



Ghilotti Construction Company SAFETY ROADTRACKS

FALL 2006



READ FIRST!

WIN A T-SHIRT!

Somewhere in this newsletter is the last 4 digits of an active employee's Social Security number. The individual whose number is hidden will win a T-Shirt, *if* he or she finds it. The winner should contact Julie at the Santa Rosa office to collect the prize.



ABOVE & BEYOND - Recognitions...

Way to Go Paving Crew!

GCC received the following email...

“As a resident of Arnold Drive (Sonoma Valley), I just wanted to drop a line telling how impressed I am with the true professionals Ghilotti has working for them. Your crews have been nothing but accommodating and professional in the face of traffic hazards and less than polite motoring public. We (residents) appreciate the work you do and the professional manner in which you accomplish it.

Thank you! JD DeWitt & Family”

We also received a message from a Sonoma resident (The Cookie Lady), who expressed how “neat, clean, and courteous” the crew working in the area of Hayes Street has been. “They have done a wonderful job making it as workable as it can be.”

The Safety Committee would like to express our appreciation to all GCC personnel. The following compliments were communicated by Bob Wagner, CPG Safety Specialist:

“... As I indicated to John, it is a bit of a challenge to find real issues at Ghilotti sites.”

“...One thing keeps coming through as John and I continue to make these surveys, Ghilotti has some very good people working for them.”

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS THAT HELP MAKE
GCC A LEADER IN THE INDUSTRY!

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR CAREER!

Professional development cannot be achieved without developing new capabilities, increasing your proficiency at current skills, and mastering ever-changing technology. As a union employee, there are many benefits made available that will allow you the opportunity to increase your knowledge, improve your skills, and ultimately impact your value in the construction industry. As the winter season approaches, now is a good time to check into the upcoming training programs offered by your respective Unions. If you are interested in completing extended training courses on ClickSafety, contact Julie at the Santa Rosa Office (707) 585-1221.

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Safety Committee

2006/07 Members

Brian Ongaro
Damon Calegari
Mark Bower
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Tom Woosley
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John Klapperich

Remember:

Information on GCC Safety Policies and Procedures is available at www.ghilotti.com under the Safety and Health section. If you have any questions regarding matters of safety, speak to your supervisor, or contact Julie @ (707) 585-1221.

E-mail topic suggestions for the next newsletter to julie@ghilotti.com.

Leadmen, Foremen, etal

SAVE THE DATE:

**Friday, Oct 27th - Mandatory
Quarterly Safety Breakfast @
5:30am**



Safety Reminders:

- It is mandatory that transite pipe is wrapped and discarded appropriately.
- Never assume that the water valve is shut off. Take the time to check and confirm that there is no pressure in the pipe before beginning work.
- GCC uses designated treaters for work-related injuries and accidents. Your Supervisor must be notified immediately.
- Eye protection is mandatory when there is the risk of injury from flying debris (i.e. punctures, abrasions, contusions, burns)
- When barricading off areas to prevent public access - **PLEASE USE THE ORANGE FENCING.**

Please remember: **Safety is Job #1.** How fast you get the job done is not more important than making sure you and your co-workers make it home to your families!



BUSTED!

On 9/6/06, an individual driving a GCC Flat Truck stopped on the freeway and a passenger came out of the vehicle and proceeded to run across the lanes of Hwy 101 in Petaluma.

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING! Please think about your actions and the potential consequences. What price are you willing to pay for being unsafe?

Did you Know? More than 36,000 U.S. employees required time off from work in one year because of eye injuries (US DOL statistics), and that 90% of all job related injuries can be prevented by wearing proper eye protection.

Road Closures (Traffic Control Requirements)

When using equipment or k-rail to block access to roadways under construction (and there is the potential exposure for public access), all legally required traffic controls must also be in place. This includes the use of reflecting barricades and road closure signs (per the CalTrans Manual of Traffic Controls).

SAFETY WARNINGS...

Clearing Grub vs Drug Paraphernalia: It has been brought to the Safety Committee's attention that the exposure to "used" drug paraphernalia has occurred during grub clearing activities.

Foreman - Please make sure to communicate to your crew that it is mandatory to wear gloves while performing this task. Hand tools (shovels, etc.) should be used to minimize the risk of exposure.

Puncture Injuries: When performing duties that consists of exposing wire, please remember to bend over the wire as you work. Exposed wire could cause you, or your co-worker, to be injured.

