

The Safety Theme program is designed to help you get an important safety message across to all employees in a simple-to-use format that can be completed each month.



REPORT HAZARDS WHEN YOU SEE THEM

In This Issue:

Safety Theme Article

The article expands on the poster message for the month. Make copies and hand them out to each meeting participant.



Monthly Poster Theme

Make copies and post them wherever you will get the most impact.

Participant Sign-In Sheets:

Use the sign-in sheet to document your safety training.
Suggested Agenda for the Monthly Safety Meeting:

- >>> Assemble the participants.
- >>> Hand out copies of the article and pass around the sign-in sheet.
- >>> Read the Safety Theme aloud.
- >>> Discuss aspects of the theme relevant to the department, with examples. Ask for ideas and encourage participation.



LGRMS
RISK CONTROL
ACCG | GMA

October 2019

SAFETY THEME

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC., - A Service Organization of the ASSOCIATION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GEORGIA and the GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION



NOTICE IT, REPORT IT!



**Don't wait for a safety problem to turn
into a nightmare! Report the hazard now!**

Notice it, Report it!

There's no time like the present...to report a hazard!

All too often we see the signs of large-scale issues as they begin but brush them off as insignificant. So many of yesterday's "little problems" escalate into today's nightmares because we do not take the time to investigate or report potential hazards. One such hazard is sinkholes, which seemingly appear out of nowhere, and are sometimes mistakenly confused for the inception of potholes.

Though sinkholes and potholes are related to water damage, potholes are topical. They form when water that seeps into the cracks of the road's surface, freezes and thaws over time. This constant change in the water's state creates air pockets under the pavement. Combined with the weight of frequent traffic running atop the surface of the affected area, portions of the road crumbles into the hole left by the air pockets, and thus a pothole is born.

By contrast, sinkholes are the result of water damage that is subterranean in nature. When water flows underneath an area for a period of time, it erodes the dirt and rock supporting the surface above it. Given enough time or under enough pressure, this erosion greatly diminishes the structural integrity of the ground and it collapses into the void. Because sinkholes can vary in size, from just a few feet to several feet in depth, can be filled with water, and are unstable, they are quite dangerous and should be reported immediately.

While sinkholes may appear to happen out of the blue, there are a few signs to look for; particularly following periods of heavy rain and flooding:

1. The appearance of new cracks in the roadway's surface.
2. The appearance of a pattern of cracks that look like the scaling of an alligator or crocodile, appropriately referred to as Crocodile cracks, in the pavement. These cracks may be an indication of structural issues beneath the surface.
3. Depressed or "drooping" areas in the road that are circular in shape.
4. Rain water that disappears into ground openings. This could be a sign that water is running into a vacant cavity beneath the pavement.
5. Eroded shoulders on the road.

6. Roads built across drainage culverts are often susceptible to sinkholes due to the volume of water and debris passing through them. This is especially true following heavy rain events.
7. Ponding along portions of the road that were never subject to flooding. This could be a signal of ground deterioration.

Should you see any of these signs or a combination of these signs, contact the appropriate city, county or state department. In many cases this simply means making a call on the radio, phone, or sending an email to the affected supervisor.

Our fellow workers are out in the field delivering services to our citizens every day, and the last thing they expect is to be injured while doing so. Notifying the proper individuals of sinkholes, potholes, downed power lines, a raised sidewalk paver, or any potential hazard, is the best prevention tool we can use to protect our city or county's biggest asset - the people! We need only exercise one simple yet effective rule:

Notice it, Report it! There is no time like the present to report a hazard!

Please Route this Newsletter to the Following People:

Administration . Law Enforcement . Fire/EMS

Public Works . Sanitation . Attorney . Recreation

Water/Sewer . Other





LGRMS
RISK CONTROL
ACCG | GMA

Local Government
Risk Management Services
3500 Parkway Lane . Suite 110
Norcross, Georgia 30092

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ATLANTA, GA
PERMIT NO. 3259

A Service Organization of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia and the Georgia Municipal Association

This Month:

Notice it, Report it!

There's no time like the present...to report a hazard!

