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NIRMA's

Loss Prevention and
Safety Department
Monthly Newsletter

NIRMA's Safety Shorts

General Safety, Highway & Law Enforcement

September 1, 2020

Volume 8, Number 9



COPY

GENERAL SAFETY

By Chad Engle, Loss Prevention and Safety Specialist

Hand Sanitizer Storage Recommendations

September
Is
Self-Care
Awareness
Month

Self-Care Awareness
Month in September is
a time to remind us that
taking care of
ourselves, first and
foremost, is essential.

**PRACTICE BEING
GOOD TO
YOURSELF.**



It is common knowledge that alcohol burns. We add ethanol (grain) to our fuel and use high ABV alcohol to add flames to fancy drinks or in cooking. Have you ever seen the flaming onion volcano at a Japanese steakhouse, you guessed it, alcohol.

Hand sanitizer is a big part of our efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus with most recommending a hand sanitizer with no less than 70% alcohol. When alcohol-based hand sanitizers are applied to our skin it evaporates quickly, so there is really no need for concern about flammability during use.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is concerned about safe storage of alcohol-based hand sanitizers. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers have a flash point of approximately 63 degrees Fahrenheit. Which means when alcohol-based hand sanitizer is stored at room temperature if gives off enough vapor to ignite if it is exposed to an ignition source such as a spark or open flame.

I am aware of sources that have provided counties and agencies with large amounts of alcohol-based hand sanitizer. The NFPA recommends that quantities of hand sanitizer above 5 gallons should be stored in a flammable liquids cabinet or in areas protected by an automatic sprinkler system. Fire safety best practices would also advise not storing smaller amounts of alcohol-based hand sanitizer near ignition sources. This would include mechanical and storerooms with an electrical panel, water heater, furnace, or boiler.

Should you have any questions regarding flammable liquid storage I can be reached at 1.800.642.6671 or chad@nirma.info.

Quarterly Incident Reports for Safety Committee Use

I have seen a few sets of safety committee minutes that included something along the lines of, "incident reports not available so incidents were not discussed." I am not certain if this is because no one was able to access them or if they do not know where to access them, so let's talk about how your safety committee can obtain your quarterly incident report.

Designate a safety committee member to be responsible for downloading the report prior to each meeting. The designated person should visit

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8040 Eiger Drive

PO Box 85210

Lincoln, NE
68501-5210

phone
402-742-9220

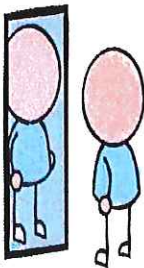
fax
402-742-9230

toll free
800-642-6671

How To Increase Your Self-Awareness

Three key
questions can
help us increase
our self-
awareness:

- Who am I?
- What do I want?
- How do I want to be in my life?



Quarterly Incident Reports for Safety Committee Use

continued

<https://nirma.info> and click on the *Create Account* link in the upper right corner of the screen. They will be presented with a form to fill out, please complete all fields in the form and change the authority level from *Basic* to *Safety Committee*. This ensures that when the id is activated, the correct authorities are granted, which includes the ability to download quarterly incident reports and upload meeting minutes.

If you need immediate access you should email Tod Thieman to let him know you have submitted a new id request. After the id has been verified by your NIRMA Contact Person and by Tod you will receive instructions for how to finish setting up your new id with a password, this normally occurs within 24 hours. Please keep an eye on your junk email box as some email providers will put the emails there, to keep this from reoccurring mark the email sender as safe.

Once your password is set and you are logged into the NIRMA website you can find your quarterly incident reports by hovering your mouse over the *Interact* menu and clicking on *Loss Prevention*. Then locate and click on *Safety Committee Quarterly Reports and Uploads*. Please read the information advising that these reports are not to be made public and click the *Click here* for the recommended procedures for handling this data.

Now you may click the *Safety Committee Portal* link where can generate the two reports for the safety committee to review. There is a *Quarterly Liability Report* and a *Quarterly Workers' Compensation Report*. Once they are generated you can save them to PDF by clicking on the PDF icon in the upper right corner of your screen. These reports are for the previous quarter based on the date you run the report.

If you are having problems, feel free to call and I will help walk you through the process. I can always be reached at 1.800.642.6671 or chad@nirma.info.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

By Tim Baxter, Road Safety and Loss Prevention Specialist

Shop Safety Audits

NIRMA has been conducting shop safety audits since shortly after its inception in 1988. Yet, there are still many counties that have not made the necessary safety improvements to better protect their employees. Most safety issues are eligible to apply for assistance through the NIRMA ASSIST grant program which helps offset costs of safety improvements. So, there is really is no reason NOT to make safety improvements.

The most recent shop audit inspections, of all 82 member counties showed an average of 47% improvements which clearly is a failing grade. A number of counties have never had a passing grade since joining NIRMA. Again, there is no reason not to make safety improvements. Road departments can and should appoint a conscientious, responsible person as Safety Manager who can ensure First Aid Kits and Fire Extinguishers are inspected, and other safety issues addressed. The Safety Manager

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Top 10 Safety

Slogans

- Success will always be with you, as long as you place safety as the first priority.
- Safety does not come instantly; you should implement it consistently.
- Say no to carelessness!
- A safety message could save thousands of lives.

