



Safe Park-ing

OFFICE EDI-

Volume 1, Issue 3

State of Nevada, Division of State Parks

Near Miss – OSHA Safe + Sound Campaign 2022

On behalf of the State Parks Safety Committee, we extend our sincere thanks to those of you who participated in OSHA's Safe + Sound Week 2022. Out of 37 total participating employers in the state of Nevada, we were the only State agency to participate, and though you are probably sick of hearing about near miss reporting, the importance of our program remains.



A near miss reporting program is an essential component of a thriving safety culture, yet it's one that is missing from a majority of safety programs. Sometimes employers don't encourage near miss reporting because they don't want to be responsible for costs associated with fixing exposures, but were an injury to happen, the argument that "we couldn't afford to provide a safe work environment" isn't going to be sufficient.

Some employers avoid implementing reporting programs because they don't want issues documented. They are afraid that once something is documented they must fix the problem. This is true, but documentation can also show that the employer is

committed to a safe environment by encouraging reporting and being mindful of hazardous environments. Frequently appropriate, temporary, and cost friendly fixes can be implemented until comprehensive and permanent corrections can be completed.

Sometimes employers implement near miss reporting programs, but don't actively encourage employee participation. This can leave employees feeling that though they **can** report, they **shouldn't**, because they fear negative consequences.

Thankfully, our administrator, Robert "Bob" Mergell has been very supportive of our program. Nevada State Parks employees are encouraged to report all safety concerns, because it helps us address issues before they become incidents. Reports are reviewed by the safety committee and then forwarded to the appropriate park for resolution. Sometimes the solution is physical repair, and sometimes it's coaching or training to address employee behaviors or work practices. Through actively identifying potential issues we keep our workplaces safe and feed our safety culture.

During the 2022 campaign we had 5 near miss reports. The State Parks

Safety Committee would like to thank the following people for taking the time to participate (names are shared with permission):

Joe Fontaine:

- Issue—Noticed smoke coming from patch of dry ground. Attempted to shovel dry ground and shovel hit high voltage power leads that contractor neglected to disconnect. Hot wire exposed under ground
- Result—removed breaker. It is important to be aware of your surroundings and look for the root of the issue before deciding on a course of action.
- Issue—staff attempting to use wrong equipment.
- Results—limit access to equipment and create system to vet employee's allowed to use equipment.

Rett Smith:

- Issue—Fire extinguisher tags were not signed for the current month. This practice is important, because it's how we know the fire extinguishers are regularly checked and in good order.
- Resolution—set up automatic reminders

*Anonymous:

Don't learn safety by accident.

- Issue—Reported shop cabinet doors sagging/hanging.
- Resolution—repair doors.

(While we enjoy recognizing staff for participation, we understand some would like to do so anonymously and we respect that.)

Allen Wooldrige:

- Issue—Screws above grade on a trail, poses tripping hazard to em-

ployees and visitors.

- Resolution—temporary fix, ordered new screws to be dipped in liquid nails and drilled into a new location, and counter sunk. Permanent (long-term) solution, replace with new boards.

These reports came from employees in various classifications within the division, and all are taken seriously.

If you would like to submit a report,

the form can be accessed here [Near Miss Report Form](#) or by scanning the QR code.

If you have any questions about the near miss form, please contact Vanessa Mason



vanessalmason@parks.nv.gov or your safety committee representative.

Seasonal Safety Topic

As we begin to prepare for shorter, cooler days (hopefully soon!) it's a good time to revisit Slips, Trips and Fall safety guidelines. Slips, trips, and falls are some of the most common workplace injuries. They can happen anywhere at anytime.

As we jump into the season where many of us spend time decorating our homes and workplaces, rearranging storage, walking in areas that may have slippery conditions (spills, changes in floor surfaces, wet entryways, loose area rugs, wet leaves in parking lots and on sidewalks, etc.), it's important that we think about our surroundings, what we are doing, and plan accordingly. Is that extension cord placed in such a way that it could trip someone? Are you able to see over the load you're carrying? Are there elevation changes that you could trip over while you're carrying items? These are just some of the questions to ask yourself.

Our park staff complete Slip, Trip, and Fall training annually. Here is a link to the training and you are welcome to take it as well. It is approximately 6 minutes and includes a quiz. Your score and participation is automatically registered. Should you decide to participate, there may be a very small, but sincere "Thank You" of the chocolate variety in return (please keep in mind that I am not a voice actor).

[Slips, Trips and Falls Training](#)

*If you get an error message, please let me know



Time Change Safety

As we 'Fall Back' to Shorter Days, Take Extra Care on the Road

Shorter days, fatigue, compromised night vision, rush hour and impaired drivers are some of the risks we face when driving at night. These risks become especially pronounced moving into the weekend, with fatal crashes peaking on Saturday nights, according to NSC analysis of NHTSA data.

When Daylight Saving Time ends – for 2022, that's 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 6 – many people will find themselves spending more time driving in the dark. Depth perception, color recognition and peripheral vision can be compromised in the dark, and the glare of headlights from an oncoming vehicle can temporarily blind a driver.

Night driving is dangerous because, even with high-beam headlights on, visibility is limited to about 500 feet (250 feet for normal headlights) creating less time to react to something in the road, especially when driving at higher speeds.

What should you do to combat darkness?

- Aim your headlights correctly, and make sure they're clean
- Dim your dashboard
- Look away from oncoming lights
- If you wear glasses, make sure they're anti-reflective
- Clean the windshield to eliminate streaks
- Slow down to compensate for limited visibility and reduced stopping time

The full article, [The Most Dangerous Time to Drive](#), can be found on the National Safety Council's website. The article goes on to cover other components of hazards involved with nighttime driving.