



Memorandum

MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Reviewed by W/WM Date 12/14/07
General Manager

Date: December 14, 2007
To: General Manager
From: Safety Manager
Subject: 3rd Quarter Review of Employee Injuries & Property Loss Incidents For 2007

Employee Injuries

In the 3rd quarter the frequency of reportable injuries increased with 11 new claims; however it appears at this time that there will not be a year-to-year increase over the 22 claims recorded in 2006. In regard to injury severity, 3 injuries resulted in 22 “lost days” (employee unable to work because of the injury); 6 injuries involved a total of 168 days of “modified duty” (employee not able to perform all regular duties); and 2 injuries were first aid claims. Staff is working closely with the claims administrator to expedite the disposition of the claims wherever possible to close the claim and minimize incurred costs. Table 1 provides details of each injury.

All injury events are analyzed to determine the root cause(s) and reduce to re-occurrence. For example, the injury to the employee’s right thumb on August 15th resulted in 13 lost days, the highest number in the quarter. In the investigation, we learned it was failure to use an appropriate tool that led to the injury. The outcome of this investigation leads to the following improvements:

- Departmental development of standards for tools used and specific instructions that only approved tools can be used. If we do not have the approved tool, the Equipment Maintenance Manager will evaluate if it is cost effective to purchase the tool or contract out the job;
- “Use the right tool for the right job” and “Hand and Power Tool Safety” training for affected employees in repair and maintenance departments.

Another example is illustrated with the injury that occurred on September 15th. A District employee had been driving a District roll-off truck repetitively from the MRF to the landfill and later reported low-back pain. He believed that the bumpy road contributed to his injury. If he had reported the road conditions to his supervisor, the opportunity to evaluate and correct the road conditions may have minimized or avoided this injury. The outcome of this investigation leads to improvement as follows:

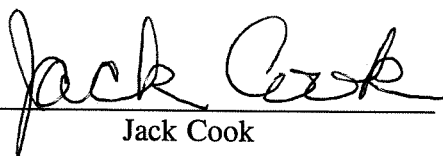
- Staff held safety tailboard meeting with affected employees on reporting unsafe conditions. Employees have been reminded that safety is everyone’s responsibility and to report unsafe conditions immediately;
- MRF staff is scheduling rotation of drivers whenever possible;

Back strains have always been a concern and as a result, more effort has gone into back training this year. Multiple approaches are being employed including on-line training on back injury prevention, video training on back safety, lifting techniques, slips and trip safety, and prevention of falls. On December 13th, Marta Lynch, Occupational Therapist from the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, conducted interactive training sessions on back injury prevention for all employees.

Property Loss/Incidents

Property loss/incidents for the third quarter totaled five as follows:

1. An employee was pushing the wood pile in the MRF when a piece of plywood fell over the back of the Cat 938G loader bucket cracking the windshield causing \$834 damage.
2. An employee operating the loader was carrying the bucket too low and clipped the manhole cover causing \$3,500 damage to cover and surrounding concrete at the Last Chance.
3. An employee was pushing the woodpile and a piece of wood hit the side of a customer's vehicle. The subsequent claim was settled.
4. A customer in the MRF knocked down by a piece a wire being pulled across by a loader, sustaining injuries to right arm and damage to customer's vehicle. The subsequent claim was settled.
5. A customer fell off the back of his own truck while unloading on the tipping floor and hit his head on the concrete floor.



Jack Cook

TABLE 1

2007 3rd Quarter Injuries and Costs

Date	Type of Injury	Body Part/s	Operation	Description of activity when injury occurred	Lost days	Modified Duty Days	Incurred Cost *
1 08/14/07	Strain	Back	Site	EE tripped and fell while carrying a fence stake.	0	0	7,527
2 08/15/07	Irritation	Rt Hand	Site	EE reported a rash on right hand.	0	0	1,500
3 08/15/07	Crush	Rt Thumb	Mech-Shop	EE's right thumb was smashed while using a portable press.	13	17	6,590
4 08/17/07	Other	Legs	MRF-Other	EE reported cumulative pain in both legs	0	0	11,992
5 08/21/07	Strain	Back	Mech-Shop	EE felt a pop in lower back when bending over to tie shoe.	7	0	14,472
6 08/28/07	Sprain	Lt Knee	MRF-Sort	EE slipped on wet muddy floor in the MRF.	0	3	1,500
7 09/04/07	Irritation	Rt arm/lip	MRF-Sort	EE came in contact with poison oak/ivy.	0	2	500
8 09/04/07	Strain	Back	MRF - other	EE felt pain in lower back & legs after pressure washing	0	78	10,250
9 09/11/07	Strain	Rt Shoulder	MRF - other	EE strained Rt shoulder while unhooking hoses from truck trailer	0	29	18,074
10 09/15/07	Strain	Back	MRF-other	EE felt a strain in lower back after operating a roll-off truck.	0	39	1,500
11 09/28/07	Irritation	arms/hands	MRF-Sort	EE broke out in a rash on various parts of body while sorting	2	0	500
Total					22	168	\$74,405

* Incurred cost = paid to date + future anticipated cost