

THE PIPELINE

News from the Ventura County Public Works Agency

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From the
Director's
Desk

Jeff Pratt,
Public Works
Agency Director



Dear Friends,

As we wrap up November, it's a good time to reflect upon the past year – successes and challenges included – and to consider all that we are thankful for.

In this issue we focus on three things that I, personally, am thankful for. First, there's the VCPWA Workplace Safety Program. The people who have designed and implemented this program are dedicated to protecting our greatest asset: you. By following the recommended guidelines — using protective gear when necessary, reporting potential issues, and sleuthing for possible dangers — we can all work together to keep each other safe and healthy.

Second, I am thankful for our stellar employees who are always working to make the VCPWA more efficient and a better place to work. Congratulations to this month's Star Award recipients, who earned this award with an excellent suggestion that everyone in the agency will soon be able to benefit from.

Finally, I'm grateful for the new technology the VCPWA is using to keep our roads safer and well-maintained. We bring you an article about Rubberized Chip Seal, which is a vast improvement on the traditional application of asphalt and aggregate, and helps to make our roads last a bit longer before they need to be torn up and replaced. It's good for the environment too — read on to find out how it keeps old car tires out of landfills while saving our taxpayers money.

Have a wonderful holiday,

Jeff Pratt
Director

CENTRAL SERVICES *Keeping PWA Workers Safe*

That's our job, protecting the Agency's greatest asset – our employees.

To do this the Agency implemented a Workplace Safety Program that focuses on protecting our employees' health and well-being by providing a safe work environment. We've developed processes, tools, practices, and training that improve our safety culture, identify and rectify unsafe conditions, and reduce workplace injuries.

Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) is an important part of the program and is a proven way to identify and avoid potential accidents. Here's how it works: Employees identify hazards associated with an activity and ways to mitigate the hazards before a job is started, and before accidents have a chance to happen in the first place. Should an accident occur, an accident investigation is conducted to determine the root cause and any necessary changes in processes or procedures to prevent it from happening again.

Other aspects of the Program are geared toward employee education and training and include:

- New employee orientation
- Tailgate meetings
- Monthly safety meetings
- Annual training for non-operations personnel
- Videos and posters

As mentioned earlier, employees are our greatest asset – and also our greatest tool in keeping each other safe in the workplace.

So, here's what you need to do to stay safe and make sure your co-workers are safe, too:

- **Follow all safe work practices prescribed by VCPWA covered during educational sessions, on-the-job training, and new employee orientation**
- **Actively participate and listen during safety educational sessions**
- **Wear and maintain the personal protective equipment provided**
- **Use safety equipment provided to perform your job functions**
- **Report unsafe conditions and behaviors to your supervisor immediately**
- **Report all accidents to your supervisor by the end of your shift**

Remember:

The VCPWA Workplace Safety Program has your back... and your fingers, toes, knees, etc.... but they can't do it alone. If your job requires protective gear, wear it. If you see a potential hazard, report it. If you aren't sure how to stay safe on the job, learn it.

We're all in this as a team!



Thank you to all the 2014 VCPWA Committees and Members!

The Business Quality Council: Robert Crawford, CJ Farrar, Wayne Battleson, Gilbert Cardoza, JoeAnn Heredia, Derrick Wilson, Al Sexton, Cheryl Snider, Gerard Kapuscik, Steve Huber.

The Tech Team Committee: Janice Turner, Eric Weinstein, Brian Brooks, Jonathan Jacobson, Matt Ehret (former member), Ben Emami, Jose Garcia, Lou Negrete (former member), Bruce Rindahl, Cheryl Snider, and Derrick Wilson.

The Website Committee: Janice Turner, Eric Weinstein, Brian Brooks, Paul Callaway, Alex Mathews, Yesenia Silva, Ben Emami, JoeAnn Heredia, Karen Mendoza, Gabe Ramirez, Christi Fuller, Derrick Wilson, Don Sheppard, Agnes Kish (former member), and Howard De Leon (former member).

