



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DUPONT SAFETY RESOURCES TO HELP L.A.'S MTA CREATE SAFER WORKPLACE; REDUCE HIGH WORKERS COMPENSATION COSTS

Los Angeles — The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Board has approved a five-year contract with DuPont Safety Resources (DSR) to help create a safer worker environment for MTA's nearly 10,000 workers and reduce high workers compensation costs. The contract with MTA sets five-year goals of reducing lost-time injury days, cutting work-related injuries and reducing bus and rail accidents.

Under the performance-based contract, DSR will be compensated only when goals are achieved.

"We're trying to make this a safer place to work," said MTA CEO Roger Snoble. "DuPont is one of the safest companies in the world and can help us be the same."

The hiring of DSR coincides with MTA's launching of a separate, comprehensive multi-year safety campaign on October 1 that will touch every facet of the agency operations, construction, planning and administration.

MTA perennially has the highest workers compensation costs of any comparably sized transit agency in the nation. This fiscal year, MTA expects to spend \$59 million on workers compensation claims; currently, MTA receives eight to 10 injury claims per day — about 3,000 or so each year from its employees. In fiscal year 2001, MTA lost about 108,000 days of

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work (the equivalent of 415 full-time employees) due to lost-time injuries compared to 96,000 days in fiscal year 2000.

"It is very clear to us that MTA is very serious about taking the right steps in creating a safer workplace," said DSR President James A. Forsman. "Our successes with other organizations clearly demonstrate that when knowledge and commitment are combined, remarkable results can be achieved with impressive human and financial benefits."

DSR will employ methods that have worked to change the safety culture of dozens of other companies worldwide such as General Motors, Unilever, Georgia-Pacific, Esso and Allied Signal. New York City Transit, more than five times larger than MTA, has seen its lost-time injuries decrease by 50 percent since they began working with DSR.

DSR consultants, averaging 25 years each of safety management experience, will assess MTA's current approach to safety and then develop customized training for every level of employees, starting with the Executive Leadership Team. Coaching of MTA employees will enable classroom concepts to be directly applied to various work areas, and ongoing reassessments will determine additional skills and training needs.

"DuPont's safety management team has to train our managers and employees that safety is good for them," says MTA Chief Financial Officer Richard Brumbaugh, who took the lead in bringing a safety management group and MTA together. "We started from the principle that no one wants to get injured at work. Employees want to go home to their families and enjoy being with them. Additionally, when we're able to get these costs down, MTA will be one of the lowest-cost major metropolitan operators in the country."

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MTA, the second largest public transportation agency in the United States, provides more than 85% of all public transit services in LA County. It operates the Metro Bus System, which consists of more than 2,000 peak hour buses operating in a 1,400 square mile service area. MTA also operates the 59.4 mile Metro Rail System, which includes the Metro Red Line subway and the Metro Blue and Green light rail lines. As the region's main transportation planner and programmer, MTA also funds such programs as paratransit services, bikeways, street and freeway improvements and the Metro Freeway Service Patrol, which aids stranded highway motorists free of charge.

DSR is dedicated to building a safer world by partnering with clients to share DuPont experience, methods and experts in worker safety, contractor safety and engineering services.

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