regulators, gauges, hoses, torches, and other parts to your Supervisor.

WELDING continued

8. Keep your body free from hoses and electrical cables when welding or burning.
9. Shut off hand torches and cylinders when you leave their immediate vicinity.
10. Use only friction-type lighters supplied by the company to light torches.
11. All torches shall be equipped with check valves in the oxygen-acetylene lines.

Q. CHEMICAL/HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

1. Consult the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the hazardous properties of all chemicals in the workplace.
2. Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as instructed.
3. Use chemicals only for their intended purpose.
4. Do not mix cleaning agents such as bleach, ammonia, and mineral spirits.
5. Store hazardous chemicals on non-impervious surfaces (i.e. metal shelves, plastic shelves, etc.)
6. Know the location of and how to operate the fire protection apparatus near the chemical storage areas.
7. Store chemicals in closed and labeled containers.
8. Keep chemicals locked up when not in use.
9. Do not smoke while handling flammable, combustible, and other chemicals.
10. Store chemicals away from sources of ignition such as open flames and electrical equipment.
11. If contacted by a hazardous material, flush the exposed area with cold water and consult the MSDS.
12. Use the correct solvent for cleaning parts. **Do not use gasoline to clean parts.**
13. Use the proper ventilation when working on asbestos brake linings.

CHEMICAL/HAZARDOUS MATERIALS continued

14. Vacuum up asbestos brake lining dust.
15. Electrically bond metal containers when transferring chemicals.
16. Dispose of rags soaked with combustible liquids in proper containers.
17. Dispose of flammable liquids only in approved manner. Do not flush flammable liquids through sinks or sewers, it may cause an explosion or fire.
18. **Do not smoke** when using solvents or in an area where vapors may be present.

R. BATTERY HANDLING AND STORAGE

1. Wear PPE as instructed.
2. Do not smoke in battery charging areas.
3. When necessary, pour acid into the water. Never pour water into the acid.
4. Keep tools and other metal objects away from the unprotected posts and leads of batteries.
5. Take precautions to prevent open flames, sparks, or electrical arcs in the battery charging area.
6. Tie down batteries during installation.
7. When jump starting vehicles, attach the ground of the good battery to the car frame after the positive has been connected.

S. HYDRAULIC JACKS

1. Secure the jack under the vehicle.
2. Do not work under a vehicle unless supported by jack stands or some other means of blocking the wheels.
3. Clear everyone from the area before lowering vehicle.

HYDRAULIC JACKS continued

4. Never jack on an incline.
5. Chock wheels before jacking a vehicle.
6. Use the correct jack in respect to size and capacity to lift and hold the vehicle.

T. LIFT/HOIST

1. Allow the exhaust system to cool before attempting work around it.
2. Watch for low hanging parts so that you do not hit your head.
3. Support huge items (transmissions, rear end assemblies, engine, etc.) when working on, removing, or installing them.
4. Wear eye protection when working under vehicles to block dirt, debris, and parts from entering your eye.
5. Clear all tools, parts, and people before lowering a vehicle.
6. Inspect lift capacity to ensure that the lift can handle the load.
7. Watch the head clearance of the top of the vehicle to the ceiling fixtures.
8. Always use and never by-pass the safety latches.

U. TEMPORARY FUEL STORAGE

1. Store fuel only in approved safety containers or cans.
2. Safety containers must be labeled with the contents and be properly color coded.
3. **No smoking will be permitted in fuel storage areas.**
4. Take precautions to prevent open flames, sparks, or electrical arcs near fuel containers.
5. Never store gasoline in glass containers.

V. *FORKLIFT*

1. Do not operate in excess of speeds that allow full control of the equipment and safety of the load.
2. Do not permit any part of the load to obstruct vision while driving.
3. Only the driver will ride on the forklift.
4. Riding the forks is strictly prohibited.
5. Watch out for pedestrians. Sound horn at blind corners.
6. Lift and lower loads smoothly and never carry loads in an elevated position.
7. Power trucks shall not be left unattended without first lowering the platform or forks, shutting off power, neutralizing controls, setting and moving ignition key.
8. When entering other vehicles with forklift trucks, the wheels of the vehicle shall be chocked to prevent any movement.

SECTION VII-7 MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

A. GENERAL

1. Carry pencils, scissors and other sharp objects with the points down.
2. Use a ladder or step stool to retrieve or store items that are located above your head.
3. Do not block your view by carrying large or bulky items; use a dolly or hand truck or get assistance from a fellow employee.
4. Store sharp objects, such as pens, pencils, letter openers or scissors in drawers or with the points down in a container.
5. Keep doors in hallways fully open or fully closed.
6. Do not store or leave items on stairways or walkways.
7. Do not run on stairs or take more than one step at a time.
8. Do not jump from ramps, platforms, ladders or step stools.
9. Do not connect multiple electrical devices into a single outlet.
10. Do not throw matches, cigarettes or other smoking materials into trash baskets.
11. Use handrails when ascending or descending stairs or ramps.
12. Obey all posted safety and danger signs.
13. Do not place material such as boxes or trash in walkways and passageways.
14. Mop up water around drinking fountains, drink dispensing machines and ice machines.
15. Do not store or leave items on stairways.
16. Do not block or obstruct stairwells, exits or accesses to safety and emergency equipment such as fire extinguishers or fire alarm.
17. Use caution signs/cones to barricade slippery areas such as freshly mopped floors.
18. Turn off and unplug office machines before adjusting, lubricating or cleaning them.
19. Do not use fans that have excessive vibration, frayed cords or missing guards.

GENERAL continued

20. Do not place floor type fans in walkways, aisles or doorways.
21. Do not use frayed, cut or cracked electrical cords.
22. Do not use extension or power cords that have the ground prong removed or broken off.
23. Use a cord cover or tape the cord down when running electrical or other cords across aisles, between desks or across entrances or exits.

B. LIFTING SAFETY

1. Plan the move before lifting; remove obstructions from your chosen pathway,
2. Test the weight of the load before lifting by pushing the load along its resting surface.
3. If the load is too heavy or bulky, use lifting and carrying aids such as hand trucks, dollies, pallet jacks and carts, or get assistance from a co-worker.
4. If assistance is required to perform a lift, coordinate and communicate your movements with those of your co-worker.
5. Position your feet six (6) to twelve (12) inches apart with one foot slightly in front of the other.
6. Face the load.
7. Bend at the knees, not the back.
8. Keep your back straight.
9. Get a firm grip on the object with your hands and fingers. Use handles when present.
10. Never lift anything if your hands are greasy or wet.
11. Wear protective gloves when lifting objects with sharp corners or jagged edges.
12. Hold objects as close to your body as possible.
13. Perform lifting movements smoothly and gradually; do not jerk the load.

LIFTING SAFETY continued

14. If you must change direction while lifting or carrying the load, pivot your feet and turn your entire body. Do not twist at the waist.
15. Set down objects in the same manner as you picked them up, except in reverse.
16. Do not lift an object from the floor to a level above your waist in one motion. Set the load down on a table or bench and then adjust your grip before lifting it higher.
17. Slide materials to the end of the tailgate before attempting to lift them off of a pick-up truck. Do not lift over the walls or tailgate of the truck bed.

C. LADDERS AND STEP LADDERS

1. Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions label affixed to the ladder if you are unsure how to use the ladder.
2. Do not use ladders that have loose rungs, cracked or split side rails, missing rubber foot pads, or are otherwise visible damaged.
3. Keep ladder rungs clean and free of grease. Remove buildup of material such as dirt or mud.
4. Do not stand on the top two rungs of any ladder.
5. Do not stand on a ladder that wobbles, or that leans to the left or right.
6. Do not try to "walk" a ladder by rocking it. Climb down the ladder and then move it.
7. When performing work from a ladder, face the ladder and do not lean backward or sideways from the ladder.
8. Allow only one person on the ladder at a time.
9. Do not use a metal ladder on roof tops or within fifty (50) feet of electrical power lines.
10. Do not place ladders on boxes, loose bricks, pails, trash cans or other unstable bases.

D. CLIMBING A LADDER

1. Face the ladder when climbing up or down it.
2. Maintain a three point contact by keeping both hands and one foot or both feet and one hand on the ladder at all times when climbing up or down.
3. Do not carry items in your hands while climbing up or down a ladder.

E. ELECTRICAL POWERED TOOLS

1. Do not use power equipment or tools on which you have not been trained.
2. Do not use tools with cords that have splices, exposed wires, or cracked or frayed ends.
3. Do not carry plugged in equipment or tools with your finger on the switch.
4. Do not carry equipment or tools by the cord.
5. Disconnect the tool from the outlet by pulling on the plug, not the cord.
6. Turn the tool off before plugging or unplugging it
7. Do not leave tools that are "on" unattended.
8. Turn off electrical tools and disconnect the power source from the outlet before attempting repairs or service work. Note that the tool is "out of service".
9. Do not remove the ground prong from electrical cords.
10. Do not connect multiple electrical tools into a single outlet.
11. Do not run extension cords through doorways, through holes in ceilings, walls or floors.
12. Do not drive over, drag, step on or place heavy objects on cord.

ELECTRICAL POWERED TOOLS continued

13. Do not stand in water or on wet surfaces when operating power hand tools or portable electrical appliances.
14. Do not use a power hand tool to cut wet or water soaked building materials or to repair pipe leaks.
15. Do not use a power hand tool while wearing wet gloves.

