

Team Topics - October 2021



SERVICE EXCELLENCE - Efficiency

Here are some past MVPs dealing with the ninth PROACTIVE principle.

Chris Merbitz, Deon Mendosa and Miguel Hernandez were asked to make a run to fire Station #2 to pick up surplus cleaned out in prep for an OSHA visit. In addition to this load, they took it on themselves to clean up around the back of the warehouse of items that had accumulated

there. Thank you!!

As COVID-19 precautions forced City Council and other board meetings to go virtual, Jay Heatherly has been an invaluable help to the City in setting up streaming and audio capabilities. He is always willing to problem solve and offer his tech expertise to ensure the public can still have access to their local government, even during the stay at home orders.

I would like to commend ENG Dylan Williams for completing his work to a very high standard and ensuring his apparatus is in top working order. Since Eng. Williams has stepped into his role as Engineer, he has found several key maintenance issues that if they were not reported could have caused catastrophic failure. He is thorough and efficient in his work and has taken a great initiative in ensuring safety and limited liability for the City.

Recently, a consultant performed a mock OSHA inspection on several City buildings. Upon assessment of the Water/Sewer warehouse at City Ops, she told me that in her years of safety work and including the twenty-two cities and counties she consults with, she has never seen a warehouse as orderly and clean as this one. She was amazed. Brad Duncan and LB Heatherly are to be commended for their effort and results.



SAFETY - Working Alone

For some employees, there will be times when job tasks require us to work alone. Working alone can be as simple as being at a location by yourself or where you cannot be seen or heard by another person. Working alone presents risks that you need to identify and make a plan for.

Based on the tasks and location, assess the following:

- How long will the job take to complete?
- What hazards will be encountered?
- Can you do higher risk tasks with a co-worker, rather than alone?
- How long after no response should the contact person wait before calling someone to check or call emergency services?
- What forms of communication are available?
- Is the work in an isolated location?
- Do I have any pre-existing medical conditions that may increase the risk?
- Does the work involve interacting with members of the public? How might being alone impact those interactions?

Mitigating the Hazards

After the hazards are understood, find steps to minimize the risk.

- Provide back-up communication when necessary
- Change the time of work to do solo tasks during the day, rather than early or late.
- In cases where the risk is deemed too high, use the buddy system and work in pairs.
- Always make sure there is a contact person who knows where you are, what you are doing, and when to expect you to be one. Think about individuals who may not have someone at home to notice if they do not arrive on time.

WORK SAFE. HAVE A PLAN. STAY IN CONTACT.

