

SPRWS Vehicle Accident Summary 4th Quarter (October/November/December) 2019

SPRWSVA 2019-16 Production 10/08/2019 2:30 PM: SPRWS Roving Pump Engineer was EB on Hwy 14/34th Street in Pickup Truck #538 and after getting lost/off track, drove into a service station complex (Kwik Trip and Holiday in Oakdale) parking spot to turn around to head West again. After checking for traffic before starting to back #538, driver thought he was clear when vehicle #2 (Honda Civic) came out of nowhere from West to East at a high rate of speed (25-30) and the rear bumper of #538 contacted the right front fender and door of #2, damaging listed areas. #2 was a delivery vehicle on its way to make a delivery/pickup. Oakdale Police attended the accident scene. No injuries reported. A claim form is being sent to #2 and is in process.

SPRWSVA 2019-17 Distribution 10/18/2019 1:15 P.M: SPRWS Supervisor/WSW-II Temporary Mains Truck #617 was stopped behind left-turning traffic at the intersection of Maryland @ Westminster when Vehicle #2 (GMC SUV) rear-ended #617 and damaged the right rear built-in storage boxes and bumper. Police attended the accident scene. No injuries. Moderate damage to #617 and minor damage to #2. The insurance company for #2 sending their adjustor to see truck #617 and accepted responsibility for the accident. The SPRWS Garage is coordinating repairs.

SPRWSVA 2019-18 Distribution 10/24/2019 1:50 P.M: SPRWS Temp Laborer was driving cement crew van #616 WB on University and while passing the SB I-35-E offramp on a Green Light had vehicle #2 fail to stop for their red light and struck #616 in a glancing collision, damaging the paint and aluminum skin of #616. SPRWS Driver moved left but was limited by traffic to their left. SPPD attended the accident scene and the driver admitted fault. The insurance company for #2 has accepted responsibility and sent their adjustor to appraise the damage and reimbursed SPRWS for the damage.

SPRWSVA 2019-19 Distribution 11/08/2019 11:30 A.M: SPRWS HEO (Heavy Equipment Operator) was operating a **loaner** CAT IT brand backhoe on Dunlap adjacent to St. Clair when the Operator inadvertently switched the gear selector lever into "Drive" from "Neutral" after backing the machine in "Reverse" into position to dig.

The backhoe Operator also failed to set the parking brake and when the Operator increased RPM to lower the outriggers (to raise the backhoe off the ground) caused the Backhoe to accelerate in the opposite direction the Operator was sitting/facing before the Operator could react and ran into the curb and then the hydrant across the street. There was no damage to the backhoe, while the hydrant had to be repaired.

All SPRWS owned CAT Backhoes have front single gear selector controls for "F"orward / "N"eutral / "R"everse (F-N-R) and the gear selector on the loaner backhoe was inadvertently left in the "Forward" position or accidentally bumped/brushed into this position from "Neutral" during the transition of rotating the seat from facing forward to backwards in order to dig. Another possibility is that the Operators jacket brushed against the gear selector and pushed into "Forward".

The SPRWS Operator is not sure which of the three situations occurred and is not denying possible Operator error. SPRWS Safety Officer reviewed the incident by speaking and interviewing experienced senior and junior operators, supervisors and Garage staff to gather necessary facts for review. The CAT Backhoe in question was returned to the dealer and is no longer being used by SPRWS HEO.