F. HAND TOOLS

1. Carry all sharp tools in a sheath or holster.
2. Tag all worn, damaged or defective tools "out of service" and do not use them.
3. Do not use a tool if its handle has splinters, burrs, cracks or splits, or if the head of the tool is loose.
4. Do not use impact tools such as hammers, chisels, or punches that have mushroomed heads.
5. When handing a tool to another person, direct sharp points and cutting edges away from yourself and the other person.
6. When using knives, shears or other cutting tools, cut in a direction away from your body.
7. Transport hand tools only in tool boxes or tool belts. Do not carry tools in your clothing.

G. HAMMERS

1. Use a claw hammer for pulling nails.
2. Do not strike nails or other objects with the cheek of the hammer.
3. Do not strike one hammer against another hammer.
4. Do not use a hammer if your hands are oily, greasy or wet.
5. Do not use a hammer as a wedge or a pry bar.

H. SAWS

1. Keep control of saws by releasing downward pressure at the end of the stroke.
2. Do not use an adjustable blade saw such as a hacksaw if the blade is not taut.
3. Do not use a saw that has a dull blade.
4. Keep hands and fingers away from the saw blade while using the saw.
5. Do not hold the work piece against your body while using the saw.
6. Do not carry a saw by the blade.
7. When using a hand saw, hold the work piece firmly against the work table.

I. SCREWDRIVERS

1. Always match the size and type of screwdriver blade to fit the head of the screw.
2. Do not hold the work piece against your body while using a screwdriver.
3. Do not put your fingers near the blade of the screwdriver when tightening a screw.
4. Use an awl, drill or nail to make a starting hole for screws.
5. Do not force a screwdriver by using a hammer or pliers on it.
6. Do not use a screwdriver as a punch, chisel, pry bar or nail puller.
7. Use a screwdriver that has an insulated handle for electrical work.
8. Do not use a screwdriver with wet, oily or greasy hands.
9. Do not use a screwdriver to test the charge of a battery.
10. When using a spiral ratchet screwdriver, push down firmly and slowly.

J. WRENCHES

1. Do not use wrenches that are bent, cracked, badly chipped or that have loose or broken handles.
2. Do not slip a pipe over a single head wrench handle for increased leverage.
3. Do not use a shim to make a wrench fit.
4. Size the adjustable wrench to fit the nut before turning.
5. Use a split box wrench on flare nuts.
6. Discard any wrench with spread, nicked or battered jaws, or if the handle is bent.
7. Use box or socket wrenches on hexagon nuts and bolts as a first choice, and open end wrenches as a second choice.

K. PLIERS

1. Do not use pliers as a wrench or a hammer.
2. Do not slip a pipe over the handles of pliers to increase leverage.
3. Use pliers with an insulated handle for electrical work.
4. Do not use pliers that are cracked, broken or sprung.
5. When using diagonal cutting pliers, shield the loose pieces of cut material from flying into the air by using a cloth or your gloved hand.

L. CLAMPS

1. Do not use C-clamps for hoisting materials.
2. Do not use a C-clamp as a permanent fastening device.

M. HOUSEKEEPING/CLEANING RULES

1. Take short steps when walking on wet or soapy floors.
2. Straighten or remove rugs and mats that do not lie flat on the floor.
3. Use caution signs/cones to barricade slippery areas such as freshly mopped floors
4. When cleaning floors, wet only a small area of the floor at one time and allow it to dry before cleaning another section.
5. Clean up any broken glass using a dust pan and broom. Do not pick up broken glass with your bare hands.
6. Do not stand on sinks or toilets.
7. Keep power cords away from the path of vacuum cleaners.
8. Disconnect the vacuum cleaner from the outlet by pulling on the plug, not the cord.
9. Do not operate vacuum cleaners that have a frayed, worn, cut, improperly spliced or damaged power cord.
10. Do not operate vacuum cleaners if the ground pin from the three-pronged power plug is missing or has been removed.
11. Follow the instructions on the label and in the corresponding Material Safety Data Sheet for all products used in cleaning.
12. When spraying cleaners, hold the bottle at arms length and direct the spray away from your body.
13. Visually inspect for sharp objects or other hazards before reaching into containers such as garbage cans, boxes or bags.

N. MOWING

1. Inspect area to be mowed for any object that may be considered hazardous. Remove the hazard whenever possible.
2. Use employer specified PPE as instructed.

MOWING continued

3. Do not operate equipment when under the influence, of alcohol or drugs, including prescription medications.
4. Follow the manufacturer's instructions as to the operation and adjustment of the mower.
5. Do not operate any equipment on which you are not trained.
6. Always look ahead of the mowers path while staying aware of your surroundings.
7. Check for oncoming cars when mowing sections near streets.
8. Inspect mower daily for guards and loose nuts, blades, belts, wheels and other parts. Report any damaged equipment to your Supervisor.
9. Never by-pass any safety device provided by the manufacturer (this includes the handle kill switch.) Do not alter the mowing in any way.
10. Do not smoke when fueling the mower.
11. Do not fuel a hot engine. Do not overfill the tank.
12. Keep hands and feet from under the mower deck.
13. Turn off mower and disconnect spark plug wire before servicing or adjusting the mower.
14. When using a riding mower, mow up and down the slope.
15. Turn off mower when dumping the grass catcher.
16. Do not try to unclog the grass chute while mower is running.
17. Only the operator is permitted to ride a riding mower.
18. Disengage the drive before starting a riding mower.
19. Disengage the drive before shutting off a riding mower.
20. Do not direct the discharge towards bystanders.

O. BLADE REMOVAL AND SHARPENING

1. Turn off mower and remove spark plug wire before removing the blade.
2. Empty gas tank before tipping the mower to remove the blade.
3. Use an extension ratchet to remove bolts to keep you hands from the cutting edge of the blade.
4. Use employer prescribed PPE when grinding the blade.
5. Do not stand on the unguarded discharge side of the grinder.
6. Operate the grinder at grinding speed for at least one (1) minute before applying the blade.
7. Do not operate grinders near flammable containers or where gasoline fumes are present.
8. Inspect the grinder for loose parts and guards before operating. Report any damaged equipment to your Supervisor.
9. Never by-pass any safety guards provided by the manufacturer.
10. Allow blade to cool before reinstalling it on the mower.

P. EDGING

1. Inspect the edge daily for loose or worn blades, belts, and other parts. Report any damaged equipment to your Supervisor.
2. Do not use damaged equipment.
3. Inspect the area to be edged for hazards such as sprinkler heads, electrical cords, light futures, hoses, etc. Do not operate edger against any energized electrical fixtures or plumbing fixtures.
4. Use employer prescribed personal protective equipment (PPE) as instructed.
5. Do not operate equipment if impaired by alcohol or drugs, including prescribed.
6. Follow the manufacturer's instructions as to the operation and adjustment of the edger.
7. Do not operate any equipment on which you are not trained.

EDGING continued

8. Do not remove any guards provided by the manufacturer. If any guards are missing or damaged, report the damaged equipment to your Supervisor and do not use the equipment.
9. Turn off engine and remove the spark plug wire before servicing.
10. Do not smoke while fueling equipment.
11. Do not allow anyone to stand in front of or to the unguarded side of the blade while edger is in operation.
12. Always look ahead of the edgers path.
13. Place the blade in the highest position off the ground before starting.
14. Operate edger at highest blade speed.

Q. WEED EATERS AND BRUSH CUTTERS

1. Use employer prescribed PPE as instructed.
2. Do not operate equipment if impaired by or under the influence of alcohol or drugs, including prescribed.
3. Follow the manufacturer's instructions as to the operation and adjustment of the trimmer.
4. Do not operate any equipment on which you are not trained.
5. Use only approved grip locations and always control trimmer as intended by the manufacturer.
6. Operate equipment in proper light, so that you can see what you are doing.
7. Always stop the engine and turn the switch to off when the trimmer is left unattended.
8. Do not smoke while servicing gasoline powered trimmers.
9. Inspect area to be cut for hazards such as tree stumps, roots, rocks, branches, sprinklers, hoses, electrical cords, light fixtures, pipes, clothes lines, toys, etc. Remove the hazards whenever possible.
10. Check for oncoming cars when trimming sections near streets.

WEED EATERS AND BRUSH CUTTERS continued

11. Inspect trimmer daily for guards and loose parts. Report any damaged equipment to your Supervisor.
12. Never by-pass any safety device provided by the manufacturer.
13. Do not smoke when fueling the trimmer.
14. Keep hands and feet from the cutting wire area.
15. Turn off mower and disconnect spark plug wire before servicing, or adjusting the trimmer.
16. Do not leave running equipment unattended.
17. Do not work or perform maintenance on a hot engine.
18. Do not overfill the fuel tank.
19. Keep people and animals away from the work areas.
20. Follow manufacturer's routine and preventive maintenance schedule.
21. Keep both hands on the equipment while operating.
22. For those trimmers with a shoulder harness, remove the machine from your body before fueling.

SECTION VII-8 FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL (PART TIME, RESERVIST AND PAID STAFF)

Your help and involvement in safety is vital for your protection, that of your fellow department members and that of the general public. Observe the following safety rules at all times.

Following is a list of different types of information that can be requested and where to go for the answers.

- A. For general ***Department Safety Rules*** please refer to the Columbia County Fire Department policy manual SOG/SOP (standard operating guidelines and policies)
- B. For ***Hazardous Material*** information please see the Hazardous Materials operations and information manual located at Administration
- C. For ***Education/Training*** questions and information please get with the Division Chief
- D. For ***Vehicle Maintenance***, department asset inventory, or supplies get with the Assistant Chief
- E. For daily ***Operational Questions*** and scheduling questions see your Shift Commander
- F. For all information on ***Fire Fighting*** various structures and the required department response in different situations please see the department manual SOG/SOP.