Falling objects: Please pay attention to your work and placement of objects that could fall or be easily dislodged. Don't expose yourself, or your co-workers to injury - check and re-check your work. Even the most experienced are exposed to injury.

Safety really does start with you!



COLD WEATHER SAFETY

Cold Weather Injuries: The cold weather is approaching, which means that your muscles will be more susceptible to strains and sprains. Please take the proper measures to avoid injury by stretching before beginning work. Additional safety measures include:

- Drink fluids to avoid becoming dehydrated.
- Watch your footing to avoid injuries resulting from trip and falls due to muddy or icy conditions.
- Dress appropriately. Keep hands, feet, and head covered to avoid effects of cold weather that can include Numbness, Shivering, Frostbite, and Trench Foot. Change wet clothing immediately.
- Pay special attention to getting on and off the equipment. Always use the 3-point contact rule!

Make sure to use the buddy-system. Signs that people are being affected by the cold include a change in behavior patterns, a change in skin or lip color (blue, purple, or gray), or shaking. When these symptoms are present, affected people should be taken indoors as soon as possible.

Use Caution When Driving: With a combination of water, oil and ice, the roadway isn't the safest place to be, so use caution when driving. Drive at speeds appropriate for the weather, roadway, and traffic conditions. Don't tailgate, lack of tire traction may send you into the rear of the vehicle in front of you!

Jobsite Conditions: Keep the job sites clean and pay attention to ground conditions. Do no park vehicles and equipment where they could get stuck in the mud. Pay attention to mud and debris that is tracked into the roadway, which could potentially cause an accident.

GCC SAFETY HAZARDS

The following exposure (summary) is associated with operations performed by Ghilotti Construction Company. To review additional topics, refer to your Code of Safe Practices provided at hire (and available at all job site locations) to re-familiarize yourself with the exposures common to our industry.

Asphalt Exposure (Paving Crews)

Potential hazards include:

- Inhalation (Respiratory irritation)
- Eye Injury (Thermal burns)
- Skin Exposure (Burns, Irritation)
- Ingestion (gastrointestinal irritation)

Hazard controls include:

- Temperature controls
- Proper Ventilation
- Use of heat resistant gloves
- Safety glasses
- Proper Clothing
- Good hygiene practices

First Aid Procedures:

- Eyes: Flush with water for 15 minutes. Get medical attention.
- Ingestion: Do not induce vomiting. Get medical Attention.
- Inhalation: Move to fresh air. Get medical attention if breathing remains difficult.
- Skin: Flush affected area for at least 15 minutes. Apply iced water or cold packs to burned area (if area is less than 10% of the body surface). Do not attempt to remove material from burn. Get medical attention.

FATAL FACTS: **Construction laborer struck by vehicle in work zone.**

Summary:

A 19-year old laborer died when he was struck by a vehicle as he was crossing the road in a street construction work zone. The incident occurred at dusk while it was raining. There were no lights available to illuminate the work area after dusk. The work zone was identified by traffic cones along the work area, a diamond-shaped sign at each end, and two flag persons. The victim was wearing an orange rain coat with reflectors and a hard hat. The responsible party was traveling at approximately 40 mph and alleged that he had not seen anything that would indicate that there was construction work in the area, to include the flagger that was waving a stop sign and yelling for him to stop.

Investigation & Findings:

A fatality assessment and control evaluation (FACE) was completed. The investigator determined that in order to prevent future occurrences, the following should be done:

- Ensure street construction work zones are set up in accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). With respect to this jobsite, there should have been at least four warning signs (two at each end of the work zone). In addition to warning motorists that there was a work zone ahead, there should have been another sign to alert drivers that flaggers were present.
- Instruct employees in street construction work zones to look both ways before crossing the street, and wait for oncoming traffic to pass. Although there had been flaggers at both ends of the work zone, the vehicle was still able to a drive into the work zone. Workers need to stay alert at all times.
- Make sure that construction work crews have lights available to illuminate the work area after dusk. Although the victim was wearing a reflective vest and hard hat, the combination of the rain, nonworking street lights, and oncoming dusk made general visibility poor. If the site had been illuminated, or if work had been discontinued before the darkness settled in, this incident might have been prevented.



