

June 22, 2009

GENERAL MESSAGES FOR ALL EMPLOYEES

Safety Alert – Follow Up – Watertown, NY

As recently reported via a Safety Alert, there was an arc flash at a job site at the East Watertown substation in Watertown, New York on June 11.

A chief maintenance mechanic working on breaker R560 applied for and received a clearance between switches 561 and 563. The crew tested the tester against a known voltage; tested the leads that were on either side of the breaker (all six) and the leads tested dead; then tested the tester again. (Approximately three minutes elapsed between the testing and the flash).

The chief then went to apply grounds to the de-energized side of switch 563, but in error went to put them on the energized side of the switch. This drew an arc, before the ground was installed. A momentary interruption occurred as a result of the arc.

The chief immediately called for a safety stop and called his supervisor. The supervisor arrived shortly with the northern Region safety specialist to gather additional information. A Safety one call was placed and an IMS (Incident Management System) entry has been initiated. There were no injuries sustained.

An IA (incident analysis) investigation is underway led by John Donahue, Eastern Division Manager of Substations.

Personal Security – Be Aware, Be Prepared

As recently announced, the new Personal Security Procedure is being rolled out across the company through targeted training and communications.

If you have not been briefed about this procedure, ask your manager/supervisor. Training will be provided in select areas in the coming weeks, in the form of presentations and videos for all employees.

Being aware and prepared, in the event of an emergency, is your best defense to reduce the risk of threats, assaults, acts of road rage, harassment, and other threats to personal security and safety. Teams are asked to be vigilant and look for patterns in any type of personal security incident(s) and report to Corporate Security. Further, all near misses or incidents must be reported immediately to Corporate Security.

Everyone has a role in Security

Employees who work in the field are more likely to encounter potential personal security hazards. Office-based employees are more likely to receive either threatening calls or calls for assistance from the threatened employee. As such, office employees have a role in security by reporting the call and a responsibility to assist a threatened field employee immediately and appropriately – mindful of the inherent danger in mishandling the call. Everyone has a role in supporting employee safety by learning and following the Personal Security Procedures.

Foot Off The Gas – Reduce Driving Stress

It seems everyone is running behind these days, so people are often in a big hurry when they get behind the wheel. Add all the normal stresses of driving such as traffic, bad directions, even the sun in your eyes and you can wind up being a nervous wreck by the time you reach your destination.

Here are some tips to help drivers reduce stress on the road.

- Allow some extra time.
- Make your vehicle a sanctuary.
- Be aware of blind spots.
- Walk the Circle of Safety
- Keep snacks on hand.
- Avoid traffic jams.
- Have good directions.

Smith System Method for Safe Driving – Posted Near You

In support of the “Foot Off The Gas” safe driving campaign, you will soon see a series of posters featuring the “Smith System Method” that uses 5 key rules for training the eyes to see what is important in driving.

The Smith System is one of the most widely used methods for improving defensive driving. Founded in 1952, it is the nation's first fleet driver safety training organization that offers safety education techniques for experienced drivers.

In brief, the Smith System 5 Key Rules are:

1. Aim High Steering
2. Keep Your Eyes Moving
3. Get the Big Picture
4. Leave Yourself an Out
5. Make Sure They See You

These rules sound simple but it takes considerable practice to develop the habit of using all of them at all times in traffic. Good management of space and time allows you to use the five rules most effectively, always having time to scan the scene around the car and adjust speed and position to minimize hazards.

Learn more from a poster near you.

H1N1 (Swine Flu) – National Grid is Prepared

The World Health Organization (WHO) has formally declared swine flu to have reached Pandemic Phase 6 for the first time in more than 41 years. The escalation was not prompted by the number of people affected, but is in response to the sustained spread of the virus in a number of countries.

The H1N1 virus is at the mild end of the spectrum of potential pandemics. Its impact on health is similar to seasonal flu – most people only show mild symptoms. But even seasonal flu can be a serious illness, so we cannot afford to be complacent.

In response, National Grid is committed to providing a safe place to work and we are taking steps to minimize the risk of the infection spreading in the workplace. We have been planning for an event like this for many years. We are well prepared.

Currently, it is business as usual within the company. That said, we can all play a part here by following common sense advice, such as using tissues and frequent hand washing. You are urged to contribute to a safe and hygienic workplace, and stay home if you experience the symptoms of H1N1 flu.

SAFETY

Briefing

26th International Lineman's Rodeo, October 15 – 17, 2009

National Grid will be holding tryouts on Saturday, July 25 at the local training centers in NY and NE to determine who will represent us in Bonner Springs, Kansas.

We need:

- Two teams from New York and two teams from New England
- Two Apprentices, one from NY and one from NE
- Judges to score the events

If you are interested in participating in this year's rodeo, please contact:

- Jeff Day in New England – 401-255-6508 (c)
- Mike Borchardt in New York – 315-798-5136 (o)

Last Chance for Shape Up National Grid.

This is the last week to join Shape Up National Grid. The last possible day to join is June 28. Visit ShapeUpNationalGrid.com to sign up and get started.