Traffic Hazards to Firefighters, Police Officers and Emergency Medical Services Providers While Working Along Roadways

Public Employee Alert # 17
Safety & Health Bulletin
ATTENTION: All Emergency Services Managers
January 2002

This notice is being sent as a result of the potential for accidents and fatalities involving employees providing emergency services along roadways.

Please ensure that this warning and the safe practices below are shared with all operational personnel.

WARNING!
Emergency service workers risk possible injury or death when working along roadways

This notice is to inform you that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has determined that the number of firefighters struck and killed by motor vehicles in the line of duty has dramatically increased within recent years. During the five-year period between 1995 and 1999, 17 firefighters were struck and killed by motorists. Public Employer Safety Alert #11, issued February 2000, provided recommendations from the New Jersey Commissioner of Labor for all public employees regarding work zone safety. The attached information and recommendations from the CDC specifically relate to Firefighters and Fire Departments. It is therefore the recommendation of the New Jersey Commissioner of Labor, that in addition to the recommendations contained in Public Employer Safety Alert #11 (attached), that Fire Departments, Firefighters and all other Emergency Services Personnel follow the recommendations contained in the attached CDC document.

State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
PO BOX 386
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0386

PUBLIC EMPLOYER SAFETY ALERT #11

WORK ZONE SAFETY FOR ALL PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

ATTENTION: ALL PUBLIC EMPLOYERS

FEBRUARY 2000

Many public employees may be subject to the hazards of vehicular traffic due to motor vehicle accidents or other motor vehicle related dangers encountered during the course of performing their job duties. Protection from traffic hazards is most important.

The New Jersey State Safety Council has received numerous complaints from its various Committees concerning the safety of municipal, county and state workers who were exposed to vehicular traffic hazards and were not wearing reflectorized vests.

Additionally, numerous federal OSHA investigations have revealed that victims who were injured by vehicular traffic were not wearing high visibility or reflectorized vests.

It is therefore the recommendation of the Commissioner that all public employees, including but not limited to, police officers, refuse collectors, public works employees, particularly grass cutters and litter patrollers while involved in traffic control or other duties resulting in exposure to vehicular traffic, wear safety vests or other suitable garments marked with or made of reflectorized or high visibility material.

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Safe Work Practices
Save Lives

For Additional Information on Public Employee Safety and Health Contact:

Safety Issues, Recordkeeping and Discrimination Complaints
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Trenton, NJ 08625-0386
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Health Issues
New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
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