



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

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MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: DR. ROBERT GOLDSMITH
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS OVERSIGHT
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: Vehicle Safety Awareness

Several recent serious accidents across the Department of Energy (DOE) complex emphasize the importance of effective site motor vehicle safety programs. Indeed, ten safety events at Office of Environmental Management facilities during the current fiscal year involved moving vehicles. The occurrences comprise overturned vehicles, vehicles contacting overhead lines, loads slipping off moving vehicles, moving equipment striking or almost striking workers, a vehicle crash, and a serious injury to a passenger riding in an electric cart. Operator error, excessive speed, spotting and load checking failure, turning abruptly; as well as complacency and lack of attention all contributed to these events. Lack of training does not appear to have been a contributor.

We have requirements such as the Worker Safety Rule, 10 CFR 851, which compels DOE contractors to include in their worker safety and health program provisions addressing motor vehicle safety. The Rule includes requirements for licensing, use of seat belts and provision of other safety devices, training for specialty vehicle operators, motor vehicle maintenance and inspection, uniform traffic and pedestrian control devices and road signs, on-site speed limits and other traffic rules, and awareness campaigns and incentive programs to encourage safe driving.

However, the unfortunate incidents over the past few months, coupled with new employee influx due to the increased activity from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) stimulus program provoke renewed focus on motor vehicle safety. Please ensure that your contractors are strictly implementing the relevant provisions of 10 CFR 851, and that your Federal employees are diligent in their operation of personal and government motor vehicles.

If you have any questions, please call me at 301-903-4954.

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