Shop Safety Audits – *continued*

could also oversee safety meetings, topics to present, quarterly shop audits, shop safety improvements, etc.

Remember to send copies of your quarterly safety meeting minutes which should include discussion of all incidents/events that occurred in the previous three months and recommendations as to how to prevent reoccurrence to Chad Engle at NIRMA.

I have attached a sample Foreman/Safety Manager job description where the Safety Manager position was combined with an existing position. After construction season is over and work slows down a bit, take time to look into this or a similar position. If you want to combine the Safety Manager position with another position, take the highlighted information and incorporate in your combined job description. I will gladly assist in any way I can.

NIRMA performs shop safety audits using OSHA, ANSI, and other nationally recognized safety organizations as a guideline. Some of the items inspected are consistent with state law, such as fuel storage facilities, and fines can be levied by the State Fire Marshal's office if a county is not in compliance.

Attached is a Shop Inspection Checklist to assist in shop safety improvements and a sample Foreman/Safety Manager job description to show how to combine two positions. Please contact me with any questions at tim@nirma.info or 402-310-4417. Be Safe.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONS

By Terry Baxter, Law Enforcement and Safety Specialist

Unbiased Policing

By now everyone should be aware Governor Ricketts signed into law LB 924 that addresses many requirements to prevent racial profiling from occurring within the State of Nebraska. The key component of the new legislation requires at least two hours of annual anti-bias and implicit bias training for all Nebraska law enforcement designed to minimize apparent or actual racial profiling.

Introduced in 2013, N.R.S. § 20-501 states; racial profiling is a practice that presents a great danger to the fundamental principles of a democratic society. It is abhorrent and cannot be tolerated. Every law enforcement agency in the state has a racial profiling policy. N.R.S. § 20-504 required every law enforcement agency to adopt a written racial profiling prevention policy on or before January 1, 2014.

There is nothing wrong with law enforcement being proactive and aggressive when it comes to investigating suspected violations of law, as the one main job task in law enforcement is to actively enforce state and federal laws as long as it can be done in a responsible and professional manner, without the regard of race, ethnicity or national origin. Race, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, culture groups should never be used as the sole basis for reasonable suspicion or probable cause, so the reason for training and the why it serves as a

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**Year 2020
Total Line of Duty
Deaths: 177**

- [9/11 related cancer 3](#)
- [Aircraft accident 1](#)
- [Automobile crash 15](#)
- [COVID19 97](#)
- [Drowned 3](#)
- [Duty related illness 2](#)
- [Gunfire 30](#)
- [Gunfire
\(Inadvertent\) 4](#)
- [Heart attack 5](#)
- [Motorcycle crash 2](#)
- [Struck by vehicle 6](#)
- [Vehicle pursuit 2](#)
- [Vehicular assault 7](#)



Unbiased Policing *continued*

main catalysis in transforming a successful comprehensive plan addressing racial biases.

Many recent use of force events at the hands of law enforcement agencies across the nation have triggered protests bringing attention to ongoing concerns with racism. Social media is running ramped with videos and posts proposing eliminating law enforcement services or reducing funding for law enforcement agencies. There have been movements to remove Civil War monuments and calls to rename college and pro sport teams as well as eliminate long standing traditions that many view as being racist. Nationally, regardless of race, society believes that racial profiling is a significant social concern which can clearly be seen day after day in news and publication resources.

To ensure profiling concerns don't occur within your agency, checks and balances are implemented, one being policy. The purpose of policy is to affirm a commitment to unbiased policing in all encounters between law enforcement and any person. Unbiased policing policy is designed to reinforce procedures that serve to ensure public confidence and mutual trust through the provisions of services in a fair and equitable fashion. But most importantly, when policy is followed, it can protect personnel from unwanted accusations of misconduct, when they act within confines adopted procedures and law.

NIRMA model Racial Profiling policy was established in 2010 and revised in 2013, if NIRMA policy is utilized by your agency, you would had been providing or receiving annual training on the prevention of racial profiling according to the language under the training section. As previously noted in this article, LB 924 requires a minimum of two hours of annual anti-bias and implicit bias training which will be revised in NIRMA model policy (training section) to comply with state statute.

I have received numerous correspondences since the bill was signed, asking if NIRMA will be putting together training to address the new annual training requirements, which must be completed before the end of this calendar year. I wanted to pass along the following, NIRMA is looking into on-line training that would meet the required standards noted in LB 924. By utilizing the on-line sessions personnel will be able to access and complete the training at any time. The plan is to hopefully have this topic of training available to our members by this fall. Once training is up and running, notification will be sent out to our member sheriff offices, so the short version we are working to achieve this training goal.

Additional: Sheriff's should be expecting revised NIRMA model policies addressing Response to Resistance (Use of Force) and Bias Policing (Racial Profiling) coming out this fall, but in the meantime and as always if you need assistance or have any questions please feel free to contact me.

For more information or to request training involving law enforcement and/or corrections operations., contact Terry at: terry@nirma.info, or (402) 686-9332.