



Safe Park-ing

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:

- Issue—Reported shop cabinet

Don’t learn safety by accident.

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 employees 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.

Wildlife Concerns

This year we've had a few injuries due to handling wild animals. Per NDOW, wild animals are fully capable of taking care of themselves, do not need "rescuing" from the elements, raise their offspring much better than humans can, and should only be handled by a licensed wildlife professional. Animals may bite when threatened.

For your safety and theirs, respect wildlife and their personal space. Animals can be unpredictable when they feel threatened. Help wildlife by not letting them get comfortable in your common areas – make loud noises, wave your arms, throw things in their direction, or spray them with water.

If you find an animal that you believe to be ill or has died due to an illness please report them to NDOW. When you report please include as detailed a location as possible, the species, the number of animals, and any other information you think might be important.

Report by completing the form at this link [Animal Report](#) or QR code:



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.