



Ghilotti Construction Company **SAFETY ROADTRACKS**

December 2005/January 2006

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we enter into 2006, we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the entire GCC family for making 2005 another successful year! As we near the close of our 2005 fiscal year, we are anticipating our biggest year in the history of the company. Without your commitment, we could not succeed.

With our sincere appreciation and best wishes for a wonderful new year,

Richard Ghilotti and Brian Ongaro

“Do good work. Be responsible. Take care of the community and the people who work for you.”

James Ghilotti 1879-1950



Way to go...

GCC would like to extend special acknowledgment to:

The Nut Tree Overlay Paving & Concrete crews for maintaining a standard of excellence that sets us above all others!

Lennar’s Success Center Drive Sets a Record!

GCC Management would like to acknowledge and express their appreciation to the **GCC Mare Island Crews** that helped make the Lennar Success Center donation drive a huge success! Your generosity and spirit of giving not only made a difference to the many individuals in need of help, but also set a standard to be proud of... **THANK YOU!**

Paying attention can save your life....

Being aware of your surroundings and ongoing activity really can save your life. While hooking up a water buffalo, a GCC worker avoided a potentially fatal accident when a transfer truck, operated by a sub-hauler, was backing-up in his direction. The worker was able to quickly move before being struck by the transfer truck, which continued to back-up, damaging the water buffalo.

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.

For information on training provided by your respective Union contact:

- **Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3**
<http://www.oe3.org/safety/california.html>
(916) 354-2029 ext 232
- **Northern California Laborer’s Training**
<http://www.norcalaborers.org/training/schedule-sanramon.htm#mobile>
(925) 828-2513
- **Cement Masons/Northern California**
<http://www.norcalcementmasons.org/Training/Training.htm>
(925) 484-2271

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Safety Committee 2005/06 Members

Brian Ongaro
Joe Moreira
Damon Calegari
Gene Petrini
John Klapperich
Julie Thornton
Jess Todd
JR Maffia

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 Safety Roadtracks to julie@ghilotti.com.

Leadmen, Foremen, etal

SAVE THE DATE:

**1/27/06 Mandatory Quarterly
Safety Breakfast @ 6 am**

Safety Reminders:

- ☞ Smile! Smiling will spark performance with a positive attitude. Turning the corners of your mouth upward relaxes facial muscles and improves your heart rate, breathing rate and brain activity. Studies have even found that “pretending” to smile will produce a genuine sense of happiness and produce the same results!
- ☞ Praise your co-workers! Offer genuine compliments to co-workers for jobs well done. Someday they’ll return the favor, making you feel like a winner!
- ☺ On a different note...
- ☞ When parking equipment and vehicles for overnight or the weekend, keep in mind pending weather conditions. We wouldn’t want you to get stuck in a soft spot...

Important Reminder!

If you are on the “No-Drive” list - this means you can not drive on or off the job site in a GCC vehicle. This is mandated by our insurance carrier - there are no exceptions. Your cooperation with adhering to GCC policies and procedures is appreciated.

BARRICADES & SIGNS:

The use of barricades and signs is an important part of any job, and a necessary safety precaution. **Barricades** should act as physical barriers, preventing contact and/or access by the public (tip: for added protection you can use the orange fencing around the barricades). **Signs** should be used to direct traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian, safely through or around the work zone. While barricades and signs should be used wherever necessary for the physical protection of people or property, the following is a list of some of the activities where their use is required by established codes or regulations:

- Excavations
- Street openings (manholes, etc.)
- The swing radius of equipment.
- Wherever equipment is left unattended near a roadway at night.
- Work areas for electrical equipment with exposed energized parts.
- Areas with temporary wiring operating at more than 600 volts.

Class B License - GOT ONE?

Class B (with tank endorsement) drivers are needed. If you have an active Class B License with a tank endorsement, please advise the Equipment Department. If you don’t, you may want to consider getting one. It can impact job assignments and hours worked.

Among other types of vehicles, the Class B will allow you to drive:

- Any single vehicle with a GVWR of more than 26,000 lbs (Water Truck)
- A 3-axle vehicle weighing over 6,000 lbs. gross

Obtaining a Class B license includes, but is not limited, to the following requirements:

- A completed application (DL44), which indicates that you agree to submit to a chemical test (alcohol and drug)
- An approved medical certification prepared by GCC’s designated doctor (paid by GCC)

Additional information can be obtained from the Santa Rosa Department of Motor Vehicles or <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/com1hdbk/com1hdbk.pdf>

Bottomline: If there is an exposure to injury or damage, use the necessary precautions to warn the workers and public. During pre-job planning, please remember to take into consideration whether or not the site is in an area used for pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Job planning should include the need for:

- Fencing and/or barricading of the work zone, *and/or*
- Protection of individuals that must pass near or through the work zone.

Checklist: Construction Area (*Secured Access/After Hours*)

- Are warning signs in place?
- Are open ditches protected?
- Are drop-offs protected?
- Are hazard lights utilized?
- Is equipment secured?
- Are utility ditches flagged and barricaded?

Please take pictures, especially when closing the job up for the weekend! Pictures are the primary piece of material evidence needed to dispute any future claims of injury or damage.



PUBLIC SAFETY

In addition to providing a safe work environment for employees, GCC is committed to ensuring the safety of the public. The public can include customers, delivery persons, subcontractors, or any individual not specifically involved in the work being performed (general public, trespassers).

Public safety guidelines should include:

Eliminating public access to areas which create safety dangers. Work zones should be off limits to the public. Work zones that involve public access to and from businesses and homes should be clearly delineated, with the appropriate signs posted.

Warn the public about potential dangers. Signs should define exits and restricted areas. Pay special attention to areas that are not uniform and could create trip hazards. Document steps taken to warn the public and/or eliminate identified hazards.

