



# Memorandum

## MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Reviewed by Wmm Date 1/9/09  
General Manager

DATE: January 9, 2009  
TO: General Manager  
FROM: Safety Manager  
SUBJECT: Midyear Review of Employee Injuries and Property Loss Incidents from July 2008 through December 2008

### Summary

During the six month period from July 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008, there were 6 injuries as well as 12 accidents and 8 third-party events.

### Employee Injuries

One injury to a District employee is one too many and signals a need for improvement. Nevertheless, staff is pleased to report that employee injuries for the first six months of this fiscal year are significantly down from last year in both the total number and the severity of injuries. The attached Employee Injury Report provides additional details.

During this period, 6 injuries were reported resulting in 9 "lost days" (employee unable to work because of the injury) and 91 "modified days" (employee able to work with modifications to usual duties). During the same period in 2007, there were 19 reportable injuries that resulted in 28 lost days and 250 modified days.

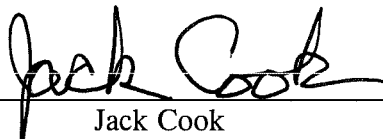
Staff believes this reduction of overall injuries and costs are partly due to staff's efforts in injury prevention training with an emphasis in back safety. Such efforts have included tailgate meetings, video training, and computer based "on-line" training to reinforce safe lifting tactics. In addition, our partnership with Community Hospital of Monterey Peninsula (CHOMP) to address health and wellness issues continues; representatives came to our site and provided additional training about proper back care and lifting techniques. Fortunately, there were no back strain/sprains reported during this period. We will continue focused training in 2009.

Worker's Compensation claim costs were \$15,134 for the period compared to \$102,000 time last year. Although this is a very significant reduction, staff is aware that such costs are fluid and will change over the course of on-going medical treatment and other expenses associated with an injury. For example, the total costs related to the injuries occurring in the same period last year, have now grown from \$102,000 to over \$291,000. We continue to work with the claim administrators, Bragg and Associates, to close claims as soon as possible to limit ongoing costs.

### Property Loss Incidents

The record for property losses during this period, compared to last year, is not as positive; as shown in the attached Property Loss Incidents Report. There has been an increase with 12 accidents and 8 third-Party events, compared to 8 accidents and 3 third-party events for the same period last fiscal year. Property loss expenses have more than doubled, from \$9,920 to \$19,641; however, most of the expenses (\$11,000) are related to one incident. Of these costs, our insurance provider, Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA), has reimbursed the District \$7,783. The District expects to recover more dollars from SDRMA related to two other accidents.

Staff is taking measures to decrease the frequency of accidents. The first on September 17<sup>th</sup>, the District held a "Safety Stand Down" in which employees stopped work for 15 minutes to focus awareness on safety and to discuss an increase of accidents. Second, staff recognizes that most accidents involve operating equipment and/or driving vehicles, therefore Defensive Driving, Safe Backing, and other related training courses are being conducted and employees are expected to complete the program as soon as practical.

  
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Jack Cook

Attachments

**Monterey Regional Waste Management District  
Employee Injury Report: July 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008**

Date	Injury Type	Body Part	Work Area	Days		Description / Work Activity	Status	Claim Costs				
				Lost	Mod			Paid	Reserves	Total		
1 07/09/08	Contusion	Eye	MRF	1	0	EE was hit in the eye while working on the S-1 shaker screen.	Open	\$192	\$1,308	\$1,500		
2 08/16/08	Strain	Finger	MRF	0	84	EE caught little finger in steering wheel while driving roll-off truck.	Open	\$899	\$10,915	\$11,814		
3 09/05/08	Other	Thigh	LFG	0	0	EE was bit on the right thigh by an insect while working in the oil pit.	Open	\$122	\$378	\$500		
4 11/13/08	Contusion	Thumb	Admin	0	7	EE caught thumb on the board room door handle.	Open	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500		
5 12/02/08	Laceration	Arm	Site	5	0	EE cut his right forearm while cutting field plastic.	Open	To be determined				
6 12/09/08	Laceration	Leg	MRF	3	0	EE was cut by a window frame & glass while helping a customer unload.	Open	To be determined				
<b>Total:</b>								<b>9</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>\$1,213</b>	<b>\$14,101</b>	<b>\$15,314</b>

Monterey Regional Waste Management District

Property Loss Incidents/Third Part Claims Report: July 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008

Property Loss Incidents

	Date	Location	Description	Cost
1	07/10/08	Shop	Truck powered by remote starter went through shop doors; mechanic failed to set brakes/use wheel chocks.	\$11,000
2	08/01/08	MRF	EE was operating excavator with radiator door open, the door was caught and damaged.	\$100
3	08/06/08	MRF	EE did not cross the seam at correct angle which resulted in the cutting edge bolts being sheared off.	\$150
4	08/16/08	MRF	Engine access door opened during operation, was caught on bunker wall and bent.	\$150
5	09/03/08	MRF	EE drove away with hydraulic hose connected.	\$250
6	09/10/08	MRF	Roll off truck entered work area of the loader; the loader struck the truck as it passed behind it.	\$800
7	09/15/08	Site	EE backed the 740 articulated truck into the 744 loader. (Mod 3 stability burm, clean dirt pile.)	\$2,500
8	09/16/08	LCM	EE hit the LCM District truck with the box van when his foot slipped off the brake pedal.	\$2,500
9	09/22/08	MRF	EE struck leveler arm of loader with excavator while dropping material into bucket.	\$100
10	09/22/08	MRF	EE hit the loader bucket with the grapple of the excavator that he was operating.	\$50
11	10/01/08	MRF	EE backed out with clamp too high and broke water line.	\$250
12	10/08/08	MRF	Operator did not notice a gap between mister plate & k-rail; bottom of mister plate was broken by grapple.	\$1,000
<b>Property Loss Incidents:</b>				<b>\$18,850</b>

Third Party Claims

	Date	Location	Description	Cost
1	07/22/08	MRF	The rear window on the pick up of a customer broke while customer was unloading on the tip floor.	\$0
2	07/25/08	LCM	Customer's vehicle was hit by a shopping cart when it was caught by the wind and started to roll.	\$678
3	08/07/08	Site	District vehicle and Sunland truck "bumped";no damage to district vehicle, minor damage to Sunland truck.	\$0
4	08/07/08	CB Lane	Truck bed overturned when turning onto CB lane from Del Monte; CHP on scene.	\$0
5	08/12/08	LCM	Customer was selecting wood from the pile and stepped on a nail that was sticking out of a piece of wood.	\$113
6	08/14/08	Off-Site	Public Education van was involved in a vehicle to vehicle accident while driving to Marshall Elementary.	\$0
7	09/29/08	MRF	EE pushed tail gate of customer's trailer into trash pile with the loader.	\$0
8	11/04/08	LCM	Customer cut his finger on a sharp object in shopping cart when he reached into it.	\$0
<b>Third Party Claims:</b>				<b>\$791</b>
<b>Loss Total:</b>				<b>\$19,641</b>