



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor

Dee Freeman
Secretary

March 10, 2009

TO: DENR Employees

FROM: Dee Freeman, Secretary

As the department continues its progress towards a sustainable world class safety program, I encourage each of you to retain a continuous focus on safety as you provide the various services we offer to the citizens of our state. This focus includes recognizing that occupational safety and health is part of every employee's overall job responsibilities.

Managers shall make safety a primary consideration in all operations through active participation in our safety program. This is demonstrated through the identification and reduction, or elimination of hazards in the workplace and at work sites, and by ensuring that employees receive appropriate training.

Supervisors are responsible and accountable for the safety of their direct reports. Each and every employee is expected to perform their duties in a safe and responsible manner.

I encourage each of you to be proactive through involvement at scheduled employee safety meetings, or by volunteering to serve on your division director's safety committee or one of your division's safety subcommittees. Utilize the DENR safety Web page, your division's chapter in the workplace safety manual and our safety policy manual as resources to assist you in understanding and applying safety principles.

In this time of reduced budgets let's recognize that applying the effective incident and injury prevention strategies and techniques contained in our written safety program can lead to a reduction in both human suffering and financial costs. Safety is everyone's business.

Let's not leave our individual or collective safety to chance or luck. To reduce the possibility of injury, be alert at all times to your surroundings, coworkers and the public. As an advocate of safety for many years, I invite each of you to work together every day to ensure that our department remains a safe place to work.