ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES DIVISION

DATE: April 14, 2016

TO: SWANA Safety Committee

FROM: George Van Hemert, Environmental Resources Supervisor
Health & Safety

Title: 2016 Safety Award Entry

Category: Best Safety Innovation
Organization: City of Oxnard Environmental Resources Division
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Member ID#: 999636
Title of Entry: City of Oxnard Environmental Resources Division
Jurisdiction: City of Oxnard, California
Population: 200,000
The City of Oxnard took over the complete MRF operations located at 111 South Del Norte Blvd., located in Oxnard California in the spring of 2014. Previously, the operations had been supervised and run on behalf of the City by a third party entity. Since taking over, several safety measures have been implemented in order to raise the level of safety awareness. Two specific innovative ideas which have produced excellent safety results are as follows:

- Installed high intensity flashing spotlight red strobes on the back of 950 Front End Loaders which activate when placing the vehicles in reverse. This catches the attention of anyone who may be in the path of travel. The intensity of the strobe light cannot be missed. This was implemented in the autumn of 2014.
- All Tipping Floor Spotters and Sorters are required to wear high intensity RED LED hard hats which remain lit during the entire shift cycle without having to change batteries. This helps all vehicle operators of commercial vehicles as well as residential drivers notice these workers because of increased visibility.
- Spotters marshalling vehicles into the Tipping Floor are also required to wear the high intensity RED LED hard hats along with a RED FLASHING WAND to direct traffic. Spotters solely dedicate their attention to directing traffic while enforcing overall safety making sure all who exit their vehicles are wearing proper PPE provided by the City at the Scale House free of charge.
- Spotters are trained on borrowed simple basic Air Force marshalling techniques.
- We use the Safety Monday email notifications from Swana and read them to the morning crews. It is required that after the topic has been discussed, the Lead supervisor then signs and dates the Safety Monday flyer. We then file it for future reference. This is done independent of the other safety discussions that are specific to our needs and our mandatory monthly safety meeting.
- Since implementing these changes, we have not had any injury inside the Tipping Floor. Our Workers’ Compensation claims for our Division is almost at zero with most injuries being filed as First Aid reporting only.
- The comparison we did was to simply review the potential of a catastrophic injury or death due to an employee Sorter not being visible enough to equipment operators.