

'MAKE SAFETY A HABIT'

DEP's Safety Series
Volume 3, Issue 6



DEP South District is Making Safety A Habit!

Last month the South District Safety Committee held a safety poster contest. The employees were invited to submit posters individually and as teams. Eight posters were submitted with topics that included swimming pools, road construction, boating, and office storage areas, among others. The posters were judged by the Safety Committee based on content, clarity, and creativity.

The individual award was presented to Teresa Zilko-Miller for her poster on working outdoors. It is featured this month on the Safety and Loss Control webpage. The team award went to Ben Paswater and Chris Nappi for their boating awareness poster. The winners received a DEP Safety Program travel cup. The remaining participants received a pocket size first aid kit. Stay tuned! A safety poster from the program areas will be featured each month. Submit your posters to Kim Bundage.

DEP South District Safety Poster Contest



Some Simple Guidelines to Safe Boating

Boating can be fun, but it can also be DANGEROUS. Follow these simple guidelines and you can enjoy a day of fun-filled on-water activities.



- Properly maintain your boat's engine and battery and check fuel and oil levels.
- Check boating safety equipment like fire extinguishers, personal flotation devices, First Aid kit, and distress signals. Make sure there is at least one PFD for each passenger on your vessel.
- Bring with you: Navigational Charts, a Copy of Navigational Rules, a VHF Radio and/or charged Cell Phone, and a GPS.
- Know the waters you are boating in, save your engine and the weather.
- Fill out a Float Plan and notify someone where you are going and how long you will be there. Contact this person when you arrive back to the dock.
- Bring plenty of drinking water and sunscreen. Dehydration and sunburns are very common dangers of boating.
- Wear Polarized Sunglasses. They protect your eyes from harmful UV rays and cut down on glare, allowing you to see underwater obstructions.
- Never boat alone. Always bring a buddy.
- Complete a Boating Safety Course. Completing a boating class will give you a discount from most boat insurance providers and will increase your water safety skills.



Individual Category
1st Prize – Teresa Zilko-Miller

Group Category
1st Prize – Chris Nappi & Ben Paswater

Honorable Mentions

*If you work OUTSIDE...
Let this be your GUIDE...*

Baggy clothes
Liquids
Insect repellent
Sunscreen
Tinted glasses
Eat lightly
Rest in the shade



Brighten up a rainy day. Are your headlights on?



Submission by Ron Walters

Safety First

Preventing Accidents is everyone's Business!

a little care goes a long way

- It's a rotten world, it pays to slow down.
- way to minimize an accident.
- unnecessary pain.
- medical expenses.
- lost work time.
- and/or warnings.
- Permanent.
- Physical.
- Disability.



Submission by Adrian Sanchez-Gomez

Parents should control the frequency of taking a child to swimming

DROWNING IS PREVENTABLE

ALWAYS DESIGNATE A WATER WATCHER

Learn to swim

Do not use an inflatable or floatation device instead of "area reach" supervision.

Have A Home Pool?

Use multiple layers of protection.

Use a self-closing, self-latching gate.

Install a four-sided, isolation pool fence.



Submission by Julie McCaffrey-Spelman

Placing items in storeroom without supervision can be hazardous to our staff.



Please ask for Assistance Doretha or Yvonne

Submission by Laura Comer, Doretha Dick & Yvonne Figueroa

Be bright! Wear light colors at night. See ya.




Submissions by Ron Walters

BRUSH THE RUSH. Slow down for Safety during construction.



Catch Safety...

- on the road
- on the job
- at home





**Office of Greenways & Trails
Emphasizes Safety in All Phases of Operation**

The **Office of Greenways & Trails** requires safety training for all staff and volunteers before they are allowed to perform work on the state trails that includes use of power tools. **Kirk Marhefka**, Manager of the Nature Coast State Trail, Ranger **Tom Griffin**, and Lancaster Correctional Institution Officer **Jarrold Jones** continually provide safety training to GWT volunteers.

They are shown here participating in a discussion about the safe use of chainsaws and the Bandit Wood Chipper following the viewing of a safety video. **Safety First** is emphasized throughout all of the Office of Greenways & Trails' operations.



Southwest District Helps Protect Staff from H1N1

When the Southwest District (SWD) initially began to receive Department of Health and State Emergency Operation Center notices and media updates, along with information provided by local authorities regarding the H1N1 virus, they realized they needed an effective, timely way to coordinate all of the information and make it available to staff as soon as possible under the leadership of Safety Program Manager, Gordon Romeis. The SWD established a folder on their district common drive and began copying and pasting into word documents the important components of each advisory. In addition, the SWD assigned each document a descriptive name, the source, and the date and time of receipt. All advisories were made immediately available to staff. The SWD now has a chronological reference library.

Thanks to Ryan Pedigo, Director of Public Health Preparedness for Hillsborough County Department of Health, the district was generously provided with a supply of portable flu safety kits for SWD staff. Each plastic zipper bag contained hand sanitizer, Kleenex, and ten single-use disposable thermometers. The safety kits were well-received. Staff also commented that they believe that SWD Administration takes a true interest in their safety.

DEP Captures the Gold Again!

The Department won the Gold Medal safety award presented annually by the Department of Financial Services, Division. of Risk Management. The credit for this award goes to all of you who dedicate your time and energy making the Department a safe place to work. Your proactive safety attitudes continue to improve the Department's safety culture.

Please continue to actively promote the Department's safety process and continue to reach for the GOLD. Remember, each agency is judged on the Department of Financial Services' Best Management Practices which are included in the annual safety program evaluation each year. Don't forget to review last year's evaluation and be sure you are addressing each area of the evaluation.



5 Hurricane Safety Tips

Hurricane season is among us. Here are five necessary steps that should be taken for hurricane preparedness.

- 1 All important papers, special photos and CD's should be secured properly. Include social security cards, birth certificates, high school diplomas, titles and deeds to property. Photos of special occasions or loved ones cannot be replaced, so including these would be a good idea too.
- 2 If you live in hurricane-prone area, plan ahead and take a video or photos of your property before you leave. This will help you later with insurance claims that you'll need to file.
- 3 Consider booking a room in a motel in a nearby town or state. Make sure to get directions and put them in the car ahead of time. If you have pets, make sure the hotel is pet-friendly.
4. Organize a hurricane kit, including overnight clothes, batteries, flashlights, battery operated radio/television, bottled water, non-perishable foods, prescription medicines, and cash. Make sure to include sleeping gear if you plan on going to a temporary shelter. Board games or a deck of cards will come in handy in keeping children occupied and entertained.
5. If you decide to stay with home, board up windows or protect your windows from the wind by crisscrossing them with layers of duct or packing tape. Stay inside and stay put.