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## 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](#)

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West Hollywood Division 7 Maintenance went 555 days without a lost-time accident before a broken ankle ended their streak in December. Shown here is the Division 7 Maintenance 1st Shift. Photo by Ned Racine.



### Division 7 Works a Year and a Half without a Lost-Time Accident

By JIMMY STROUP

(Jan. 17, 2008) A Metro division maintenance shop is a place where safety is a foremost concern. There are flammable materials, slick and greasy areas, heavy equipment and mechanical tools that whirl at incredible speeds.

So going through a single day without an injury that takes an employee off the floor is an accomplishment. West Hollywood Division 7 went 555 days without a lost-time injury.

"It was purely employee involvement," Mike Harnish, assistant maintenance manager at Division 7 said. "We got all the supervisors involved in it and they got all the employees involved and it just happened. Every day they kept it safe and our record grew."

Its streak ended when a mechanic broke his ankle in mid-December.

The division recently hit 30 days without a lost-time injury following the December incident. But the managers and employees at West Hollywood figured that this time they should reach for a goal that's a little tougher to make.

"We decided that if we could go 555 days without a lost-time accident, we

ought be able to go a whole year at least without any accidents at all," Harnish said. "We're challenging everyone to go accident free for 2008."

The goal requires 146 maintainers and service attendants to maintain their safest behavior every time they're in the shop. Every 100 days they remain accident-free will earn the employees a barbeque, courtesy of the sector coffers.

Harnish said the goal is challenging, but that the employees he manages are capable of meeting it. Their old record demonstrates a pattern of safety that Division 7 can be proud of, he said.

"The employees have been super and we've done really well," he said. "Of course, when I say 'we,' I mean 'they' because I didn't do anything but ask them to be careful. The employees are the ones who really deserve the credit for it."

Below is a list of maintainers and service attendants who work at Division 7 and helped make it 555 days without a lost-time incident:

Pablo Aguilera, Jason Almanza, Allen Anderson, Mauricio Arias, Luis Arrenquin, Manuel Banuelos, Caleb Bassey, Juan Bautista, Gail Blane, Oscar Blane, Thomas Blatz, Chuck Blight, Terrance Bourland, Glenn Buakong, Larry Busch, Daniel Carapia, Alvin Castle, Alan Chan, Chester Clark, Eric Collins, Paul Cruz, Craig Daniel, Clarence Deese, Pedro Delgado, Bruce Do, Richard Donelan, Ulysses Dunlap, Broderick Echols, Toby Elsner, Felix Figueroa, Jason Gallardo, Tezera Gebreweld, Edwin Gomez, Baldemar Gonzalez, Julio Gonzalez, Paul Grunitzky, Victor Guerrero, Rudik Hadjinian, Ronald Haliburton, Jose Hernandez, Erik Hudson, Dana Hurd, Honrado Islao, Walter John, Edward Kaiban, Robert Ky, Hoai Son Duc Lac, Carlos Leohr, Reginald Levels, Alfredo Lopez, Luis Lopez, Tom Lovasco, Ted Loyo, Henry Mardikian, Anthony Meeks, Alex Mendez, Fernando Mera, Ira Moore, Edgar Morales, Hector Morales, Honein Mouakkad, Chris Mynatt, Vladimir Nekrasov, Ralph Oliver, Andrew Ortega, Robert Ortiz, Erika Perez, Florentino Poncardas, Candis Porter, Vance Pozon, Tracy Presley, Raymond Quach, Enrique Ramirez, Armando Reyes, John Rice, Victor Rojas, Victor Romero, Rosalio Rubio, Oscar Sagastume, Guillermo Sainz, Javier Salazar, Henry Sampson, Glenn Shimamoto, Cesar Solano, Julio Soto, Maurice Strong, Jose Tacaraya, Kenneth Taylor, William Terrazas, Raymond Thompson, Clemente Torres, Jerry Valdez, Mauro Varela, Jose Vazquez, Hector Villalobos, Tom Walter, Juliann Watson, Desmond Williams, Kenneth Williams, LaNeasha Woods, LaToshia Woods, Jeff Yamane and Larry Young.