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NIRMA's

Loss Prevention and Safety Department
 Monthly Newsletter

NIRMA's Safety Shorts
 General Safety, Highway & Law Enforcement

May 2022

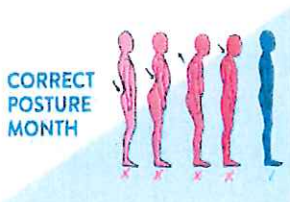
Volume 10, Number 5



May
 Is
 Correct Your
 Posture
 Month

Correct Your Posture Month encourages us to consciously think about the way we align our bodies during the different activities we perform every day.

Poor posture affects our long-term health. Over time, poor posture causes bone and joint issues that place our quality of life at risk of agony later.



GENERAL SAFETY

By Chad Engle, Loss Prevention and Safety Specialist

NIRMA Loss Prevention Training Resources

I know it doesn't feel like it just yet, but warmer weather is almost here and before you know it school will be out, and summer will be rolling. Along with that we'll have all kinds of highway department projects, elections, fairs, vacations and everything else that fills up our summer schedules and makes the time fly by so quickly.

When our work and personal schedules fill up during the summer months, I universally see a drop off in safety committee meetings and trainings. I get it, something must give, there are only so many hours in a day. But consider this, the busier we are the more risks we face and the more important keeping safety "front of mind" becomes. Mistakes, shortcuts, and accidents all tend to happen when we are in a rush.

It is more important than ever to keep the safety committee rolling and keep training throughout the summer. Please get those meeting dates on the calendar now so folks can plan accordingly. If some folks can't make the meeting, hold it anyway. It's okay to have some empty chairs around the table, keep talking about loss prevention and hazard identification so there isn't a lull. Here at NIRMA, we schedule our next meeting during the current meeting, it really reduces the chances that you'll forget to hold a meeting. I see that some counties schedule all four meetings in advance. If you can pull this off, I highly recommend it.

Maintaining regular training is the best way to keep safety and loss prevention "front of mind." If your county likes to hold in-person training, get them on the calendar now. Our schedule fills up quickly as well and the sooner you reach out to K.C. or me the better chance you have of getting it scheduled.

If you don't think that in-person training will work, NIRMA has many online training offerings to choose from as well:

- **Anti-Bias & Implicit Bias Training for Law Enforcement**
- **Streaming Videos on Demand** – Too much rain to work outside? Log in and have access to hundreds of videos that are available to member counties and agencies. Sit the crew down provide them with training on relevant work topics.

Loss Prevention
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NIRMA Loss Prevention Training Resources *continued*

- **NIRMA Online University** – The Online University provides members with access to online training modules that range from .5 to 1 hour in length. The courses are interactive with learning checks during the module and a test at the end. Online University allows you to assign courses to employees and monitor their progress.
- **Toolbox Talks** – NIRMA’s custom toolbox talks are an easy way for managers and supervisors to supplement their training efforts with short, pre-written meeting templates on topics relevant to any employee.
- **On Q Safety** – Through a partnership with Safety National, NIRMA provides our members access to three different online driving safety courses. *EVOC Intersection Analysis* for Law Enforcement professionals. *Defensive Driving Course* along with *Attention and Distraction*. *Defensive Driving* is a longer course that includes *Attention and Distraction*. Both are excellent topics for county or agency employees as almost everyone drives a car for work or personal use.

NIRMA still maintains a Video Loan Library that consists of DVDs and even some old VHS tapes that are available via request. I do not foresee any further investment in the Video Loan Library as the streaming online videos seem to have taken over.

All the resources outlined above are available to NIRMA members at no cost. Please do your best to keep your loss prevention and safety program active and effective throughout the year and please do not hesitate to contact me at 800-642-6671 or chad@nirma.info if I can be of any assistance.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

By K. C. Pawling, Road Safety and Loss Prevention Specialist

In the Shop or On the Road, We Impact So Many

The trees have started to bud out. The grass is greening up. I see tractors rolling through the fields. It must be springtime, right? It is cool enough yet, so I’m not so sure that mother nature thinks so. What I am sure of though, is that it is that time of year to get the shop and sign assessments scheduled for this upcoming season. I have begun contacting some of the counties that are due this year, and I appreciate the prompt responses from those of you that have responded.

With the shop and road sign assessments, I am finding that many counties don’t look forward to those, as they do spring. I want to assure you though; we are coming to assess your shops and sign inventories to give a perspective of loss prevention. All of us in county government should and usually do have the spirit of service, understanding some days are easier than others to let our spirit shine. None the less, we are still in it to serve.

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In the Shop or On the Road, We Impact So Many - *continued*

The shop assessments are geared to focus on the safety and wellbeing of our employees. We are focusing on items that would keep everyone safe while using power tools, machines, or during emergency situations like fires and while using flammable products to fuel our machines.

Some of the items we will be looking at are fuel facilities, air tools and lines, cables and chain inspection, condition, and type of ladders. We should make sure that all the recommended guarding is in place on all machines. Do we have emergency action plans in place, and are they reviewed periodically? Is the appropriate signage in place for guidance during emergency situations? Do we post signs with simple reminders for employees to think and be safe? We need to make sure everyone is inspecting the fire extinguishers monthly. Remember, this is just a glimpse of all that will be assessed, if you would like a complete list do not hesitate to contact me and I can get you the full list.

Now when it comes to doing road sign assessments, we are looking at it from a different perspective. We are looking at it from the point of view from the road user that is NOT familiar with the area. We pay particular attention on crossroads we are pulling out from. We will be looking at sign condition, lateral placement, and installed height. Keep in mind that the required installed sign height is 5 feet from the road edge to the bottom of the sign. We do recommend that you do install the sign to the height of 5 feet from the center (crown) of the road.

When we are addressing the issue of line of sight, we need to be aware that the MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) uses the line-of-sight height of 3.5 feet. This is not a negotiable height. The Federal Highway Administration tells us that we will use this height because it is the height of a typical passenger car.

You impact a lot of people while serving in your roles as county employees. Whether it is members of the public, or fellow county employees, the way we perform our work can affect their lives. Our job serving the public can be both challenging and rewarding, but it is necessary. So, let's take the time, clean the shop, and inspect the fire extinguishers. We may have to trim some trees and replace a sign but if it needs to be done, let's do it and do it correctly. Let's make sure everyone makes it home every night. Be safe!

IF you have any questions on any of the above information, or want to request training, please contact me at 402-310-4417 or via email at kcpawling@nirma.info.

We Believe in Keeping You Safe

Mark your calendars and join us in October 20 – 21
for the Self Defense for County Officials Conference