FAMOUS QUOTES

“The time is always right to do what is right” **Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)**
 “GREAT MINDS discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, small minds discuss people” **Admiral Hyman Rickover (1900-1986), U.S. Navy**



ACTIVE GCC PROJECTS

Dauenhauer Ranch, Santa Rosa; Mare Island; Walmart-American Canyon; Nut-Tree/I-80 Overcrossing; Nut-Tree Village; Nut-Tree Road Resurfacing; Linwood Phase 2; Broadway/Las Casitas; Skyhawk 9 & 10; Yerba Buena; Ford of Fairfield; Cedarwood Subdivision, SRJC Bailey Parking Lot; Borges Ranch; Capitola Subdivision, Napa; Caltrans Hwy 101 Widening (Steele Lane Undercrossing); Devon Square, San Pablo; Orchards Water Line, Vallejo; Ashley Furniture; Caltrans Hwy 101 (@Route 12 in Santa Rosa); Glasshaus Site Work; Hwy 121 Emergency Repair; Proctor Heights Water Tank, Santa Rosa; Napa Junction Hwy 29 Improvements; Bailey Estates; North Village AP-1, Unit 2; Pinole Shores; 2006 Sonoma County Overlays; Emergency Slide Repair/Hwy 80; McCoy Creek Subdivision; Green Center Concert Hall/SSU; Building 543, Mare Island; Zephyr Gate, Oakland; Safe Routes to Schools; Soscol Ave Realignment; Wright Street Sewer & Water; Pillar Rock Winery; 820 Denbeste Court - Warehouse; N. San Pedro Resurfacing; Stony Point Center; Skylane Wastewater Pond; SVCS Irrigation Pipeline; 2006 Street Maintenance Program; Nut Tree Airport; Greenway Park Phase 2; Villa D’Este; Nut Tree Vineyard; Route 12 AC Surfacing, Solano County; Jamestown Condos, San Francisco; Villa Amarosa, St. Helena; Midtown Overlay Project

NEWSWORTHY



Highway 101 crash backs up traffic: On 9/19/06, the s/b traffic came to a near stop when a collision occurred right before the Todd Road exit. **The driver of a truck made an unsafe lane change in front of another driver.** The other driver swerved to avoid hitting the truck and hit the center median wall, causing her vehicle to overturn. It took emergency crews about 30 minutes to extract the driver from the vehicle. **Important note:** You don’t have to make contact with another vehicle to cause a collision. You can still be held responsible without making direct contact.

Talking on Cell Phone as Dangerous as Driving Drunk! The results of a recent study using 40 volunteers, with participation by the scientists, supported previous research that has revealed the risks of using cell phones. In the study, participants drove a virtual vehicle four times under the following conditions: 1) Undistracted, 2) Using a handheld cell phone in real conversations, 3) Using a hands-free phone, and 4) While tipsy (.08). The study concluded that 2939 an individual is as impaired when they drive and talk on a cell phone as they are when they drive intoxicated at the legal blood-alcohol limit. During the study, three participants rear-ended the virtual pace care while talking on the cell phone. There were no

The California Wireless Telephone Automobile Safety Act

On September 15, 2006 Governor Schwarzenegger signed Senate Bill 1613, making hand-held phone use while driving illegal. The bill takes effect July 1, 2008. Section 23123 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

“A person shall not drive a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone unless that telephone is specifically designed and configured to allow hands-free listening and talking, and is used in that manner while driving.”

A violation of this code will be treated as an infraction, punishable by a base fine of twenty dollars (\$20) for a first offense and fifty dollars (\$50) for each subsequent offense. The new law will not apply to individuals using a cell phone to contact law enforcement or public safety agencies for emergency purposes. There are additional exceptions cited. Watch for future updates and how this will affect GCC employees.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Quarterly Foreman Safety Breakfast: October 27th @ 5:30 am - Santa Rosa Yard

HOLIDAY OFFICE SCHEDULE:

- Thanksgiving Day:** November 23, 2006 (Office Closed)
- Post Thanksgiving Day:** November 24, 2006 (Office Closed)
- Christmas Day:** December 25, 2006 (Office Closed)
- New Years Day:** January 1, 2007 (Office Closed)



Members of the Safety Committee want to help create a program that benefits all employees. Your input is important, so please do not hesitate to speak with any of the committee members. If there is a topic that you would like to see published, contact Julie @ (707) 585-1221 or email julie@ghilotti.com.