



Water Utilities Services
DEPARTMENTAL SAFETY PLAN

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Water Utilities Services DEPARTMENTAL SAFETY PLAN

I. SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

The City Manager has tasked each City of Waco department to institute an effective safety program. Therefore, Water Utilities Services has committed to establish and maintain a safe and healthy environment for our employees and the public through the implementation of an effective Departmental Safety Plan. Our plan will provide a systematic way to minimize incident frequency and severity, contribute to positive morale, effectively maintain city resources, and increase operational efficiency.

The following concepts are integral to the success of the Departmental Safety Plan. All Water Utilities Services employees are responsible for applying these concepts to each task and must work together as a team to achieve effective implementation.

1. The safety of employees will receive high priority in achieving objectives and goals.
2. Safe work methods always take precedence over expediency.
3. Incident prevention and efficient performance go hand-in-hand.
4. Safety must be integrated into every job task.
5. Safety is a team effort. Managers and supervisors are accountable for the proper training and supervision of their employees. Employees are responsible for following the rules and for working in a safe manner at all times.
6. Every effort will be made to reduce the frequency of losses that result in injury and suffering, property damage, and interruption of our service to the public.

I encourage each Water Utilities Services employee to play an active role in the safety program.

Thank you all for your contributions of service to the public.

Department Director

DATE

II. INTRODUCTION

A. The Water Utilities Services Departmental Safety Plan (hereafter referred to as the DSP) is designed to minimize hazardous exposure to each employee and the public we serve. The DSP is written in adherence to the City of Waco Incident Prevention Plan (hereafter referred to as the Plan.)

B. Remember, **no hazard is too small to be corrected before someone is hurt.**

C. Correct or report all unsafe conditions and unsafe practices that you observe to your supervisor. Report all incidents at once.

D. If you have a safety suggestion to make work safer for yourself and others, you should first inform your supervisor, Departmental Safety Officer (DSO), and/or department director. If your concern does not receive the attention you feel it deserves, complete an Employee Safety Suggestion Form – refer to attachment I – and forward it to the City Safety Coordinator. Employee Safety Suggestion Forms are located in the following areas: Collections and Distribution forms are located across from Work Order Group Office in bin with forms; (Riverside) Plant Mechanics forms are located in Instrument Technician Office; (Riverside) Water Operators forms are located in Operators room at Riverside Plant and across in the hall at Mt. Carmel plant; at WMARRS the forms are located in the Foyer on the desk across from the Operations Directors Office on desk. Ensure the DSO is aware of the safety concern before forwarding the Employee Safety Suggestion Form. From time to time your supervisor, DSO, and the city safety coordinator will issue additional incident prevention information.

E. Compliance with the DSP is a condition of employment. Disregard for accepted safety rules will result in disciplinary action, up to and including discharge from employment.

F. Questions and requests for additional information relative to the contents of the DSP should be directed to your supervisor, DSO, director, or city safety coordinator.

G. The DSP is designed to apply to every work condition and work area.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. *Corrective actions* are actions taken to minimize or eliminate an unsafe condition. Corrective actions can be taken through engineering or administrative controls. The Water Utilities Services director approves and implements all corrective actions related to the DSP.

B. *Engineering Controls* are built into a process to effect safety. Engineering controls may include, but are not limited to machine guards, ventilation, enclosure, and isolation.

C. *Exposure* means the state of the body coming in contact with a foreign substance, such as hot or cold weather, chemicals, radiation, blood borne pathogens, and infectious

diseases. Routes of exposure can include inhalation, ingestion, absorption, skin contact, or injection.

D. *Incident* means an occurrence that results in an injury, exposure, property damage, or near miss.

E. *Injury* means an incident that results in bodily harm. Injuries include, but are not limited to sprain/strain, cuts, bruises, scrapes, bone fractures, and fatalities.

F. *Near Miss* means an incident that does not result in injury, exposure, or property damage. Near miss reports are encouraged to prevent future injury, exposure, and property damage.

G. The National Safety Council defines a *Preventable incident* as any incident that results in property damage or personal injury in which the employee in question fails to exercise every reasonable precaution to prevent the incident. This is regardless of who was injured, what property was damaged, the extent of the injury or damage, or where the incident occurred.

H. *Property damage* means an incident that results in damage to public or private property.

IV. SAFETY RESPONSIBILITY

A. The **City Manager** has endorsed the city of Waco Incident Prevention Plan and encourages every employee to make a commitment to safety.