The Columbia County Personnel Policy and Safety manuals will be adhered to for any items not specifically covered in the Fire Department manual. These manuals are intended to be supportive of each other and to work complimentary with each other. At no time should a parameter of one be contradictory to the other. If such an incidence occurs please get with your supervisory staff at the safest possible moment.

Persons requesting a ride-along with the department must sign the release form available at the administration office.

These directives apply to all personnel associated with the Columbia County Fire Department whether employed by, working part-time or on a paid-per-call basis. These directives also apply to those personnel who are riding with but may not necessarily be a member of the department yet.

SECTION VII-9 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

A. *GENERAL*

1. Do not use any tool or machine with which you are unfamiliar. Consult your Supervisor for instruction.
2. Make sure all safety devices are affixed and operable. Perform walk around safety inspections prior to each use.
3. Do not use defective equipment
4. Use all required PPE.
5. Report all unsafe conditions immediately to the Supervisor/Foreman in charge.
6. Never disturb an operator working with any part of his body near moving machinery. Make sure his/her hands and feet are clear of all moving parts before calling or signaling in any way.
7. Read and follow all posted warning signs regardless of its content.
8. Carry large objects, sharp pointed or edged tools so that they do not endanger yourself or passers by.
9. Lock, tag, and try power switches before working on moving machinery such as asphalt mixers, drums, conveyors, or other machinery. Do not remove locks without authorization.
10. Wearing hearing protection in any designated mandatory hearing protection area is required.
11. Be conscious of potential fire and explosion hazards in your work area.
12. Keep all travel areas and work areas uncluttered and free of congestion from trash, materials and parked vehicles.
13. All employees working on a highway and exposed at any time to moving traffic shall wear the Day-Glow red/orange traffic vests and Day-Glow red/orange traffic caps to insure maximum visibility and worker safety.
14. Maintain a constant check at your work area for hazards to employees or equipment.
15. Bleed air lines to release moisture.

GENERAL continued

16. Use three point contact (both hands and one foot or both feet and one hand) when climbing onto equipment.
17. Do not use steering wheel as a grab point.
18. Keep windows and mirrors cleaned and adjusted.
19. Where provided, **seat belts must be used at all times.**
20. Before starting equipment, make sure controls are in neutral.
21. Check back-up alarms.
22. Check brakes at startup and immediately report any defects.
23. Allow no one to ride outside the cab.
24. Be observant of road hazards and adjust speeds accordingly.
25. Travel in reverse when carrying a loaded bucket down a steep grade.
26. Avoid spinning wheels.
27. Turn off engine before refueling, oiling, or working on equipment.
28. Do not leave unattended vehicle running.
29. Use equipment for the purpose designed; do not exceed manufacturer's limitations.
30. Do not travel with bucket or blade raised high enough to obstruct your view.

B. LIFTING SAFETY

1. Plan the move before lifting; remove obstructions from your chosen pathway.
2. Test the weight of the load before lifting by pushing the load along its resting surface.
3. If the load is too heavy or bulky, use lifting and carrying aids such as hand trucks, dollies, pallet jacks and carts, or get assistance from a co-worker.
4. If assistance is required to perform a lift, coordinate and communicate your movements with those of your co-worker.

LIFTING SAFETY continued

5. Position your feet six (6) to twelve (12) inches apart with one foot slightly in front of the other.
6. Face the load.
7. Bend at the knees, not the back.
8. Keep your back straight.
9. Get a firm grip on the object with you hands and fingers. Use handles when present.
10. Never lift anything if your hands are greasy or wet.
11. Wear protective gloves when lifting objects with sharp corners or jagged edges.
12. Hold objects as close to your body as possible.
13. Perform lifting movements smoothly and gradually; do not jerk the load.
14. If you must change direction while lifting or carrying the load, pivot your feet and turn your entire body. Do not twist at the waist.
15. Set down objects in the same manner as you picked them up, except in reverse.
16. Do not lift an object from the floor to a level above your waist in one motion. Set the load down on a table or bench and then adjust your grip before lifting it higher.
17. Slide materials to the end of the tailgate before attempting to lift them off of a pick-up truck. Do not lift over the walls or tailgate of the truck bed.

C. COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS

1. Always handle empty or full compressed gas cylinders carefully as they present the potential for explosion.
2. Cylinders must not be dropped, struck or allowed to strike each other.
3. If isolated compressed gas cylinders must be moved more than a few feet, roll the gas cylinders on their bottom only.
4. Use a cylinder truck when cylinders must be moved more than a few feet.

COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS continued

5. Screw caps on firmly when cylinders are being moved or not in use.
6. Cylinders designed for vertical use must be stored, used or transported in a vertical position.
7. Keep cylinders, cylinder valves or regulators free from oil, grease or soap.
8. When oxygen or acetylene cylinders are in stationary storage (whether empty or full) they shall be separated from combustible materials and each other by a minimum of twenty (20) feet or by a combustible barrier of at least five (5) feet high having a fire resistant rating of at least one (1) hour.
9. Compressed air shall not be used for cleaning purposes except where reduced to less than thirty (30) pounds per square inch (psi) and then only with effective chip guarding and personal protective equipment.
10. Test the relief valves on a regular basis. Open the drain valve on a regular basis to prevent a buildup of moisture in the system.

D. DOZER DRIVERS

1. Adhere to all general rules at all times.
2. Avoid turning sideways.
3. Never push a load completely over a high wall. Use next load to bump it over.
4. Do not jump from dozer. Always use steps provided.
5. Do not wear loose clothing or accessories.
6. Be aware of and do not by-pass any manufacturer installed safety device.
7. Always stop the engine before fueling the machine.
8. Keep open flames or sparks away from battery area.
9. Check for fuel, oil and hydraulic fuel leaks regularly.
10. Report any damaged or faulty equipment to your Supervisor immediately.

DOZER DRIVERS continued

11. Make sure all other workers are safely out of the way before you start operations.
12. Do a walk around inspection prior to each work shift. Check lights, gauges, instruments, etc. to make sure all are functioning properly.
13. Never speed. Never coast. Operate at speeds slow enough to have complete control at all times.
14. Stay clear of machine in lightning storms.
15. Never move loads over the heads of other persons.
16. Never use a bucket or blade for a work platform or personnel carrier.
17. Avoid operating your machine too close to an overhang, deep ditch or drop off.
18. Check for overhead clearances.
19. Never approach overhead power lines or cables.
20. If it becomes necessary to anchor a machine, use a solid object.
21. When using a dozer for towing, hitch machine to load, move forward and take up slack slowly. Do not jerk or kink cable; keep cable taut.
22. Do not allow people to stand in the loop of the cable when preparing to tow.
23. Follow proper shutdown procedures.

E. PAN DRIVERS

1. Adhere to all general rules at all times.
2. Downshift only one gear at a time.
3. Maintain blade alignment during pushing.
4. Avoid pumping brake,
5. Approach cuts and steep grades at reduced speeds.

F. BACKHOE OPERATORS

1. Adhere to all general rules at all times.
2. Never use baskets or other attachments for a staging or temporary platform.
3. Stay in compartment during operation of equipment, never attempt lever control unless inside vehicle.
4. Stay clear of overhead power lines.
5. Keep equipment as level as possible.
6. Never leave operator cab with the engine running.
7. Survey complete work area before operating backhoe.
8. Always set swing brake or lock when traveling to and from work area.

G. GRADER

1. Adhere to all general rules at all times.
2. Do not wear loose clothing or accessories.
3. Know what safety devices your machine is equipped with. Do not by-pass any manufacturer provided safety device.
4. Never operate with over or under inflated tires.
5. Always stop the engine before refueling. Do not refuel a hot engine.
6. Do not smoke during refueling.
7. If required to move the machine, adhere to local laws and ordinances governing driving equipment on roadways. Use all warning devices as instructed.
8. Be constantly aware of potential hazards in your work area.
9. Follow all rules that should be observed at the work site. This includes flagging, signs and proper markings.
10. Maintain a three point contact when getting on the machine.

GRADER continued

11. Never jump off the machine.
12. Do not use the steering or any controls as hand holds.
13. When cold starting fluid is required, always read the manufacturer's instructions before using. Starting fluid is highly flammable.
14. Do not start engine without being in the operator's seat.
15. Check gauges, instruments and warning devices to ensure that they are functional.
16. Do not use articulation controls at roading speed. Unexpected steering response will result.
17. Use extreme caution when making adjustments to wheel controls, especially at roading speed.
18. Downshift with care. Be sure the proper gear is selected for up and down grades.
19. Do not apply service brake continuously on a long downgrade. Select a gear so that the engine will provide dynamic braking.
20. Know your stopping distance at any given speed.
21. When roading, always position blade within wheel width and raised as high as possible.
22. When traffic piles up behind you pull to side of road to allow vehicles to pass safely.
23. Stop and look both ways at all railway crossings.
24. Never approach power lines or electrical cables with equipment.
25. Continually check for overhead clearances.
26. Know the location of underground gas and electrical lines before any digging.
27. When towing, use a tow bar whenever possible.
28. Refer to manufacturer's instructions for correct procedures. Never tow a machine at high speeds.
29. Do not use machine as ram.
30. Never allow anyone to ride on machine.
31. Follow proper shutdown procedures. Lock all locking devices and remove the keys when leaving the machine parked or unattended.