PWA State of the Agency Committee: Janice Turner, Frances Tamayo, Denise Santoyo, Sandy Harrison, Luis Negrete, Bruce Rindahl, Karen Mendoza, Gabe Ramirez, Dan Walsh, Adrienne Burks, Eric Wienstein, Anthony Gallo, Jonathan Jacobson, Susan Pan; Photographer: Mariann Kovats.

Public Works Week Committee: Janice Turner, Frances Tamayo, Denise Santoyo, Gloria Moss, Phil Raba, Rudy Munoz, Sandy Harrison, Nicole Turner, Jozi Scholl, Freddie Garcia (former employee), Denise Bean-White & Erin Brown; Photographers: Mariann Kovats, Rudy Munoz.

Public Works Agency Picnic Committee: Sandy Harrison, Herb Schwind, Phil Raba, Janice Turner, Frances Tamayo, Chris Hooke, Brian D'Anna, Denise Bean-White, Derrick Wilson, Eric Weinstein, Gabe Ramirez, John Lagomarsino, Julie Stuart, Karen Mendoza, Kathy Jones, Peter Sheydayi, Wayne Battleson, Jessica Kam, Daphne Murillo, Julie Stuart.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Denise Santoyo, Management Assistant III, and Maryann Jordan, Office Assistant IV, for their recent Star Awards. Their innovative suggestion of a new electronic time-off request process utilizing Outlook will be implemented Agencywide in the near future (details to come). Great job! We encourage everyone to keep the process improvement suggestions coming.



There are some jobs sites that have obvious risks. But when workers are inside offices, that doesn't equate to them being completely safe.

The truth is, injuries can happen anywhere. See what you know about office work hazards by answering True or False to the following:

1. Office work is relatively safe, so there's no need for first-aid equipment or supplies.
2. The only real hazards of office work are ergonomic injuries that develop over years of poor posture and repetitive stress.
3. Workstations should be adjustable to prevent ergonomic injuries.
4. Workers in an office setting don't need any training on hazards.

1. False, OSHA requires employers to provide first-aid supplies that match the hazards of the workplace.
2. False, office workers are also susceptible to electrical injuries, slips, and falls.
3. True, work stations that allow employees to adjust their chairs, desks, monitors, and other equipment can help prevent ergonomic injuries.
4. False, regardless of where work takes place, there are hazards workers need to be aware of.

As we enter the holiday season, it is important that we take a moment to reflect and give thanks for all the good in our lives, both professional and personal. As the new Director of Water and Sanitation, I am most grateful for the professionalism and the warm welcome I have received both from the Water and Sanitation Department and from the entire Public Works Agency. The Water and Sanitation team has performed exceptionally well over the past year in many areas, including responding to a significant spill in Moorpark, moving forward on many construction projects like the desalter, the new lab, and a major pipeline replacement project – all while providing safe, reliable drinking water to over 44,000 residents of Ventura County.

David J. Sasek
Director of Water and Sanitation Department

Water and Sanitation Department

I'm thankful for the wonderful opportunity the staff of the Watershed Protection District has when dealing with our diverse range of partners and stakeholders. We work on a wide range of programs and projects and are able to connect with many different people and are able to connect with many different people with a wide range of interests and opinions. We're able to apply this to our work, resulting in richer and more comprehensive outcomes. Though not always easy, the benefits of reaching out to our partners, stakeholders, residents, and businesses will continue to sow benefits for years.

Tully Clifford
Director of Watershed Protection District

Watershed Protection District

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude for the professionalism and dedication shown by the ESD team in continuing to provide excellent, seamless customer service in spite of the departure of several key team members. In spite of these losses, team members took an "additional strain" to fill in the talent gaps and continue to provide a high level of customer support.

Herb Schwind
Director of Engineering Services Department

Engineering Services Department

I am thankful for my dedicated staff in CSD. We have undergone quite a transformation this last year with losing several key employees, but we continue to push on and get the job done. Also, I am thankful for all the employees who volunteer (or were volunteered) to participate on various Agencywide committees. It's the collaborative spirit of our employees and their genuine desire to produce an excellent product and provide great customer service that makes this Agency a great place to work.