B. The Water Utilities Services **Director** is responsible for the establishment of an effective departmental safety plan.

C. The **City Safety Coordinator** is responsible for coordinating safety activities throughout the city, including receiving and assessing safety concerns of city employees. When work practices disregard accepted safety rules and threaten the safety and health of employees or citizens, the City Safety Coordinator has the responsibility to make suggestions to expedite safer conditions.

D. All Water Utilities Services **employees** are responsible for complying with the standards set forth in the DSP. Report any known safety deficiency to your department director, supervisor, DSO, or City Safety Coordinator.

E. Departmental Responsibilities

1. Water Utilities Services shall provide a place of employment that is free from recognized hazards that could result in incidents and ensure employees follow accepted safety rules. Use a job safety analysis to create safer work procedures for recognized hazardous tasks – refer to attachment III.
2. Implement an effective DSP, utilizing the guidelines set forth in the Plan.

3. Utilize current industry safety standards, if applicable.
4. Assign four DSO's: a Lead Department Safety Officer and one Plant DSO for Riverside, Mt. Carmel, and WMARSS.
5. Ensure that all incidents are documented and reported on time.
6. Ensure that proper training is done and recorded for the various divisions in the Water Utilities Services Department.

F. Departmental Safety Officers' Responsibilities

1. Provide support and information to other departmental employees in initiating and following the departmental plan.
2. Periodically evaluate the departmental plan and report findings to the department director.
3. Coordinate with the department director to delegate DSO responsibilities as needed.
4. Coordinate with the city safety coordinator on the departmental plan.
5. With the department director's approval, develop safety rules and encourage compliance with the departmental plan.
6. Conduct periodic evaluations of facilities, equipment, and work sites to ensure departmental safety rules are followed.
7. Promptly inform the department director of preventive or corrective actions that should be taken to correct unsafe conditions.
8. Review incident reports and recommend corrective actions.
9. With the department director's approval distribute safety alerts, conduct safety meetings, and maintain records as necessary for the Plan.
10. Notify the department director and employees of positive and negative safety trends that are identified by Risk Management and/or the DSO.
11. Coordinate actions with Risk Management when employees identify safety concerns.
12. The Lead DSO will coordinate the activities of the Plant DSO's.
13. The Lead DSO will distribute pertinent information to the Plant DSO's.
14. The Plant DSO's will ensure the actions requested by the Lead DSO are completed.
15. Research and teach applicable TCEQ regulations to supervisors and employees.

G. Supervisors' Responsibilities

1. Promote safety awareness and lead by example.
2. Train employees about the safety requirements of their jobs.
3. Identify potential hazards and take steps to improve safety.
4. Ensure that each new departmental employee receives safety orientation from Risk Management as soon as possible after beginning work.
5. Ensure that each new departmental employee receives a departmental safety orientation before beginning work or operating city equipment.
6. Monitor work areas and operations in order to minimize unsafe conditions, encourage safe work methods, and otherwise comply with the departmental plan.
7. Ensure appropriate safety equipment and protective devices are properly used for each job.

8. Take prompt corrective action when disregard of the departmental plan is observed.
9. Document and report all incidents as required by the Plan and/or the departmental plan.
10. Train affected employees how to operate new equipment in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations.
11. Train affected employees about changes in work procedures. Promote safety awareness and lead by example.
12. Train employees about the safety requirements of their jobs.
13. Instruct employees regarding consequences for violations of safety rules.
14. Teach applicable TCEQ regulations to employees.

H. Employees' Responsibilities

1. Follow the Plan, your departmental plan, and supervisory directives.
2. Evaluate each task before completing it and perform the task as safely as possible.
3. Report unsafe conditions that you discover to your supervisor, department director, DSO, or city safety coordinator.
4. Check equipment prior to operation to ensure it's safe to operate.
5. Keep individual work areas clean and orderly.
6. Use all safety equipment and personal protective equipment required for your job.
7. Do not modify or remove any safeguard from any piece of equipment.
8. Operate only equipment you have been authorized and instructed to safely use.
9. Lift and handle material properly: use your legs and not your back, grasp each load firmly, keep the load close to your body, and keep your back as straight as possible while lifting and lowering the load.
10. Ask for help when lifting heavy or large items.
11. Look for, report and eliminate any trip, fall or slip hazard.
12. Know the locations of fire fighting equipment and how to use it.
13. Know where the nearest exits are at all times.
14. Do not engage in any horseplay.
15. Immediately report all known incidents to a supervisor. If injured, notify a supervisor and seek immediate medical attention.
16. Assist others in complying with safety rules.
17. Understand the Right to Know Act and the Hazardous Communication Act.
18. Learn and follow the city and the departmental confined space entry program.
19. Learn and follow the city and the departmental trenching and excavation program.
20. Understand various TCEQ regulations as they pertain to job applications.

