




Firehouse Notes

April
2006

Safety Rules Apply Off The Job, Too

You work in a very highly procedural and safety conscious environment. Don't take risks with your safety that you wouldn't dream of taking in the workplace.

When the public sees you on the job, they may see you as larger than life, but we know we are all very human. All the usual safety rules apply equally to us, too.  Protect yourself and your loved ones from injury by following these basic suggestions as you work around the house this spring and summer.

Dress appropriately for the task. Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts, close-fitting clothes and no jewelry (to avoid getting anything caught in moving parts), sturdy shoes with slip-resistant rubber soles, eye protection, work gloves, and hearing protection such as ear plugs when using motor-driven equipment.

Before starting up mowing machinery, remove objects such as sticks, glass, metal, wire, and stones from the area in which you are working. They can be ejected by a lawn mower at a very high velocity and cause injury or damage equipment.

Make sure that safety devices on the equipment are functioning properly before starting work. Safety interlocks may be an inconvenience, but they serve an important function.

Never let a child ride or operate a garden tractor or riding mower.

Keep children indoors and supervised at all times when any outdoor power equipment is being used. Young children move quickly and are attracted to mowers and mowing activity. Also, never assume children will remain where you last saw them.

Unplug electric tools and disconnect spark plug wires on gasoline-powered tools before making adjustments or clearing jams near moving parts.

Be sure power tools are turned off and made inoperable if they must be left unattended.

Do You Have Anything You'd Like to Share? ... Graduation, Wedding, or New Addition to the Family?

Handle gas carefully. Never fill gasoline tanks while machinery is on or when equipment is still hot. Wipe up spills. Store gas in an approved container away from the house. Finally, never smoke or use any type of flame around gasoline or any gasoline-powered equipment.

Never work with electric power tools in wet or damp conditions. For protection against electrocution, use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). GFCIs come in several models, including a portable plug-in type.

Be sure that extension cords are in good condition, are rated for outdoor use, and are the proper gauge wire for the electrical current capacity of the tool.

In addition to exercising caution when using lawn and garden equipment, don't over-exert yourself. You are well aware that the high humidity in south Louisiana combines with the temperature to heighten the danger of heat related stress. Drink plenty of water or isotonic-type fluids. Hydrate well before you begin any strenuous activity.

Avoid alcoholic beverages. They can actually hasten de-hydration in addition to slowing reflexes, which heightens the hazards of operating power equipment.

Capital Improvements Plan Up for Renewal This Fall

The 1.5 mil Capital Improvements tax approved by the voters of the District in May of 2002 will be up for renewal this fall. The assessment currently on the books will continue to be collected through this year, and be available for completing projects through the next fiscal year.

Should the millages be renewed, the funds will be available for station construction and renovations as well as apparatus purchases over the next five years as St. George meets the challenges posed by the explosive growth of our District.