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Maintenance staff at Arthur Winston Division frequently provide safety suggestions that contribute to their success at avoiding lost-time injuries. PHOTO: RICH MORALLO



## Employee Suggestions Aim at Keeping Division 5 Safe

By RICH MORALLO

(Nov. 18, 2004) One Arthur Winston Division 5 mechanic came forward with a suggestion that buses should not block pedestrian walkways in the bus yard. Another staff member noticed that division "housekeeping" could be improved.

"As a result of our people putting safety first, Arthur Winston Division Maintenance has gone 160 days without a lost-time injury case," said Assistant Maintenance Manager Sergio Rubalcava.

Mechanics and service attendants at the 10-acre Chesterfield Square bus yard used the Field Observation and Feedback (FOF) Form to report safety questions and help establish the 160-day Arthur Winston Division milestone, according to Rubalcava.

In the previous five-month period, the maintainers had three lost-time cases.

### Employee suggestions

"Regarding the suggestion with the blocked pedestrian walkways, some buses waiting in line at the refueling island would end up parked over part of the pedestrian walkways which forced people off of the designated walk paths," said Rubalcava. "The FOF on housekeeping recommended that air hoses be wound back up after use so they would not present a tripping hazard in the shops."

In both cases, thanks to employees who took time to write down their safety suggestions on the FOF, corrective action was taken and the 115-member maintenance staff continued to work together and achieve a division record of five months without anyone missing work due to an

injury.

"Our people are also using the FOF to make positive comments to reinforce what is safe and to get agreement to change unsafe behavior," said Maintenance Manager Alex DiNuzzo.

**Remember to be safe**

Helping make safety a priority are those employees who remember to be safe.

"When I work my mind is full of safety at all times," said Andrew Warren, a 22-year mechanic.

Vernon Jackson, another mechanic who has 21 years with the agency, said, "My slogan is to keep safe and aware of your environment."

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