H. ASPHALT/PAVING

1. Always use PPE as instructed.
2. Do not use asphalt equipment unless authorized by your Supervisor.
3. No smoking in the immediate area of asphalt paving.
4. Do not mount or dismount paving equipment on traffic side.
5. Always mount and dismount paver using the walkways, steps, and handrails provided.
6. Maintain all machinery guards in good condition.
7. Stand clear of hot asphalt when being dumped out of truck.
8. No eating in the immediate area of asphalt paving.
9. Place traffic control devices in accordance with all applicable rules and/ or laws.
10. When receiving truck tickets to asphalt delivery, accept ticket from the off-traffic side of the truck.
11. Always pay attention to the surrounding flow of traffic.
12. Check that everyone is clear of paver before starting so that no one is struck or caught by moving parts.
13. Do not attempt to clean, lubricate or service the paver/finisher while it is running.
14. Keep operator's platform clean and free of loose tools, lunch boxes, etc.
15. Do not remove paving materials from the hopper or auger trough while the paver is operating.
16. Have operator stop the paver when it is necessary to remove spillage from the roadway.
17. Do not attempt service or repairs on machinery, notify Supervisor.
18. Never refuel the paver/finisher with the engine on.
19. Before leaving the equipment make sure that all the controls are in OFF or neutral position.
20. Do not work outside traffic barricades.
21. Locate live lane of traffic before working in an area.

I. ANIMAL EXPOSURES

1. Always watch for locations where animals, insects, and snakes could be hiding.
2. If you discover or find a wasp nest or bee hive, note the location (equipment shed, tree) and warn other co-workers working within the area.
3. Test thick plant growth for snakes, wasps, stray animals, etc. with a stick or a pole before entering.
4. Warn co-workers of animal hazards such as bee hives, wasp nests, snake nests, stray dogs, etc.
5. Seek first aid immediately if bitten or stung.
6. Stay away from dogs and other animals.
7. Watch for rats and palmetto bugs when cutting and pruning palm trees.

SECTION VII-10 TREE SERVICE

A. GENERAL

1. Always carry sharp items with the points down.
2. Do not block your view by carrying large or bulky items; use a dolly or hand truck, or get assistance from a fellow employee.
3. Obey all posted safety and danger signs.
4. Use caution signs/cones as necessary.
5. Use employer prescribed PPE as instructed.
6. No horseplay will be permitted.
7. All employees working on a highway and exposed at any time to moving traffic shall wear the Day-Glow red/orange traffic vests or an equivalent and Day-Glow red/orange traffic caps.
8. Maintain a constant check on your work area for hazards to employees or equipment.
9. Make sure all safety devices are affixed and operable.
10. Check back-up alarms.
11. Do not use steering wheel as a grab point.
12. Allow no one to ride outside the cab.
13. Be conscious of potential fire and explosion, remove hazards in your work area.
14. Keep windows and mirrors cleaned and adjusted.
15. Wear hearing protection in any designated mandatory hearing protection area.
16. Do not mount or dismount paving equipment on traffic side.
17. Maintain all machinery guards in good condition.

GENERAL continued

18. Always pay attention to the surrounding flow of traffic.
19. Place traffic control devices in accordance with all applicable rules and/or laws.
20. Locate live lane of traffic before working in an area.
21. Before leaving the equipment make sure that all controls are in the OFF or Neutral position.

B. LIFTING SAFETY

1. Plan the move before lifting; remove obstructions from your chosen pathway,
2. Test the weight of the load before lifting by pushing the load along its resting surface.
3. If the load is too heavy or bulky, use lifting and carrying aids such as hand trucks, dollies, pallet jacks and carts, or get assistance from a co-worker.
4. If assistance is required to perform a lift, coordinate and communicate your movements with those of your co-worker.
5. Position your feet six (6) to twelve (12) inches apart with one foot slightly in front of the other.
6. Face the load.
7. Bend at the knees, not the back.
8. Keep your back straight.
9. Get a firm grip on the object with your hands and fingers. Use handles when present.
10. Never lift anything if your hands are greasy or wet.
11. Wear protective gloves when lifting objects with sharp corners or jagged edges.
12. Hold objects as close to your body as possible.
13. Perform lifting movements smoothly and gradually; do not jerk the load.
14. If you must change direction while lifting or carrying the load, pivot your feet and turn your entire body. Do not twist at the waist.

LIFTING SAFETY continued

15. Set down objects in the same manner as you picked them up, except in reverse.
16. Do not lift an object from the floor to a level above your waist in one motion. Set the load down on a table or bench and then adjust your grip before lifting it higher.
17. Slide materials to the end of the tailgate before attempting to lift them off of a pick-up truck. Do not lift over the walls or tailgate of the truck bed.

C. PRE-WORK INSPECTION

1. Inspect the tree for energized lines and fixtures (lights, speakers, power lines, cable lines.)
2. If applicable, ask tree owner if the tree has been treated with any pesticides within the past 48 hours.
3. Inspect the tree for any broken limbs that may already be hanging.
4. Inspect the tree for rotted branches that would not be suitable for tying.
5. Inspect the removal area for tripping hazards (sprinkler head, water meters, toys, hoses, etc.) and remove or mark those hazards with cones or flags.
6. Inspect the area to be cut for nails or bolts. Remove such metal items or cut in an area free of them.

D. PROPER FELLING TECHNIQUES

1. Cut notch one quarter the diameter of the tree, facing the direction you want the tree to fall.
2. Bore a recess in the trunk sawing forward to the holding hinge wood and then sawing backward until the saw is clear of the trunk.
3. Clean an escape route before felling the tree. After completing the backcut the cutter must use the escape route to retreat.

E. CHAINSAW SAFETY

1. Wear employer prescribed PPE as instructed.
2. Do not operate equipment if impaired by or under the influence of alcohol or drugs, including prescribed medications.
3. Follow the manufacturer's instructions as to the operation and adjustment of the chainsaw.
4. Do not operate any equipment on which you are not trained.
5. Never by-pass any safety device provided by the manufacturer.
6. Do not leave chainsaw unattended while running. Stop engine and turn switch to off.
7. Use only approved grip locations and always control saw as intended by the manufacturer.
8. Operate equipment in proper light. Make sure you can see what you are doing.
9. Stop the engine and pull the spark plug before cleaning, inspecting, adjusting or doing any repairs.
10. Do not work or perform maintenance on a hot engine.
11. Do not smoke while servicing a gas powered chainsaw.
12. Do not run a gasoline powered engine in an enclosed space.
13. Never pour fuel into the tank of a running or hot engine. Do not overfill the tank.
14. Keep unauthorized persons and animals from work areas.
15. Follows manufacturer's specified maintenance schedule.
16. Check parts regularly for damage. Immediately report any faulty or damaged equipment to your Supervisor.
17. Tag or lock out any faulty apparatus or piece of equipment with an "out of service" sign.
18. Do not operate a chainsaw above the shoulder.

F. HANDSAWS

1. Keep all saw blades sharp.
2. Keep your mind on the job at hand. Do not become distracted while using sharp tools.
3. Return saws and other cutting tools to the appropriate storage place after use.
4. Do not leave saw lying around in the work area.

G. CHIPPERS

1. Inspect and secure the chipper trailer safety chain and ball assembly to the towing vehicle.
2. Chock the wheels of chippers before any processing takes place.
3. Follow, the manufacturer's specified maintenance schedule.
4. Keep your hands, arms and legs away from the cutting blades.
5. Do not remove any manufacturer provided guards.
6. Stand to the side of the chipper when feeding the hopper.
7. Cut limbs to shorter lengths before processing in the chipper.
8. Listen for uncommon sounds the chipper may make that may indicate loose blades, nuts, or other parts.

H. BUCKET TRUCK

1. Lock crane arm and bucket in travel position before moving the vehicle.
2. Do not drive the truck while someone is in the bucket.
3. Only trained and authorized personnel are to operate the bucket lift.
4. Keep bucket at least eight to ten (8-10) feet from energized power lines.
5. Stand flat on the bottom of the bucket while working. Do not climb on the bucket edge.
6. Do not attempt extensive reaches out of the bucket.
7. Do not operate bucket during electrical storms.
8. Do not operate bucket in high wind conditions.
9. The bucket operator must be tied into the bucket.
10. Ground crew must not touch the truck when the bucket is near energized lines.
11. One ground crew member must be trained in the operation of the bucket controls in case of an emergency.
12. Before the lift is used, the parking brakes must be engaged and the wheels must be chocked.

I. CLIMBING TECHNIQUES

1. No free-style climbing is permitted.
2. Once a climber is off of the ground, he must be tied to the tree.
3. Inspect ropes and saddles daily and discard damaged equipment.
4. Check the branch for sturdiness before tying on it.
5. Store ropes, lanyards and saddles in dry and clean areas.
6. All climbing ropes must be at least ½ inch in diameter.

CLIMBING TECHNIQUES continued

7. Double crotch (tie in to a second lanyard) before operating the chainsaw to double secure the kick of the saw.
8. Always crotch around the main trunk of the tree.
9. Before cutting a branch away, check to ensure that there are not people below the branch that you are cutting.
10. Do not use climbing rope as a lowering rope.
11. Do not spike living areas.

J. LADDERS AND STEP LADDERS

1. Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions label affixed to the ladder if you are unsure how to use the ladder.
2. Do not use ladders that have loose rungs, cracked or split side rails, missing rubber foot pads, or are otherwise visibly damaged.
3. Keep ladder rungs clean and free of grease. Remove buildup of material such as dirt or mud.
4. Do not stand on the top two rungs of any ladder.
5. Do not stand on a ladder that wobbles, or that leans to the left or right.
6. Do not try to "walk" a ladder by rocking it. Climb down the ladder and then move it.
7. When performing work from a ladder, face the ladder and do not lean backward or sideways from the ladder.
8. Allow only one person on the ladder at a time.
9. Do not use a metal ladder on roof tops or within fifty (50) feet of electrical power lines.
10. Do not place ladders on boxes, loose bricks, pails, trash cans or other unstable bases.