Control the movement of the public. Thoroughfares should be identified and loitering in designated areas prohibited.

Train employees on interfacing with the public. Employees who interact with the public should receive training on how to respond to the needs, actions, and frustrations of the public. Employees should be instructed to “politely” indicate that the matter should be addressed by the acting Foreman or Leadman at the job site. When dealing with complaints, remember to be considerate and understanding of the concerns, even if you are not in agreement. It is not uncommon to receive complaints strictly as a result of any inconveniences caused by the ongoing construction.

Modify public areas for increased safety. Modifications may include installing guardrails, fences, and other types of barriers. Remember to evaluate the area for potential problems common to vehicles such as driveways, parking lots, etc.

Establish contact with businesses affected by the ongoing construction. If significant activity is occurring around businesses, Foremen and/or Superintendents should take the time to introduce themselves and provide a contact number (Julie @ the Santa Rosa office) in the event a customer communicates a potential hazard to the business owner/employee. Many times complaints arising out of trip and fall incidents are not reported to GCC until significant time has passed. Typically, complaints are filed with the applicable county/city agency. With respect to valid claims, it is likely that the injured person would have made a complaint to the business that he/she was visiting when the incident occurred. Immediate knowledge will allow us to perform the appropriate investigation and obtain pictures and other facts necessary to defend a potential claim or law suit.

Is established lighting affected by ongoing construction? If yes, action must be taken to ensure that public access areas continue to have adequate lighting.

☺ Remember that when you are faced with dealing with a frustrated, angry individual - be polite, apologize for any inconvenience caused by the ongoing construction, and refer the individual to the acting Foreman, Leadman, or Julie Thornton at the Santa Rosa office (707) 585-1221.

GCC Claims Activity Comparison

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Reported Claims:	2	13
In-house Claims:	72	81
Record Only:	10	19

In 2005, there was a total of 54 third-party General Liability (GL) claims reported. This is a significant increase from the 22 GL claims reported in 2004. As an initial responder to incidents in the field, the immediate investigation and documentation is crucial to ensure the proper management of internal claims handling.



FAMOUS QUOTE

“When you have exhausted all possibilities, remember this - you haven’t”

Thomas Edison (1732-1802)



ACTIVE GCC PROJECTS

Dauenhauer Ranch, Santa Rosa; Mare Island; Bahia Vista Elementary; Walmart-American Canyon; Street Smart, Sebastopol; Nut-Tree/I-80 Overcrossing; Nut-Tree Village; Nut-Tree Road Resurfacing; Linwood Phase 2; Aston Avenue, Santa Rosa; Skyhawk 9 & 10; Yerba Buena; Pacheco Belmont Terrace; Ford of Fairfield; Cedarwood Subdivision, Brentwood; SRJC Bailey Parking Lot; Greenway Park Improvements, Emeryville; 2005 Oxidation Pond 1, Petaluma, Capitola Subdivision, Napa; Freestone Vineyards; Devon Square, San Pablo; Orchards Water Line, Vallejo; Ashley Furniture - Recent Low Bids! Caltrans Hwy 101 Widening (Steele Lane Undercrossing); Caltrans Hwy 101 (@Route 12 Separation in Santa Rosa)

BRR... ARE YOU READY FOR THE COLD WEATHER?

With the weather turning cold and wet, please stay aware of the increased potential for slipping or falling on wet and icy surfaces. To help you be prepared for slick working surfaces, following are a few tips on walking and working in hazardous conditions:

- ⇒ **Slow down and shorten up your stride.** Don't take long steps (and slow down). If you lose your balance this may cause you to fall backwards and land on your tailbone or back. Keep your weight centered over your feet.
- ⇒ **You are more important than the load.** When carrying material or equipment, remember that its weight gives you increased momentum when trying to stop on a slippery surface, so move carefully. If you start to fall, save yourself, not the load!
- ⇒ **Footwear must be at the ground's temperature for best traction.** When going in and out of a warm building, be aware that the soles of your shoes will be changing from room temperature to a colder temperature. For the first few moments outside, your shoes will be very slippery until the soles equalize to the outside ground temperature. Be extra careful with those first few steps...
- ⇒ **Take care of your feet.** When winter comes, your feet are trapped inside heavily insulated boots. This will cause them to perspire, which can lead to athlete's foot or other foot conditions. A trick of the trade that can help prevent this is using an antifungal powder, or an antiperspirant spray on your feet.
- ⇒ **Lift carefully and correctly.** It is very important that you use proper lifting techniques when working on slippery surfaces. Make sure the load to be lifted is within your ability. Bend your knees and keep your back as straight as possible. Center the object to be lifted between your knees and never lift and twist in the same motion. Remember: When first starting work, your muscles are going to be colder/stiffer. Please take the time to warm-up (stretch), before beginning work.



FOREMEN COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Don't forget that monthly Foremen Committee Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at the Santa Rosa yard (usually @ 5 p.m.). These meetings are designed to allow the opportunity for Foremen to contribute to the development of policies and procedures implemented in the field.

Leadmen and Field Personnel - your contributions are equally important. If you are interested in attending, please talk to your Foremen or Brian Ongaro.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Foreman Committee Meeting: 1st Tuesday of the Month @ 5pm - Santa Rosa Yard

Quarterly Foreman Safety Breakfast: 1/27/06 @ 6am - Santa Rosa Yard

HOLIDAY OFFICE SCHEDULE:

New Year's Day: Monday, January 2, 2006 (Observed) - Office Closed

President's Day: Monday, February 20, 2006 - 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, or complete a Safety Information Form available in the old dispatch office. If there is a topic that you would like to see published, contact Julie @ (707) 585-1221 or email julie@ghilotti.com.