

N7H Public Works Association

President's Column:

First of all I want to say hello to all NHPWA members. It is an honor to be in this position and I look forward to the next two years. I would like to thank Kurt Blomquist for his assistance in the smooth transition and Dave Lent for his help in starting my term.



The Board of Directors support this association's mission. I hope that we continue down this path for a long time. The continuing board members bring experience and insight. I think they are pleased that the incoming board members will bring new ideas and energy.

One of the primary goals for the next couple of years is to partner with other organizations and gain their support. It will be an asset to get the involvement of those in the solid waste, water, and wastewater industry. I plan to continue to work on strengthening the relationship with NHRAA.

I hope we can all work together to promote our industry. As well as, open the eyes of children to see that this industry is growing and changing every day and their education and dedication can bring a promising future to them in public works.

If you have an issue or an idea please contact us via email, snail mail, or phone. We are here for you.

*Sincerely,
Ken Daniels, DPW Director, Enfield*

What's Wrong with this Photo?



Section 2A.04: Excessive Use of Signs, says "Guidance: Regulatory and warning signs should be used conservatively because these signs, if used to excess, tend to lose their effectiveness. If used, route signs and directional signs should be used frequently because they promote reasonably safe and efficient operations by keeping road users informed of their location." However, sign placement is important. Many signs placed close together is confusing for motorists.

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Guess the Invention

Submitted by Chum Cleverly, DPW Director, Bow

The Public Works department in Bow NH has come up with some pretty innovative ideas for solving problems around the public works garage. Can you guess what this was used for?



Vacuum Trailer
This is used for leaf clean-up in the fall and spring. It's most effective around fences and stones in the cemeteries. The trailer was made from scrap from the dump and old sign posts. The back of the trailer hinges open for emptying.

Tips for Employers with Sick/Disabled Employees:

- Know the facts about your employee's illness or disability and how it might impact things and people at work.
- Keep work meaningful.
- Be creative. Ergonomic modifications, flexible hours, and telecommuting, are just some possible accommodations.
- Document the process. Keep a record of everything you're doing to accommodate the employee.
- Monitor your employee's progress and needs. Ask them if they're ready to take on new challenges, or assume the full duties of the position.

Johne, Marjo (2005). Illness, Disability Not a Career Death Knell, Special to The Globe and Mail. August 24, 2005.

Conference Call: Alternative Fuel

The NHPWA & UNH T² Center hosted their first conference call on Friday, October 26th from 10AM-11AM.

Steve Russell, Fleet Superintendent, City of Keene, led the discussion. Listeners followed along with his powerpoint slides they accessed via the internet.

There were many questions asked and discussion was excited.

The call was free for people to join.

Job Safety is Crucial and Necessary

Submitted by: Chum Cleverly, Bow Public Works

Safety should be a major concern for people in public works. Municipalities should be recognized for safe practices, as all safety requirements are crucial and necessary.

It's a bad attitude to think that safety precautions are annoying or too time consuming. Safety prevents pain and suffering and saves time. The Department of Labor (DOL) inspectors and insurance company loss prevention representatives are here to help us, not hurt us.

Ensure the shop, trucks, equipment, and workzones are as safe as possible. We wouldn't allow a dangerous situation at home. Maintain the same level of care at work.

Regularly maintain equipment to save money and prevent injury. Often simple fixes, such as repairing a loose chain on a chainsaw, will prevent a project delay. Always wear appropriate clothing, such as chaps and safety glasses.

Roll-overs happen. Wear your seatbelt and secure everything in the vehicle, including the axe, chain binder, and fire extinguisher. This will prevent objects from flying around the vehicle.

Adhere to the MUTCD guidelines. Replace vests that are no longer reflective. Replace faded and non-compliant traffic cones. Maintain retroreflective signs in correct locations. These safety measures take time, but less time than filling out accident reports and answering questions if there is an accident.

Inviting safety inspectors into the facility will cost money. However, they may find a frayed extension cord, which might get dragged through a puddle. They might find a spark guard missing from a grinder or an open container of a flammable substance. The cost to replace an extension cord, spark guard, or a closed container is worth the risk of not replacing them.

The most current equipment is not necessary. However, don't take unnecessary risks. For example, if there isn't a safe chipper available, haul the brush away.

The department supervisor should not be concerned with safety costs. No responsible town official will cut safety items or procedures. The fines for unsafe situations cost more than purchasing new supplies to resolve the issues. Take time to ensure safety is your responsibility.

Professionalism and competency will increase when safety becomes common place. Keep the shop safe and clean. People who enter will respect the operation. Residents will notice vests, signs, and flaggers, and respect the workzone.

Safety, knowledge, appearance, and professionalism provide credentials and respect to public works by residents, elected officials, co-workers, and peers. It also keeps us safe and going home each night...with all our parts and pieces.



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NH Public Works Association

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