K. CLIMBING A LADDER

1. Face the ladder when climbing up or down it.
2. Maintain a three point contact by keeping both hands and one foot or both feet and one hand on the ladder at all times when climbing up or down.
3. Do not carry items in your hands while climbing up or down a ladder.

L. ELECTRICAL POWERED TOOLS

1. Do not use power equipment or tools on which you have not been trained.
2. Do not use tools with cords that have splices, exposed wires, cracked or frayed ends.
3. Do not carry plugged in equipment or tools with your finger on the switch.
4. Do not carry equipment or tools by the cord.
5. Disconnect the tool from the outlet by pulling on the plug, not the cord.
6. Turn the tool off before plugging or unplugging it
7. Do not leave tools that are "on" unattended.
8. Turn off electrical tools and disconnect the power source from the outlet before attempting repairs or service work. Note that the tool is "out of service".
9. Do not remove the ground prong from electrical cords.
10. Do not connect multiple electrical tools into a single outlet.
11. Do not run extension cords through doorways, through holes in ceilings, walls or floors.
12. Do not drive over, drag, step on or place heavy objects on cord.
13. Do not stand in water or on wet surfaces when operating power hand tools or portable electrical appliances.
14. Do not use a power hand tool to cut wet or water soaked building materials or to repair pipe leaks.
15. Do not use a power hand tool while wearing wet gloves.

M. HAND TOOLS

1. Carry all sharp tools in a sheath or holster.
2. Tag all worn, damaged or defective tools "out of service" and do not use them.
3. Do not use a tool if its handle has splinters, burrs, cracks or splits, or if the head of the tool is loose.
4. Do not use impact tools such as hammers, chisels, or punches that have mushroomed heads.
5. When handing a tool to another person, direct sharp points and cutting edges away from other people and yourself.
6. When using knives, shears or other cutting tools, cut in a direction away from your body.
7. Transport hand tools only in tool boxes or tool belts. Do not carry tools in your clothes.

N. WEED EATERS AND BRUSH CUTTERS

1. Use employer prescribed PPE as instructed.
2. Do not operate equipment if impaired by or under the influence of alcohol or drugs, including prescribed drugs.
3. Follow the manufacturer's instructions as to the operation and adjustment of the trimmer.
4. Do not operate any equipment on which you are not trained.
5. Use only approved grip locations and always control trimmer as intended by the manufacturer.
6. Operate equipment in proper light, so that you can see what you are doing.
7. Always stop the engine and turn the switch to off when the trimmer is left unattended.

WEED EATERS AND BRUSH CUTTERS *continued*

8. Do not smoke while servicing gasoline powered trimmers.
9. Inspect area to be cut for hazards such as tree stumps, roots, rocks, branches, sprinklers, hoses, electrical cords, light fixtures, pipes, clothes lines, toys, etc. Remove the hazards whenever possible.
10. Check for oncoming cars when trimming sections near streets.
11. Inspect trimmer daily for guards and loose parts. Report any damaged equipment to your Supervisor.
12. Never by-pass any safety device provided by the manufacturer.
13. Do not smoke when fueling the trimmer.
14. Keep hands and feet from the cutting wire area.
15. Turn off mower and disconnect spark plug wire before servicing, or adjusting the trimmer.
16. Do not leave running equipment unattended.
17. Do not work or perform maintenance on a hot engine.
18. Do not overfill the fuel tank.
19. Keep people and animals away from the work areas.
20. Follow manufacturer's routine and preventive maintenance schedule.
21. Keep both hands on the equipment while operating.
22. For those trimmers with a shoulder harness, remove the machine from your body before fueling.

O. HEAT EXHAUSTION

1. Drink plenty of fluids throughout your work shift.
2. Avoid dairy and alcohol products.
3. When feasible, work in shaded areas.
4. When working in direct sunlight, wear protective clothing, sunscreen or sun block.

P. ANIMAL EXPOSURE

1. Always watch for locations where animals, insects and snakes could be hiding.
2. If you discover or find a wasp nest or bee hive, note the location and warn other workers.
3. Test thick plant growth for snakes, wasps, stray animals, etc. with a stick or pole before entering.
4. Seek first aid immediately if stung or bitten.
5. Stay away from dogs or other animals in your work area
6. Watch for rats and palmetto bugs when cutting and pruning.

SECTION VII-11 PESTICIDE SAFETY

Most pesticides are designed to poison pests. Unfortunately, many pesticides are also poisonous to people. Many people in all walks of life have pesticide residues in their bodies. Therefore, it is important to do everything possible to keep exposure to an absolute minimum.

You also want to protect your workers and other people from pesticide injuries. Most pesticide accidents result from careless practices or lack of knowledge about safe handling of pesticides. The time you spend to learn about and to use safe procedures is an investment in the health and safety of yourself, your family, and others.

A. PROTECTING YOUR BODY

Some pesticides are so highly toxic that accidental exposure to them without proper protection can sicken or kill humans. Other pesticides are much less toxic; large exposures to these poisons would be necessary to cause illness.

Even slightly toxic pesticides can irritate the nose, throat, eyes, and skin of some people. You should know how to protect yourself, your workers, and other persons from harmful exposure to the pesticides you are applying.

Pesticides can enter the body in three major ways.

1. Through the mouth (orally).
2. Through the skin and eyes (dermally).
3. Through the lungs (by inhalation).

People may be poisoned without realizing the seriousness of the exposure especially if pesticides enter through the skin and lungs.

B. TO AVOID ORAL POISONING

1. Wash hands prior to eating, drinking, smoking or chewing.
2. Keep pesticides away from food or drink.
3. Avoid splashing of pesticides. This will prevent accidental ingestion.

C. TO AVOID DERMAL POISONING

1. Wash hands after handling pesticides or their containers.
2. Avoid splashing or spraying pesticides on unprotected skin and eyes.
3. Wear prescribed personal protective equipment as provided.
4. Do not wear contaminated clothing (including boots and gloves).
5. Use caution when applying pesticides in windy weather.

D. TO AVOID INHALATION POISONING

1. Avoid prolonged exposure to pesticides in poorly ventilated areas.
2. Avoid breathing of vapors from fumigants and other pesticides.
3. Do not breathe dust, fumes or mist during mixing or application without proper personal protective clothing.
4. Do not reenter a recently sprayed area until mist/fumes have settled.

People can be exposed to pesticides in two major ways:

1. **Acute exposure** - a single incident of exposure to a pesticide. Usually the symptoms of acute poisoning begin quickly and leave little doubt as to illness. Acute exposure provides immediate symptoms.
2. **Chronic exposure** - repeated exposure to pesticides over a longer period of time. Chronic exposure may go unnoticed since some pesticides may remain in the body for a long period of time without any obvious signs of poisoning. If you continue to be exposed to pesticides, illness may result.

E. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

1. Body Covering
 - a. A long-sleeved shirt and long-legged trousers, or
 - b. a coverall-type garment.
2. Gloves (when handling chemicals).
3. Hat (when handling chemicals).
4. Sturdy shoes and socks.
5. Goggles or face shield (when handling chemicals that can splash in eyes).

F. HANDLING PESTICIDES SAFELY

You are responsible for the safe transport of pesticides in your possession. The following guidelines can assist in safe transport:

1. Haul pesticides in the back of a truck whenever possible.
2. Secure all containers to prevent breakage and spillage.
3. Keep pesticides away from passengers.
4. Transport pesticides only in correctly labeled containers.
5. Keep paper and cardboard packages dry.
6. If any pesticide is spilled, initiate proper cleanup procedures immediately.
7. Do not leave pesticides unattended.

G. GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES

1. Choose a place with good lighting and ventilation when working with pesticides.
2. Read manufacturer provided directions before mixing pesticides.
3. Do not tear open paper containers; use a sharp knife

GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES continued

4. When pouring pesticides, keep the container in clear sight at all times.
5. Wash contaminated clothing as soon as possible.
6. Wash any splashed pesticide from skin as soon as possible with soap and water
7. When loading pesticides, stand so the wind does not blow them toward your body.
8. Secure containers after each use.
9. When the tank or hopper is empty, return to equipment to the area designated for equipment cleanup.
10. Mixing, loading and application equipment must be cleaned as soon as you finish with it.
11. Clean both the inside and outside, including nozzles.
12. Only trained personnel should clean equipment.
13. When equipment is being repaired, warn the person doing the repairs of potential hazards.

H. CLEANUP OF PESTICIDE SPILLS - MINOR SPILL

1. Keep people away from spilled chemicals.
2. Rope off the area and flag it to warn people.
3. Do not leave unless someone is there to confine the spill and warn of dangers.
4. If the pesticide was spilled on anyone, wash it off immediately.
5. Confine the spill. If it starts to spread, dike it up with sand or soil. Use absorbent material to soak up the spill.
6. Shovel all contaminated material into a leak proof container.
7. Dispose of containerized material as you would excess pesticide.

CLEANUP OF PESTICIDE SPILLS - MINOR SPILL continued

8. Do not hose down the area. This causes chemicals to spread.
9. Do not hurry. Always work carefully.
10. Do not let anyone enter the area until the spill is completely cleaned up.
11. Notify your Supervisor.

I. CLEANUP OF PESTICIDE SPILLS - MAJOR SPILL

1. Do not attempt to handle more than you are capable of.
2. Keep people away and administer first aid as needed.
3. If necessary, immediately have someone call for emergency medical services.
4. If necessary, notify the fire department.
5. Notify your Supervisor.

