

Team Topics - September 2021



SERVICE EXCELLENCE - Value Everyone

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

I'd like to thank Mike Huffman (Eng) for working with two Girl Scouts on their Silver Award Project. This is beyond normal job duties and takes patience dealing with youth. For the girls, it's a great exposure to the environment, City government and responsibility. Thanks Mike.

From a distance I could see Ross Henderson (PW) talking to 2 girls who were playing basketball. Ross walked over to his truck, retrieved 2 bottles of water & walked back to give them to the girls. This small gesture was a great example of customer service & building community.

Tower 9 crew (Capt. Tim Cagle, Eng. Tony Bentley, FF Colton Gasperson) were dispatched to an alarm activation at night and in the pouring rain. The activation was set off due to an AC Unit outside on the roof. Typically, crews shut down the unit to avoid any more issues. Tower 9 crew saw that a brand-new belt was lying next to the unit and took the extra 15 minutes to replace the belt for the business owner. They went above and beyond the job.

A 'pump up parade' was held at Hendersonville Elementary for 6th grader Marett before she traveled to Mission Children's Hospital to 'ring the bell' and celebrate her victory over childhood Leukemia. Officer Andrew Gunnin presented her with a special HPD challenge coin at the event. He became a friend to Marett and her family as he has counseled and encouraged her through the same childhood leukemia, he experienced and conquered.

Jonathan Own (WS) noticed a gentleman pulled near his jobsite. He went to give assistance and found out the guy had run out of gas and his battery dead. Jonathan stayed with his car why he walked down the block to get gas and then jump started his car for him. Jonathan is always assisting whenever he can.



SAFETY - Silica

Crystalline silica is a component of many construction materials including stone, concrete, cement, drywall, ceramic and brick. It becomes a problem when cutting, grinding, drilling, sand blasting or other routine construction activities involving these products creates respirable crystalline silica dust. The operator of the grinder, drill, saw or other tool, as well as coworkers and bystanders within a wide radius of the work being performed, will be exposed to the

particles.

When workers are exposed to silica, it can lead to many health risks including silicosis, pulmonary tuberculosis and even lung cancer.

All City employees doing jobs that may release silica dust **MUST** following one of the following safety practices.

1. **Wet Cutting** - Use devices that have an integrated water system that soaks the cutting area therefore keeping the dust from getting airborne.
2. **Vacuum Collection** - Some tools have a vacuum system to collect dust before it is released.
3. **Full or half-faced respirators** - If employees chose to wear a respirator during the work, they must have a medical exam and under go a fit-test to be sure the device fits correctly.

Other safety measures.

- Never eat, drink, or smoke in areas where silica dust is present. Wash your hands and face away from dusty areas before doing these things.
- A fan can be used with other methods, but shouldn't be the only way of removing dust.
- Stand away and up-wind of any potential dust.