V. SAFETY ANALYSIS

A. Risk Management will complete a trend analysis by quarterly reviews of the previous 24 months of incident report forms, assessment reports, employee safety suggestions, injury data from the workers' compensation carrier, property damage reports, liability claims, and TWCC-1 forms (subject to privacy laws and city policies), to identify possible trends in incidents and/or unsafe conditions.

B. Risk Management will distribute the results of the analysis upon completion.

C. The lead Department Safety Officer will inform departmental employees of trends and hazard exposures that pertain to the department and city. Trends of incidents or hazard recurrences will be the focal point for departmental corrective actions and employee training.

D. Special emphasis shall be given to positive trends. Positive trends tell employees what is going well and reinforces the behavior causing favorable analysis.

E. The lead Department Safety Officer will outline corrective actions and employee training within no more than 30 days of receiving statistical analysis from Risk Management. A timeframe will be included with the outline for beginning corrective actions and employee training. The lead Department Safety Officer will follow up with necessary measures to ensure negative trends and hazard exposures are abated.

VI. RECORD-KEEPING

A. Water Utilities Services Record Keeping Responsibilities

1. Document employee safety training.
2. Submit departmental safety training reports to the city safety coordinator.
3. Maintain documents of incidents, employee training, audits, equipment/facility assessments, and any other documentation necessary to the DSP's effectiveness.
4. Provide access to blank employee and supervisor incident report forms.
5. Provide access to blank employee safety suggestion forms.
6. Maintain documentation required by the DSP in the department for a period of three years.

B. Locations of Records

1. Incident records will be maintained in the lead Department Safety Officers office.
2. Training records will be maintained in the lead Department Safety Officers office.
3. Annual formal self-audit records will be maintained in the lead Department Safety Officers office.
4. Equipment/facility assessment records will be maintained in the lead Department Safety office.

C. Federal Record-Keeping Requirements

Federal law requires that injury/exposure records be segregated from other employee records. The city has designated EHS as the depository for such medical records, to be kept separate from other records.

D. Incident Records

1. Employees shall record injuries/exposures, property damages, and near misses on an Employee Incident Report, attachment VII.
2. Supervisors shall record subordinates' injuries/exposures, property damages, and near misses on a Supervisor Incident Report, attachment VIII.
3. No injury documentation with the employees' names shall be maintained within the department.

E. Departmental Safety Meetings And Training

1. Safety training shall be documented on attachment V, Safety Meeting Report.
2. All safety training documentation shall be forwarded to the safety office.
3. If written tests are given, missed test questions should show the student's and instructor's initials next to the correct answer. The instructor will give the student instruction about the correct answer before the initials are written.

VII. EDUCATION & TRAINING

A. Safety Training Evaluation

Water Utilities Service Department shall evaluate its training needs based upon the previous 24 months of injuries, liability claims, employee safety suggestion forms, assessment forms, and property damage reports. Safety training should also be based upon supervisors and staff suggestions.

B. Safety Training Integration

Safety shall be integrated into all training objectives. This effort will ensure employees understand safety is a part of all aspects of their job.

C. New Employee Safety Orientation

Each department shall create a New Employee Safety Orientation Program – refer to attachment VI. Safety orientation demonstrates to new employees a departmental commitment to their well-being. The department shall ensure safety orientation provides new employees with information on job and department specific hazards. Employees should not be allowed to work or operate equipment before a departmental safety orientation is completed and training is documented.

New employee orientation items include:

1. Department employee policy and procedure
2. Departmental safety plan
3. City of Waco Incident Prevention Plan reviewed with the new employee
4. The departments Proper Protective Equipment requirements and usage
5. Review the daily hazards of the specific job of the new employee