Janice Turner
Director of Central Services Department

Central Services

THANK YOU!

The Ventura County Public Works Agency can't run itself, it takes every department and every individual to continue to have it run so smoothly. Thank you for all your hard work and professionalism over the past year! We could not do it without you!

I am particularly thankful for the great teamwork and strong performance of the whole Transportation Department this year. Each team member has contributed to our professional, high-quality work. Examples are: the status of County bridges report; addressing encroachment issues throughout the County; developing traffic-calming options in Silverstrand; significant daily road maintenance work on the 540-plus miles of roads throughout the County; multiple contracts for bike lanes, pavement resurfacing, and sidewalk installation; and the standup of the Heritage Valley Transit Service. Thanks to all for your great work. I am proud to be a part of your team.

David Fleisch
Director of Transportation Department

Transportation Department



RUBBERIZED CHIP SEAL

Saves Roads, Money and the Environment

Orange barrels...road construction delays... it's an inconvenience we have to deal with on a regular basis, but nobody can deny that road maintenance needs to be done. If you've ever wondered what the construction crews are doing while you're steering around them, we're happy to pass along some information from Chris Hooke, VCPWA's Deputy Director of Transportation, about Rubberized Chip Seal. This relatively new technology helps extend road life by up to 40% —which means lower maintenance costs, smoother rides, and fewer barrels and cones along your commute.

Road maintenance has three levels: pavement preservation, pavement rehabilitation, and road reconstruction. Each step costs the taxpayers money, but an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure; pavement preservation costs about one-tenth of the expense involved in reconstruction... and since reconstruction can cost up to \$6 per square foot you can imagine how quickly that adds up!

"One of the keys to pavement preservation is having a good seal from water," says Hooke. "When cracks appear in the pavement, water gets into the cracks and makes the earth under the pavement soft, causing the pavement to bend and crack. Cracks turn into loose chunks that turn into potholes, so the key is to keep the surface sealed from water."

A road surface may be sealed by a slurry or a chip seal. A slurry places a thin oil coating over the surface of the road; a chip seal adds a thin-wearing surface of gravel chips to that coating. However, chip seals have often resulted in chipped windshields caused by loose gravel, so agencies have shied away from chip seals due to claims and complaints from the public.

In the 1980s a new type of chip seal was invented—a method that holds the gravel chips firmly and avoids chipped windshields. It is called a rubberized chip seal. "The oil binder that holds the chips has powdered tire rubber (from used tires) melted into the oil, which changes the quality of the binder in a wonderful way," says Hooke. The crushed aggregate seats very

securely, and the newly applied road surface is flexible, which makes it better at standing up to weather- and traffic-related cracking. "The benefit is a surface that may last about 10 years rather than six years," Hooke explains. And another benefit: this treatment recycles mountains of old car tires, keeping them out of landfills.

Hooke wants to point out that Rubberized Chip Seal isn't the answer for all road repairs. "It should only be used on roads that are in relatively good condition, with sound roadbed support. A chip seal only seals the road and adds a thin-wearing surface; it does not strengthen the roadbed." Although Rubberized Chip Seal costs about half as much as a new asphalt overlay (75 cents per square foot vs. \$1.50 per square foot), the proper choice depends upon road conditions.

VCPWA has been using Rubberized Chip Seal for about five years. Its first application was in Bardsdale, near Fillmore, and reports show that road to be in very good condition. This relatively new technology is being adopted by many public agencies as a cost-effective strategy for keeping roads smooth and long-lasting – and free of orange barrels.

Upcoming Rubberized Chip Seal Project: Sespe Area

Pavement rehabilitation work will soon begin on 10 miles of roads located near the city of Fillmore. Thin-layer pavement resurfacing using Rubberized Chip Seal technology, along with microsurfacing, base repair, AC curb rehabilitation, striping, and signing is expected to extend the life of these road surfaces for approximately seven to 10 years before further treatment is needed. Bids for this project were opened on Sept. 23, 2014, and the project has been awarded to MAI/PCC of Pico Rivera, California, for \$1.3 million, a cost 12% below the engineer's original estimate.

