Section 15. Miscellaneous Safety Tips

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15.1 On-the-Job Safety

- Is your skill level adequate for safe and proper operation of equipment you need to use to get the job done? If you feel any discomfort in performing a task, do not hesitate to ask someone qualified to give help, such as your supervisor.

- Inspect the work area, equipment, safety devices, garments, etc. Remember the safety motto on the cover sheet.

- Keep your work area uncluttered. A clean, well-organized workplace is a place hazards do not easily collect.

- Use proper back protection techniques when lifting and moving objects. Bend at the knees, not at the waist. Remember to seek help when lifting loads of 40 pounds or more. Warm up before lifting. Employ tools to assist you whenever advantageous, e.g., pallet jacks, hand trucks, dollies, etc.

- Make sure all compressed gas cylinders are well secured by a chain or strap to a wall or a cart. Use a cylinder truck for transporting them.

- Long pants, well-constructed shoes, and adequate sun protection need to be worn in the field.

- Never wear frayed, torn or loose clothing, jewelry, or long, unrestrained hair near moving machinery parts or other sources of entanglement when working near live electrical wires.

- All portable power tools and equipment should have guards or safety devices in place and should be used with appropriate protective gear, e.g., hearing protection, safety glasses, gloves, etc. Unless they are double insulated, portable electric tools need three prong plugs properly grounded. All portable tools need GFCI protection.

- Always be alert for proper venting of exhaust gases from internal combustion engines. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, poisonous gas that can rapidly cause asphyxiation.

- Adequate lighting is an important consideration for every work area. Poor light and shadows can contribute to tripping hazards.

- A build-up of grass, chaff, grease, and oil on equipment and vehicles can be a dangerous fire hazard.

- One common fertilizer, ammonium nitrate, becomes a Class A explosive when it is combined with a small amount of diesel oil. This material is commonly used in commercial dry hole blasting.
• Always look both ways and more than once when backing up a vehicle.
• Never ride on a vehicle or any piece of equipment unless in a seat or proper compartment provided for that purpose. Always use a seat belt.
• Comply with posted stop and speed limit signs, as well as all other state driving laws.
• Do not report for work under the influence of alcoholic beverages or drugs. Never consume these substances while at work.
• Report hazardous conditions (unsafe equipment, floors, materials) and unsafe acts to your supervisor or to a Health & Safety Committee representative.
• Assume that all outdoor faucets supply water unsuitable for drinking.
• Be alert to poisonous plants, insects, and snakes that may be encountered in your work areas.
• The carrying or use of firearms while at work is prohibited.
• When refueling vehicles or other equipment (when bonding is not provided) make sure that the dispensing nozzle is in contact with fill neck to prevent a build-up of static electricity.
• All personnel are required to accept the responsibility for their own personal safety as well as to watch for the safety of others.

15.2 Off-the-Job Safety

The management of the TFREC has no intention of dictating what you do while you are off the job, while you are traveling, or while you are engaged in your favorite kind of recreation. It is our earnest desire to encourage everyone to develop a home safety program that involves the participation of all family members because safety truly does begin at home. A well-organized home safety program will help instill safety awareness in both adults and children, and it will ultimately reflect on an individual’s own safety awareness and work habits on the job.

ACCIDENTS DON’T JUST HAPPEN THEY ARE CAUSED.