Memorandum

To: DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTORS, Construction
    DEPUTY DIVISION CHIEF, Structure Construction
    CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS
    SENIOR CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS
    RESIDENT ENGINEERS

Date: October 20, 2021

File: Division of Construction
      CPD 21-21

From: RAMON HOPKINS, Chief
      Division of Construction

Subject: CODE OF SAFE PRACTICES UPDATE

This directive informs Construction staff that the Code of Safe Practices (COSP) has been updated. Added were policy and guidance on Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and protection from hazardous wildfire smoke for outdoor workers. In addition, guidance on stripe removal was updated to differentiate between yellow striping that has higher concentrations of lead and other striping, whose lead content is within limits deemed safe.


As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, the Office of Employee Health and Safety updates Caltrans' COVID-19 policy and guidance on its intranet page. Updates to this COSP provide references for finding the latest COVID-19 policy and guidance for Caltrans staff.

In accordance with California Code of Regulations Title 8, Section 5141.1, “Protection from Wildfire Smoke,” the Office of Employee Health and Safety, created Chapter 26, “Wildfire Safety,” of the Safety Manual, to address working in areas affected by potentially hazardous wildfire smoke. Updates to this COSP incorporate guidance from Chapter 26 and CPD 20-19 guidance, in new Section 10.16, “Wildfire Smoke and Protection.”

Section 10.10, “Removal of Traffic Stripe and Marking Containing Lead,” of this COSP was revised to specify that white striping and newer yellow striping do contain lead, although it is in concentrations too low to be considered hazardous waste. Reference to the contractor’s Lead Compliance Plan was also added.

The COSP, part of Caltrans’ Injury and Illness Prevention Program, serves as a core safety document for Caltrans construction projects. The COSP is available on the Construction Safety/Traffic webpage at:

“Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment.”
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