

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/
Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Members of the Division 7 team pause for a group photo, anchored on the far left by Maintenance Manager Jim Pachan.



Photos by Jennie Harris

Division 6, 7 Maintenance Staffs Work Hard to Make Safety Routine

- Venice division reaches 518 days with no lost-time injuries; West Hollywood division hits 379 days

By JENNIE HARRIS

(June 15, 2007) In the maintenance world of tripping hazards, tools, and big buses, the safety records at Venice Division 6 and West Hollywood Division 7 are nothing to sneeze at.

Division 6, Metro's smallest division with 80 buses and 34 maintenance employees, is at 518 days with no lost-time injuries.

"We have our injuries," said Bruce Buck, Division 6 assistant maintenance manager, "but, so far in a year and a half, nobody has missed a day of work because of their injuries."

Division 7 has 238 buses and 125 maintenance employees and is at 379 days.

"It's hard to say big things about it because we're trying to make it part of our routine to work safely," said Maintenance Manager Jim Pachan. "We want to see 400 days, 500 days, and so on."

"We weren't really thinking about any great record," said Buck, looking back at the Division 6 staff's accomplishment. "We were just taking care of business, and suddenly we realized it had been a year."



Assistant Manager Bruce Buck and Mechanic Manny Lopez break for some sunshine at Division 6.

'Not built for buses'

"The reason why we're pretty happy about this is that this division was not built for buses," he added, "it was built for trains, so there's no place to put anything. We've got more buses than the yard will hold assigned here."

The team has to be creative about how space is used. "You don't normally see office desks in the bay," Buck laughed. Because it's such a small space, "it is very difficult to keep things organized in here."

Mechanic Manny Lopez explained how they stay safe: "We have safety meetings every month, and then we make sure no hoses are hanging out, no horseplay, and simple things...Once a week, when we have time, we clean the shop up. Mop it, get the trash out of the way, and that kinda helps."

"With 15 mechanics and 80 buses, our guys maintain more buses with fewer mechanics than anybody in the company," said Buck. "There's not a lot of time for anything fancy."

Division 7 has its own challenges. Maintenance Manager Jim Pachan said that he experiences a large turnover simply because of the Beverly Hills housing costs.

"When another opening comes up that's closer to home, they leave...it's constant training," he said. "Along with that, though, it keeps it fresh in everybody's mind and on the same page."

Raising awareness

Pre-shift meetings help to raise the level of awareness for everyone, during which daily safety issues are addressed.

ATU Steward Mike Jones said, "Prior to Jim, you'd see people standing on buckets, creating their own little ladders. He does a really good job of making sure we have the equipment that we need."

Every 100 days, Division 7 celebrates with some good eats cooked by their very own Mechanic Allen Anderson, known by his co-workers as "barbeque master."

"It's the one time everybody goes in and we all eat together," said Jones.

Westside/Central General Manager Mark Maloney said, "I am impressed with how much Jim and Bruce care about their employees, they go out of

the way to coach and show them the best and safest way to get the job done.”

| [Home](#) | [Phone Directory](#) | [Forms Online](#) | [FIS Online](#)