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Stomachs were rumbling, mouths were watering as Mechanic Jeffrey Lopez served food to a long line of hungry people at Division 10's safety celebration barbecue.



Photos: Perry Williams

Division 10 Maintenance Celebrates OSHA Safety Record

By ARLENE LIM

(July 22, 2005) Maintenance employees at Gateway Division 10 took refuge from the blistering heat and enjoyed some BBQ, recently, to celebrate more than 358 days without an OSHA recordable injury.

For almost a year employees at Division 10 have been working together to create and maintain a safe working environment.

As Richard Long, senior safety specialist for the Westside/Central sector put it, "It only takes one guy to wipe it all out," but an entire team to make it all come together.

"We have a bunch of good mechanics who are safety conscious, always aware and always looking for the public's safety," said Alex Espinoza, ATU shop steward.

Employees were able to enjoy food prepared by their own Fidel Hernandez, Jesse Sermino, Jeffrey Lopez, Tom Taira, Jason Stange, and Maria Hernandez.

'Very difficult conditions'



ATU Shop Steward Alex Espinoza presented Mechanic "A" Robin Tice with a jacket for his 23 years of service with Metro.

"We are working under very difficult conditions. This is the largest division; we have the most buses and we have a special service requirement as well, " said Maintenance Manager Frank Lonyai. "Despite all of these challenges, we can work in a safe environment and it's because of the employees - they're doing a tremendous job."

Mechanic "A" Robin Tice, retiring after 23 years of Metro service was recognized at the celebration. Tice now plans to join the racing team of his son-in-law, NASCAR Driver JJ Yeley.

As Division 10 was celebrating its achievement, another Westside/Central division – Venice Division 6 – crossed the 300-day mark without a loss-time injury. Division employees plan to celebrate once they reach their division goal of 365 days.



Division 10 for soared past 358 days without an OSHA recordable injury.



From right to left: Claude Hall, Jay Shield, Edward Cardiel, and Monique Washington sit down to a feast.