



Custodial Department

Dec 4, 2014

Safety

Once again the custodial staff did a great job focusing on safety throughout the month. I am very happy to report that custodial did not have any incidents or injuries in the month of November. That's now 3 months in a row. Weekly safety topics covered in were:

- **Personal Protective Gear** – This is a reminder to ALWAYS take the time to properly don the correct PPE. With the busy schedules that custodians have we sometime get in a hurry to get things done without taking the time to protect ourselves. This is a great reminder for not just at work put also at home.
- **Winter Walking Safety** – This will be an every month reminder during the winter months. As the weather changes from warm summer days into the winter months so does our focus on safety. We need to keep a close eye on the potential for slip trip and falls due to wet, rainy and icy conditions. This safety brief is a great reminder for everyone.
- **Holiday Distraction** - As we approach the holidays, it's important for all of us to work safely and avoid distractions that can lead to unexpected injuries. This brief is used to reinforce "Safety First." Encourage all of us to practice safe behaviors to achieve our "Target Zero" goal.

Our Custodian: In The Spot Light

This month's Custodian in the spot light is Chris Nester, Head Custodian at Hidden Valley H.S.

I first came to the Rogue Valley in 1976 and have lived here permanently since 1983. I lived in Wimer outside of Rogue River for around ten years. During the late 80's I was a volunteer firefighter with Evans Valley Fire District 6 for close to four years before eventually moving to Grants Pass. One of my first jobs in the valley was working for Copeland Lumber Yard on the corner of 4th and G Street. From there I went to Main Building Supply in Rogue River and after that some construction work with a good friend of mine.

Sometime around 1999 I started as a substitute custodian for Three Rivers School District. I believe I subbed at every school in the district except for Wolf Creek and Lorna Byrne. My first permanent hire was in 2001 at Williams Elementary School. From there I went to Madrona for a bit and then to Fleming where after about 2 years I became Head Custodian. For the last 10 years or so I have been Head Custodian at Hidden Valley High School. I have enjoyed my time being with the district and have worked with great staff. Working around the students (and at times staff) has been a challenge at times but for the most part they're very good kids. I have also enjoyed my interaction with them as well and hopefully have giving them some good advice and pointed them in the right direction.

Training

Training with the head custodian was held on November 24th. We talked about the importance of following the processes and procedures and setting the example for their custodial crews.

Justin Tocher from benefits also reviewed the Sub Finder process. We would like to thank him for his time. It was very informative and answered all the questions we had about the system. The system is working great for the custodial department.

Reviewed the custodial inspections from the month of October. We had a lot of get interaction with each other on how we can improve and correct some of the discrepancies we are seeing. It's great to see them work as a team to help each other.

Environmental/Recycling

Tammie Kirk from Southern Oregon Sanitation along with Kim West from Republic Services attended our training and gave us an over view on how we as a district can help recycle. With their help over the next few months we will be conducting Waste Audits at each of the district's facilities. The audits are intended to show where we can up our recycling and save the district money on waste removal each year.

The audits are also a benefit to the students because each school has been asked to provide one class to assist in the process. There will be a class presentation given by the sanitation company and then the class will get to figure out how they as a school can help recycle. I look forward to getting started with the audits and working with the student to help benefit the district.

Respectfully Submitted
James Bunge
Aaramark Custodial Manager