SECTION VII-12 COMPACTORS

1. Do not operate compactor until you have received proper instruction and training from the installer.
2. Maintain the design specifications recommended by the manufacturer.
3. Replace any danger or caution stickers on the machine when they fade, rip or become difficult to read.
4. Do not by-pass any electrical wires or components.
5. Make sure that all individuals are clear of operation area before activating controls.
6. Use safety rails provided when walking on top of the ramp to load the machine.
7. Kick plate to be provided at the open side of any hopper, plate should be 18 inches high and cover the total width of the opening.
8. Multi-cycle should not be used unless machine has a closed hopper and an interlock system.
9. Cylinder access covers shall be secured by a lockable system.
10. Each control shall be clearly labeled as to its function.
11. Operating buttons to be designed and located in a way preventing unintentional activation.
12. Start button to be recessed.
13. Stop button should not be recessed to enable easy reflexive activation. Button to be red in color.
14. Report any damage to, or malfunction of the compactor and/or related components immediately to your Supervisor. **DO NOT OPERATE A DAMAGED MACHINE.**

SECTION VII-13 CONFINED SPACE ENTRY

OSHA 29 CFR Part 1910.146 Confined Space Entry Standard provides a broad definition of confined space as one which has limited access or egress, is not normally used for employee occupancy, and where a hazardous atmosphere may naturally exist or be created by work procedures or processes. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)¹ must be worn to enter any confined space and should include but not be limited to jumpsuit, gloves, booties and breathing apparatus.

A hazardous atmosphere is further defined as one that contains one or more of the following:

- Combustible gases or vapors in excess of 10% of the lower explosive limit (LEL) for those gases or vapors.
- Oxygen deficiency where the atmosphere contains less than 19.5% oxygen or more than 22.0% oxygen.
- Toxic gases and vapors present in a quantity that exceeds the threshold limit value (TLV).
- Tanks, pits boilers, manholes and sewers are some examples of common confined spaces.

The following procedure will be used when entering a confined space.

The area to be entered shall be tested for hazards prior to each entry, using an approved device. A record of each test shall be completed and turned in to the Supervisor each day. The record will indicate the time, date, location and name of person testing the confined space.

Additionally, oxygen content, any gases present and the serial number of the testing unit will be noted on the entry permit.

¹ Personal protective equipment (PPE) by definition will include equipment and clothing that is standard for each event, situation or work detail and should follow closely the requirements set forth by OSHA for each event.

SECTION VII-14 HEARING PROTECTION

Noise is more than just a nuisance, it is a hazard. Hearing can be damaged temporarily or permanently. Frequency is the pitch (high or low) of a sound - the number of complete sound wave cycles each second. Intensity is the loudness of a sound, it is measured in decibels.

There are three (3) Basic Types of Hearing Protection:

1. Earplugs
Formable Earplugs
 - a. Disposable
 - b. Semi-Disposable
2. Canal Caps - made of a soft, rubber-like substance.
3. Earmuffs- Hearing protection must be worn in designated areas.
 - Any type of approved hearing protection should have a noise reduction rating (NRR) expressed in decibels. This indicates the amount of noise reduction that the device provides.
 - Earplugs and earmuffs provide important protection against noise.
 - Follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and storage.
 - Proper fit is essential.
 - Cotton balls should not be used for hearing protection.

Employees are not permitted to operate machinery while using personal listening devices of any kind, i.e., radios, walkman, Ipods, cell phones, etc.

SECTION VII-15 VIDEO DISPLAY TERMINALS WORKSTATION LAYOUT

Many employees use computers, some employees use computers the entire day, others part of the day, and some use them occasionally. Whatever the frequency of use of the computer is, there are some basic health and safety procedures to help prevent injuries.

No matter how comfortable your workstation is, sitting still for long periods of time can be tiring and stressful.

- Stretch occasionally and look away from the work frequently.
- If possible, get up from the terminal and do other tasks.
- Alternate different tasks through out the work day to vary work rhythms. Take time out to collate papers or deliver completed work. This will keep strain and tension from building up.

SECTION VII-15-1 HOW TO ADJUST YOUR WORKSTATION

Many workstations are not ideal. Some simple adjustments can usually improve them.

A. KEYBOARD HEIGHT

The keyboard height should be comfortable - about 2 ½ inches from the top of the table to the top surface of the space bar and bottom row of keys. At that height, the desk top can give the needed support to the operator's wrists. If the desk top is the right height, approximately twenty four (24) to twenty eight (28) inches, the upper and lower arms form a comfortable angle of approximately 90° degrees. Upper arms will then hang comfortably at ones sides, taking the strain off the upper back and shoulders.

If the keyboard is not adjustable, and it is too high for comfort, try placing pads under the wrists to elevate them to a more comfortable position.

Keyboards are rarely too low, but a low keyboard can be adjusted. Try a pad of paper or a flat piece of wood under the keyboard.

VIDEO DISPLAY TERMINALS –Continued

B. SCREEN FACE ANGLE AND SCREEN HEIGHT

The face of the screen should be tilted back about ten (10) to twenty (20) degrees for easier viewing -provided this does not increase the glare on the screen.

The top of the screen should be no higher than eye level to minimize eye movement.

For comfortable viewing, the screen should be about eighteen (18) inches from the eye.

If the angle of the screen is not adjustable, and the screen is too vertical, you can place a small wedge under the front of the monitor to tilt it back.

C. CHAIR HEIGHT

Good posture is essential. To prevent neck and back strain, keep the spine and head upright. Sit well back into the chair. The chair is at a comfortable working height when one doesn't feel excessive pressure on the legs from the edge of the seat. Pressure from the seat front could make the legs go to sleep.

The backrest should fit comfortably at the small of the back to give good support.

Use the following methods to determine the correct chair height:

- Sit with the soles of the shoes flat on the floor. Keep the shins perpendicular to the floor and relax the thigh muscles.
- Measure the distance from the hollow of the knees to the floor.
- Subtract one (1) to three (3) inches.

The resulting measurement is the correct height for the top of the chair seat

D. GLARE

Sometimes glare and poor lighting makes it difficult to read the computer screen or the copy. The following are some hints in improving the workstation lighting. To control glare:

- Adjust the screen's brightness and contrast controls to compensate for reflections on the screen.
- Close the blinds or pull the shades to block daylight coming through a window from behind the terminal.
- Try to eliminate or adjust any intense light source shining directly into the eyes.
- Adjust the angle of the screen to minimize the glare.

One can minimize the strain of reading in a dimly lit room by using a small task light. Make sure the light is positioned so it does not cause glare or reflect on the screen.

SECTION VII-16 LOCKOUT/TAGOUT

The procedure for tagging out defective equipment for reasons of safety is as follows:

1. Shut off equipment.
2. Place a warning tag, signed by the employee, stating the reason, date and time.
3. Report to your Supervisor immediately.
4. The Supervisor and the employee will go to the equipment and make a personal inspection of the problem. If the Supervisor is in agreement that the equipment is unsafe to operate, he will countersign the tag. The Supervisor will take the necessary action to have the equipment made safe to operate. When the tag, signed by the employee and Supervisor, has been placed on the equipment, that tag shall not be removed or the equipment operated until the unsafe condition has been repaired and corrected.
5. The employee correcting the unsafe condition noted on the equipment shall sign and date and time the tag indicating that the equipment has been repaired and is safe to operate then notify the Supervisor of the equipment, who shall put the equipment back in service.
6. Should there be some disagreement between the employee who placed the warning tag on the equipment and his Supervisor regarding the alleged unsafe condition they shall:
 - a. Review the problem with their Supervisor.
 - b. If the employees cannot agree, the Safety Director shall be called.
 - c. The decision of the Safety Director shall be final.

SECTION VII-17 SPACE HEATER SAFETY

1. Space heaters should be inspected annually before use.
2. Heaters shall be located out of traffic and away from furniture, draperies, and anything combustible.
3. Be aware of high surface temperature and stay far enough away to avoid igniting clothing.
4. Whenever possible, use heaters with a thermostat control.
5. Avoid the use of extension cords for portable heaters. If one is absolutely necessary, use heavy duty cords appropriate for the wattage of the heater.
6. Never place a heater near a source of water. Use caution when using an electric heater in the bathroom; accumulation of moisture could cause electric shock.

SECTION VII-18 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT² (PPE)

It is the responsibility of each employee to use personal protective equipment.

A. *EYE SAFETY*

It is important to keep flying objects, dust, rust, vapors, heat and liquid splashes out of the eyes. Safety glasses, goggles or face shields are required whenever there is danger of exposing the eyes to flying particles, caustic substances or harmful light rays. Eye and face protection must be used whenever there is a probability of something entering the eye. All eye protection must meet ANSI Z87.1 regulations. Welders are required to use the proper shaded lenses for the type of work they are performing.

In areas designated for eye protection, everyone must wear eye and face protection, including employees performing the job, those working nearby and visitors.

Safety glasses, goggles or face shields must meet the following requirements:

1. Provide adequate protection against particular hazards for which they are designed;
2. Be reasonably comfortable when worn under the designated conditions;
3. Fit snugly without interfering with the movement of the wearer,
4. Be durable;
5. Be capable of being disinfected;
6. Be easily cleaned; and
7. Be kept in good repair.

Safety goggles/glasses worn over regular glasses must be comfortable and not disturb the adjustment of corrective lenses. All employees should check their safety glasses before wearing.