6. Notify the new employee of general hazard associated with the Water Utilities Services Department
7. Past department safety issues in employee's area of responsibility.
8. Proper Driving habits and vehicle inspections.
9. Proper lifting and back safety for manhole lid removal
10. Proper lifting techniques for various daily job duties.
11. Office Safety for office employees.
12. Basic Right to Know Act
13. Basic Hazardous Material Communication Act
14. Locations of MSDS's
15. Fall Protection training as it pertains to job duties.
16. Confined Space Training and hazard recognition.
17. Trench Safety and Training and hazard recognition.
18. First Aid and CPR Training
19. Identify locations and proper use of Fire Extinguishers
20. Identify locations and use of First Aid Stations
21. Identify locations and use of Emergency Eye Wash Stations
22. Record keeping systems
23. Evacuation and emergency action procedures
24. Employee Safety Suggestion Forms
25. Employee Safety Responsibilities:
 - a. Reporting unsafe conditions
 - b. Reporting injuries in appropriate timeframe
 - c. Reporting property damage
 - d. Reporting near-misses
 - e. Equipment and tools assessment procedures
 - f. Care and proper use of equipment and tools.
26. Safety bulletin board

D. Safety Meetings And Training Requirements

1. Water Utilities Services employees shall receive 24 hours of safety training per year.
2. Any employee absent during safety training shall receive makeup training.
3. Employees shall receive training for new equipment, in accordance with manufacturers recommendations, before being allowed to operate the equipment.
4. Use attachment IV to plan safety training.

G. Proficiency Training

Additional safety training shall be provided to any employee who is observed working in an unsafe manner.

VIII. INCIDENT RESPONSE, REPORTING, & DOCUMENTATION

A. Incidents Requiring Medical Attention

1. During normal business hours, employees are to report to Employee Health Services (EHS) for all non-life threatening injuries or exposures. After business hours, employees are to seek medical attention and report to EHS the following business day or by the end of the employee's next shift.
2. The injured employee must report to the nearest emergency medical facility for all injuries or exposures that immediately threaten life, limb, or sight.
3. The supervisor will arrange for emergency transportation, if required, and accompany the injured employee to the nearest emergency medical facility for all injuries or exposures that immediately threaten life, limb, or sight.
4. First aid and/or CPR may be performed only in an emergency, and only until trained medical assistance can be obtained.

B. Risk Management Notification

Departments shall notify Risk Management as soon as possible of situations that may result in significant monetary loss to the city, or of injuries or exposures that immediately threaten life, limb, or sight, including major incidents involving city employees or citizens. Emergency contact numbers are: risk manager 254-749-4614 (mobile), 254-750-5732 (office); safety coordinator 254-749-4768 (mobile), 254-750-7045 (office).

C. Incident Reporting Procedures

1. All incidents are to be reported to Risk Management as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours after the incident, or by the end of the next shift. Employee and supervisor incident report forms will be forwarded according to instructions on the forms – refer to attachments VII and VIII.
2. Supervisors are responsible for ensuring on-time completion of all employee and supervisor incident report forms. The DSO is responsible for reviewing and maintaining copies of supervisor incident reports to determine if trends are occurring.
3. Incident Reporting Flow
 - a) Employee notifies supervisor as soon as possible after an incident.
 - b) Employee and supervisor complete an employee incident report and supervisor incident report respectively.
 - c) Employee shall be allowed to complete the employee incident report form individually.
 - d) Employee makes a copy of the report for personal records and submits the original employee report to safety office. The supervisor shall submit the original supervisor report to the DSO.
 - e) The DSO shall:
 - (1) Ensure the supervisor report contains no medical information.
 - (2) Ensure the supervisor report is complete.

- (3) Review then sign and date the supervisor report.
 - (4) Make a copy for departmental records.
 - (5) File the copy according to the DSP.
 - (6) Submit the original to the safety office.
4. Form Usage
 - a) An employee and supervisor incident report is required to be completed and submitted for all incidents that result in an injury, exposure, or property damage.
 - b) If an incident resulted in a near miss, a supervisor and employee report is encouraged but not required.
 5. Completion Time
 - a) Original supervisor incident reports must be forwarded to the safety office within 24 hours of notification of the incident or by the end of the next shift.
 - b) Original employee incident reports must be submitted to the safety office within 24 hours of the incident or by the end of the next shift. If the employee is unable to complete the employee incident report due to injury or exposure, the employee must submit the report as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours after returning to work.
 6. Employee unable to complete an employee incident report
 - a) If extenuating circumstances prevent the employee from completing the employee incident report, the supervisor will state on question 15 of the supervisor incident report, "Employee unable to complete an employee incident report. _____".
 - b) Use the blank to have the employee place their mark, initials, or signature to confirm that the supervisor read the supervisor incident report to the employee and the employee understands what is reported about the incident.
 7. Incomplete or Incorrect Reports
 - a) Incomplete or incorrect employee incident reports received by the safety office will be returned to the employee for correction or completion.
 - b) Incomplete or incorrect supervisor incident reports received by the safety office will be returned to the DSO for correction or completion.
 - c) Returned incomplete or incorrect reports shall be corrected and forwarded to the safety office within 24 hours or by the end of the next shift.
 8. Refer to attachment X for clarification.

