

Date: Mon, 24 May 1999 09:51:42 -0600
From: Meredith Brown <racer@lanl.gov>
Subject: Yellow Alert: Pedestrian Safety

TITLE: PEDESTRIAN/VEHICLE SAFETY

IDENTIFIER: SS-99-027.CA DATE: May 19, 1999

LESSONS LEARNED STATEMENT: · Site drivers should be aware that visibility is extremely limited during drives to the east during morning hours, and to the west during afternoon hours. These problems are exacerbated during the spring and fall. Drivers should be encouraged to wear sunglasses, keep their windshields free of debris, and use sun-visors. Particular attention should be paid when approaching crosswalks. Drivers should come to a full stop and obey the posted speed limit. Yielding to pedestrians in a crosswalk is a site and State of Colorado requirement. Pedestrians should not assume the right-of-way when crossing streets at designated crosswalks (either on or off plant site). Ensure that vehicles come to a full stop prior to crossing. Whenever possible, establish eye contact with the driver prior to crossing.

DESCRIPTION: A Safe Sites Of Colorado employee was injured while crossing the street south of Portal Two (2) on 3/3/99. The incident occurred at approximately 6:50am. The employee was struck while in the crosswalk. The crosswalk was located approximately twenty feet from the stop sign. The sign has subsequently been moved closer to the crosswalk. The Wackenhut investigation revealed that the position of the sun in the drivers face was a contributing cause to this accident. The employee sustained minor injuries in this accident. However, the potential for serious injury from this type of accident is great.

ANALYSIS: An employee parked their personal vehicle in the parking lot adjacent to Sage Avenue on the morning of March 3, 1999 at approximately 6:50am. The pedestrian then proceeded to the crosswalk near the intersection of Sage Avenue and Fifth Street. The employee noticed a vehicle approaching the intersection from the west. The individual entered the crosswalk and was approximately half way through the intersection when struck by the vehicle. The employee was struck in the left flank area and knocked to the ground. The injuries were considered to be minor and there was no damage to the vehicle. The position of the sun was considered to be a factor in the accident.

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DOE FUNCTIONAL CATEGORY: Grounds and Roads
KEYWORDS: crosswalk, injuries, sun
REFERENCES: IR# 990136

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS: Information in this report is accurate to the best of our knowledge. As a means of measuring the effectiveness of this report, please notify the contact of any action taken as a result of this report or of any technical inaccuracies you find. Your feedback is appreciated.