1. The brow protector should fit against the face to help protect against particles entering the eye.
2. The glasses should fit snugly, not tightly, without eyelashes hitting the lenses.
3. If there is a headband, it should fit snugly.
4. Lenses should be kept clean.
5. Lenses should be kept free of scratches, cracks or pitting.
6. The brow and side protectors should be in good condition.
7. Glasses used by different employees should be disinfected before being used by

² PPE Personal Protective Equipment is meant to be specific to the situation, event or work detail. Example: Requirements for PPE for a Fire Fighter , Public Works traffic flagger or an EMT would all be specific to each job.' Requirements specific to jobs will be referenced in the appropriate sections and will be enforced by the immediate supervisor for each area..

another employee.

EYE SAFETY continued

Contact lenses are not a substitute for safety glasses. Contact lenses pose a special threat. Hazardous dusts, gases, vapors, or liquids can get trapped between lenses and eyes.

According to OSHA 1910.151, where a person's eyes or body may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within the work area for immediate emergency use.

B. WELDING EYE SAFETY

Workers or other persons adjacent to the welding area must be protected from the rays by noncombustible or flameproof screens or shields or they must wear appropriate welding safety goggles.

1. Helmets or hand shields must be used during all welding or cutting operations.
2. Helpers or attendants must be provided with the proper eye protection.
3. All filter lenses and plates must meet ANSI Z87.1 standards for transmission of radiant energy.

C. HEAD PROTECTION

Head protection equipment (hard hats) should be worn where there is a possible danger of head injuries from overhead impact of falling objects. Hardhats must meet ANSI-Z89.1 standards. Hardhats must be worn in designated hardhat areas.

1. Wear your hardhat on your head!
2. The shell and suspension of the hardhat should be checked daily to make sure they're in good condition.
3. Do not carry anything in your hardhat, do not use as a bucket or step stool.
4. Do not paint the shell. Solvents may soften the material.

D. HAND SAFETY

Appropriate hand protection will be required where employees are exposed to injurious chemicals or abrasive materials that have the potential for hand injuries. Gloves of an appropriate type shall be worn when handling rough, sharp, and/or hot materials, as well as chemically active substances.

HAND SAFETY continued

There are three (3) types of hand injuries:

1. Traumatic injury following an accident.
2. Contact with substances that damage the skin.
3. Repetitive motion problems caused by overuse of muscle groups in the hands.

E. TYPES OF GLOVES

- Rubber, vinyl, or neoprene gloves are for use with caustic chemicals such as acids, cleansers, and petroleum products.
- Leather gloves protect against sparks, rough surfaces, and scraping objects.
- Metal mesh gloves protect hands from knives, blades, or other sharp instruments.
- Plastic-film gloves protect against contact in injury from mild substances.
- Cloth gloves provide traction for holding slippery objects, insulate to protect against moderate heat or cold, and protect hands from sharp edges.
- Aluminized fabric or other special materials protect hands against intense heat.
- Insulated gloves are often made of rubber and worn underneath leather gloves as protection against electrical shock and burns.

F. FOOT PROTECTION

Safety shoes or boots must be worn where they are required. The Safety Director, Department Head and/or Supervisor will determine which operations require foot protection. In the event of a disagreement among the Safety Director; Department Head and/or Supervisor, the Safety Director shall be the determining authority. Safety shoes or boots must meet ANSI Z41.1 standards.

1. There are different types of shoes for different jobs.
2. Wear shoes that fit properly.
3. Steel toed boots are required where employees work with heavy equipment, heavy objects or any machinery that could cause foot injury.
4. Electricians should wear electrical hazard safety footwear.
5. If the job does not require safety shoes, select sturdy work shoes that will give sufficient support.
6. Inspect shoes regularly for damage that may expose feet to injury.
7. Never wear defective footwear on the job.

G. CLOTHING

Employees will wear appropriate clothing for the type work they are performing. The Safety Director, Department Head, and/or Supervisor will determine appropriate clothing according to job classification. **In the event of a disagreement between the Safety Director, Department Head and/or Supervisor, the Safety Director shall have the determining authority.**

1. All employees will wear full length trousers (no short pants).
 - a. Exceptions - Employees whose main job performance remains within the confines of an office setting may dress in a manner considered to be professionally acceptable. This too shall be at the discretion of the Safety Director, Department Head and/or Supervisor. In the event of a disagreement between the Safety Director, Department Head and/or Supervisor, the Safety Director shall have determining authority.
2. All employees will wear shirts at all times. Sleeveless shirts and/or tank tops will not be tolerated. If, in the opinion of the Safety Director, Department Head and/or Supervisor, long sleeve shirts are applicable, then long sleeve shirts shall be the required attire. In the event of a disagreement between the Safety Director, Department Head and/or Supervisor, the Safety Director shall have the determining authority.
3. Read and follow all manufacturers' instructions.
4. Check clothing for wear and tear.
5. Do not wear contaminated clothing. Clothing shall be decontaminated or discarded as soon as feasible.
6. When operating or working with machinery, make sure all clothing fits properly. Loose fitting clothing can contribute to accidents.
7. Dress properly according to current temperatures. Beware of heat sickness. Avoid dehydration.

H. VESTS, LIFELINES AND SAFETY NETS

In jobs involving potential fall hazards, safety belts, buoyant work vests, lifelines body harnesses, and/or lanyards must be used.

1. If there is a danger of falling into water while working, a Coast Guard approved life jacket or buoyant vest must be used.
2. Personal floatation devices must be maintained in a safe condition. Damaged devices must be removed from service.
3. Where working surfaces at river banks that slope so steeply an employee could slip or fall into the water, the outer perimeter of the working surface must be protected by posting or other portable protection such as roping off. Employees must wear a personal flotation device.
4. Flagmen and night workers who might be struck by moving vehicles, need suits or vests designed to reflect light.
5. Always inspect lifelines and safety belts carefully before each use. Check for signs of deterioration such as torn fibers. Inspect lifeline attachments carefully.
6. If lifelines are used where they may be cut or damaged accidentally, such as by contact with sharp edges, they must be padded or protected.
7. Body harnesses are recommended for fall arrest systems.
8. Lanyards must be at least ½ inch nylon or the equivalent and should be short enough to allow a fall of less than six (6) feet. They must be firmly secured above the working surface.
9. Nets should be used when a lifeline or a safety belt is not practical. Forged steel, safety hooks, or shackles should be used to fasten a net to its supports. The mesh should be no larger than six (6) inches by six (6) inches.
10. The nets should extend beyond the edge of the work surface. Safety nets should be tested to ensure that they are tight enough to prevent an employee from making contact with any surface or structure.
11. **Rope should have a strength of 5,400 pounds.**

ALWAYS WEAR THE REQUIRED PROTECTIVE GEAR EVEN IF THE JOB WILL

"ONLY TAKE A MINUTE"

NEVER TAKE SHORTCUTS

CHAPTER VIII DISCIPLINARY ACTION

A. FOR SAFETY VIOLATIONS AND PREVENTABLE INJURIES

It is every employee's responsibility to perform their duties in a safe manner. If an employee fails to utilize required and provided safety equipment or violates established safety procedures he/she may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. If the violation invokes an injury with lost work time, the employee may also be subject to a loss of supplemental disability benefits and a reduction in workers' compensation benefits. The Safety Director will investigate and determine preventability of work related accidents and injuries as necessary.

B. MINIMUM MANDATORY CORRECTIVE ACTIONS FOR SAFETY VIOLATIONS OR PREVENTABLE INJURIES

These guidelines reflect the MINIMUM corrective action to be taken for safety violations or preventable injuries.

If in the opinion of the Safety Director it should be determined that the Department Head, Foreman, or Supervisor of an employee that has violated a provision of this safety policy knew or should have known of the violation and failed to take corrective action then the Department Head, Foreman or Supervisor shall be subject to the same disciplinary action as the employee. Safety violations or preventable injuries will follow progressive corrective action within the guidelines.

If an offense occurs within twenty-four (24) months of a previous offense, then the next step in progressive corrective action will be taken. If more than twenty-four (24) months have elapsed since an offense, then the previous offense will not be used to support the next step in corrective action.

Any violation involving the failure of an employee to utilize provided safety clothing or equipment shall result in the immediate suspension of the employee by the County without pay until such time as the violation is corrected.

Any combination of five (5) PREVENTABLE offenses within twenty-four (24) months will be cause for termination.

Progressive discipline is calculated using a rolling 24-month basis. After twenty four (24) months, a violation will burn off and not be used for progressive discipline under these guidelines.

All safety violations and injuries will be judged by the Safety Director for preventability.

Supplemental disability benefits may be denied where the employee is injured and loses time from work due to a preventable accident or in any instance where the employee is not wearing a seat belt.

CHAPTER IX STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

FOR PHONES, TOBACCO PRODUCTS, ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND ALCOHOL

Personal phone calls and conversations should be limited and completed as quickly as possible. Personal conversations or phone calls must cease immediately to take care of public business or the work-related needs of a co-worker.

- A. **CELL PHONES** – At no time shall a County employee use a cell phone on an active call or be texting on a cell phone while driving in a moving County vehicle. All safety violations and/or injuries as a result of such action will be judged by the Safety Director for preventability and will be dealt with in a manner consistent with the offense as set forth in the employee’s Personnel Policies and Procedure Manual, up to and including termination.

- B. **TOBACCO USE** – The use of tobacco products is prohibited in government buildings, vehicles, or in all pieces of heavy equipment. This applies to cigars, cigarettes, dip or any other tobacco product that any employee may use. All safety violations of such action will be judged by the Safety Director for preventability and will be dealt with in a manner consistent with the offense as set forth in the employee’s Personnel Policies and Procedure Manual, up to and including termination.