D. Incident Review Board

1. The Water Utilities Services Department incident review board shall convene each quarter to review all departmental incidents – refer to attachment II. The incident review board will meet the first Wednesday of the months of March, June, September, and December.
2. The goals of the review process for preventable incidents are to:
 - a) Find root causes.
 - b) Identify trends.
 - c) Reduce the likelihood of the same types of incidents occurring again.
 - d) Recommend corrective action to prevent recurrence.

3. After the review board determines the preventability of incidents, it shall recommend corrective action(s) and monitor the action(s) taken to prevent recurrence.
4. When reviewing an incident, the review board will:
 - a) Consider available supervisor incident report forms, police investigation reports, insurance investigation reports, witness statements, diagrams, photographs, Risk Management statistical analysis, and other evidence.
 - b) Look at training records to determine if there are any deficiencies.
 - c) Consider departmental history for similar incidents.
 - d) Recommend corrective action to prevent or minimize recurrence of the same or similar incident.
 - e) Recommend disciplinary action when warranted.
 - f) Notify the employee in writing of the review board's findings within 5 working days.
 - g) Allow an appeals process for the employee. The employee must appeal within 5 working days of receiving the review board's findings.
 - h) Make findings known within the department – without the employee's name – to promote prevention.
 - i) Forward findings and recommendation(s) to the Water Utilities Services department director of the employee reviewed, the risk manager, and the city safety coordinator.
5. All disciplinary action required for individuals, if any, will be determined by the Water Utilities Service Department director.

IX. SELF-AUDIT & SAFETY ASSESSMENT

A. Annual Formal Self-Audit

1. Formal self-audits will be conducted annually – refer to attachment XIII. Self-audits are an extensive top-to-bottom evaluation of: the DSP, training, incidents, property damage, liability claims, review board procedures, equipment usage, work areas, work practices, job sites, and asset assessment procedures.
2. The annual self-audit shall be completed every December.
3. The self-audit will list the hazards, corrective actions, person responsible for correction, and the date for correction.
4. Copies of all annual self-audit documentation shall be forwarded to Risk Management.
5. Once corrective actions are made, the department will send written notice to Risk Management. Follow-up assessments shall be conducted within two months to ensure corrective actions have been taken.
6. If corrective actions are not possible within the prescribed time, written notice shall be made to Risk Management. Written notice is due no later than one week after the correction completion date. Include an explanation as to why the corrective actions have not been completed and outline implementation plans for the corrective actions.

B. Facility, Worksite, Equipment, and Tool Assessment

1. Employees shall conduct assessments of their work area and equipment in accordance with the DSP. Employees are also responsible for documenting and notifying their supervisor of any identified hazard. Employees shall use department assessment checklists – refer to attachment XI.
2. Discrepancies are to be corrected immediately. If this is not possible, the assessment item is to be scheduled for maintenance or replacement.

C. Vehicle Assessment

1. All vehicles shall be assessed thoroughly by the driver before use. Assessment forms shall be followed and signed prior to operation – refer to attachment XII.
2. If a safety discrepancy is annotated, the vehicle is to be taken out of service until the deficiency is corrected.
3. All discrepancies not repairable through operator maintenance shall be annotated and scheduled for maintenance.

D. Assessment Frequency

1. Facilities shall be assessed every November, January, March, May, July, and, September.
2. Worksites shall be assessed on a daily basis.
3. Equipment shall be assessed on a daily basis prior to use.
4. Tools shall be assessed on a daily basis prior to use.
5. Vehicles shall be assessed on a daily basis prior to leaving facility in the AM.

X. PROGRAM REVIEW AND REVISION

A. Department Program Review and Revision

1. Upon revision of the Plan, Water Utilities Services Department shall reevaluated the DSP. Changes shall be made to reflect the revised Plan.
2. Employees shall be instructed of revisions to the DSP.

B. Annual Review

FY _____ Date: _____ Performed By: _____

FY _____ Date: _____ Performed By: _____

FY _____ Date: _____ Performed By: _____

FY _____ Date: _____ Performed By: _____

FY _____ Date: _____ Performed By: _____