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Transmitted via email

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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 360-7-14

SUBJECT: PER – SAFETY AND HEALTH – Safety Equipment

Purpose. Annual reminder to employees regarding safety equipment.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2008.

A leading cause of workplace fatalities in Minnesota is employees struck or crushed by heavy equipment. Effective October 4, 1999, Minnesota State Law 5207. 1000 was written to address this hazard. The rule requires that anyone on the ground who is exposed to mobile earth-moving equipment shall be required to wear a high visibility vest.

All NRCS employees who work on sites where earth-moving equipment is operating must wear a high visibility vest. In addition, state law requires that any employee working in a road right-of-way must also wear a high visibility vest. Any vest purchased must meet “Class II” requirements.

In addition to high visibility vest, employees are reminded that hard hats are also to be worn “where there is possible danger of head injury from impact, or from falling or flying objects, or from electric shock and burns.” Generally, survey and layout activities on our typical CO-01 sites do not fall under this rule; however, there could be some exceptions. If there are any overhead hazards, a hard hat must be worn.

Hard hats can be ordered from GSA, Stock Number 8415-00-935-3139 or from OfficeMax, Stock Number ERB19111. Hard hats must also have an USDA NRCS decal.

Supervisors are responsible for providing and maintaining necessary protective equipment for their employees. Refer to GM120, Part 406 for further information.

Contact Laurie Otte, State Safety and Health Officer if decals are needed or you have questions.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: AE

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