- C. **ELECTRONIC DEVICES** – The use of personal recording or playback devices will be reserved for break time or lunch time. At no time is an employee to be distracted by listening/using a personal electronic device while driving a County vehicle or operating a piece of equipment. Employees doing manual labor while in the employ of the County are to follow the above guidelines as well. All safety violations of such action will be judged by the Safety Director for preventability and will be dealt with in a manner consistent with the offense as set forth in the employee’s Personnel Policies and Procedure Manual, up to and including termination.

- D. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** - The use of alcoholic beverages or other intoxicants is expressly forbidden during working hours. The use of any controlled substance as prohibited by law, except prescription drugs being used as prescribed by a licensed physician, is also prohibited during working hours as well as other than working hours for on call employees. Employees must comply with the County’s Drug-Free Workplace Policy.

CHAPTER X

BASIC REQUIREMENTS & SAFETY RULES

FOR PROJECTS / JOB SITES

The following are the basic requirements and safety rules mandated by the Columbia County Board of Commissioners. Please see that all personnel within your realm abide by these; personnel who do not comply with the following will result in removal from the jobsite. A repeat violator will be terminally removed from the jobsite.

1. **HARD HATS** – OSHA approved non conductive hard hats shall be worn by **ALL** personnel on that project site **AT ALL TIMES**. Metal hard hats will not be allowed. The bill of the hard hat will be worn in front at all times. Alterations or modifications of the hard hat or hard hatliner shall be prohibited.
2. **SAFETY GLASSES** – Approved safety glasses (bearing the Z87 label on the frames) shall be worn by ALL personnel on the project site during operations producing potential eye injury hazards. Clear lens safety glasses are required when working inside buildings. Remember, additional eye and face protection such as mono goggles and face shields are required for such operations as grinding, jack hammering, CMU block saws, chopsaws, utilizing compressed air or handling of chemicals, acid and caustic materials. Burning goggles for cutting, burning or brazing and welding hoods for welding are required.
3. **CLOTHING** – Clothing must provide adequate protection to the body.
 - a. **WORK BOOTS** – Sturdy work boots with rigid, slip resistant soles which give adequate protection to the feet and ankles are required. *Sneakers, sandals and other lightweight footwear will not be allowed.*
 - b. **PANTS** – Only long pants in good condition should be worn on project site. *Shorts and sweat pants will not be allowed.*
 - c. **SHIRTS** – Shirts must be full length and have at least a t-sleeve and should be worn at all times. *Tank tops and going shirtless will not be allowed.*
4. **FIREARMS** – Firearms are not allowed on site. The possession of any firearm on the jobsite will result in immediate termination.
5. **ELECTRICAL TOOLS/CORDS** – ALL electrical tools and cords shall be checked. Unacceptable tools will be immediately removed from use. This shall be part of the Assured Grounding Program. Assured Grounding or G.F.C.I. shall be used for all electrical tools.

6. **COMPRESSED AIR** – Crowfoot connections on air hoses shall be wired to prevent accidental disconnection. Compressed air shall not be used to dust off hands, face or clothing.
7. **FLAMMABLE LIQUID CONTAINERS** – Flammable liquids shall be stored in approved safety containers. Safety container must also have a self-closing valve. Suitable fire extinguishing equipment shall accompany any flammable liquid containers.
8. **HOISTING EQUIPMENT** – All cranes shall have a current Certification Sticker. Certification shall be performed by an independent crane certification company.
9. **FALL PROTECTION** – Each Trade Contractor is responsible for training its employees in the hazards associated with working at heights of six (6) feet and higher.
 - a. **SAFETY HARNESS & LANYARDS** – Safety harness and lanyards shall be worn and adequately secured by any person subject to a fall hazard of more than six (6) feet. Each Trade Contractor is responsible for providing and maintaining proper Fall Protection Systems for its employees. Workers using their lanyards to access the work or to position themselves on a wall or column, etc. must use an additional safety lanyard for fall protection.
 - b. **LIFELINES** – Lifelines shall be erected to provide Fall Protection where work is required in areas where permanent protection is not in place. All lifelines shall be capable of supporting five thousand, four hundred (5,400) pounds. Vertical lifelines shall be used in conjunction with an approved type rope grab device.
10. **LADDERS** – All ladders must be in safe condition without broken rungs or split side rails and have a two-hundred fifty (250) pound duty rating. Damaged ladders shall be removed from service. Ladders shall be secured at the top and bottom, and extend three (3) feet past the walking surface. Metal ladders around electrical work are prohibited. Ladder training is required by all workers.
11. **PETS** – No pets will be allowed on job site.
12. **RADIOS** – No radios other than 2-way, VHF or cellular will be allowed on job site.
13. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES & ILLEGAL DRUGS** – Alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are not allowed on site. Drugs prescribed by a physician must be registered with the County Superintendent. The use or possession of illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages on the jobsite will result in immediate termination.

14. **DRUG TESTING** – In the event of an accident involving personal injury or damage to property, the person or persons involved in any way may be required to perform drug testing.
15. **SMOKING** – Smoking will not be allowed within the structure.
16. **FOUL LANGUAGE** – No foul language is allowed on jobsite.
17. **CLEANUP** – Housekeeping shall be an integral part of the job. Supervisors and employees are responsible for keeping their work areas clean and hazard free. Cleanup is required every day or more often if conditions warrant or when directed by the County.
18. **REPORTING UNSAFE CONDITIONS** – Report all unsafe conditions and near accidents to the County Superintendent so corrective action can be taken.
19. **INJURY REPORTS** – A copy of all Injury Reports shall be submitted to the County Superintendent immediately following the occurrence.
20. **CONDUCT AT PROJECT SITE** – “HORSEPLAY” on the jobsite is strictly prohibited. Running on the jobsite is allowed only in extreme emergencies.
21. **SPEED LIMIT** – Jobsite speed limit is ten (10) mph. Riding as a passenger on any equipment is prohibited unless the equipment has the safe capability of transporting personnel and was intended for such use.
22. **GLASS** – Glass bottles or container are not permitted on site.
23. **DRINKING WATER** – Each Trade Contractor shall provide adequate drinking water for its employees. Drinking water containers are for drinking water and ice only. Placing items such as drinks, food, etc. in the water coolers will not be allowed. An adequate supply of disposable cups shall be supplied. The “common drinking cup” is not allowed.
24. **TRAINING** - Each Trade Contractor is responsible to train its employees in the hazards associated with the work, as mandated by OSHA. Each Trade Contractor must properly document its employees training. Mandated training includes, but is not limited to the following: ladders, scaffolding, trenching, oxygen-acetylene, haz-com, respiratory, laser, power actuated tools, first aid/CPR, signaling, hearing protection, woodworking tools, fire protection, cranes & derricks, roofing work, and general safety & health provisions, etc.

25. **OSHA SAFETY STANDARDS** – Each Trade Contractor shall comply with the provisions of the “Construction Safety Act and the Occupational Safety Health Act of 1970”. These regulations shall be followed. Each Trade Contractor must keep a copy of OSHA Construction Standards (1926) and OSHA General Industry Standards (1910) at jobsite.
26. **INSPECTIONS** - All notifications for cover up inspections will go through the County Superintendent providing one working day in advance after completion of work so to allow ample time for Building Inspector, Architect or Engineer to visit site. They shall have the opportunity to witness all tests and observe all work prior to being concealed.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINIMUM MANDATORY CORRECTIVE ACTIONS FOR
SAFETY VIOLATIONS OR PREVENTABLE INJURIES**

These guidelines reflect the corrective actions to be taken for Safety Violations or Preventable Injuries.

| VIOLATION | 1ST OFFENSE | 2ND OFFENSE | 3RD OFFENSE | 4TH OFFENSE | 5TH OFFENSE |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Without Injury | Written Reprimand | 1 day suspension | 3 days suspension | 5 days suspension | Termination |
| With injury No lost time | Written Reprimand | 3 days suspension | 5 days suspension | Termination | |
| With injury Lost time | Denial of supplemental disability benefits | 3 days suspension & denial of supplemental benefits | Termination & denial of supplemental disability benefits | | |

DISCIPLINARY ACTION – Continued

Progressive discipline is calculated using a rolling twenty four (24) month basis. After 24 months, a violation will burn off and not be used for progressive discipline under these guidelines. If an offense occurs within twenty four (24) months of a previous offense, then the next step in progressive corrective action will be taken. If more than twenty four (24) months have elapsed since an offense, then the previous offense will not be used to support the next step in corrective action under these guidelines.

Any violation judged PREVENTABLE by the Safety Director, that reflects a flagrant disregard by the employee for his/her safety, the safety of others, property damage, or an excessive number of combined violations in the categories listed above, may result in more severe disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Any combination of five (5) PREVENTABLE violations within a rolling twenty four (24) months will result in termination. All safety violations and injuries will be judged by the Safety Director to determine preventability. Supplemental disability benefits may be denied where the employee is injured and loses time from work due to a preventable accident or in any instance where the employee was not wearing a seat belt.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVED:

BY:  _____ Date: 4/7/11
Jody DuPree, Chairperson
Board of County Commissioners

ACRONYMS

| | |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| BVM | BAG VALVE MASK |
| EMS | EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES |
| EPA | ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY |
| GPM | GALLONS PER MINUTE |
| IC | INCIDENT COMMAND |
| LEL | LOWER EXPLOSIVE LIMIT |
| MSDS | MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS |
| NFPA | NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION |
| NRR | NOISE REDUCTION RATING |
| PASS | PERSONAL ALERT SAFETY SYSTEM |
| PPE | PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT |
| SCBA | SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS |
| TLV | THRESHOLD LIMIT VALUE |
| VFD | VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT |