

# Employee Safety & Emergency Services

Christopher Herrick, Manager

Number of Positions: 14

Sections within the Bureau:

- Emergency Management
- Employee Health & Safety
- Hazardous Materials
- Encampment Program

## **Introduction**

In 2024, the Hazardous Materials unit AOT's Maintenance Division joined the Emergency Management & Employee Safety team, now operating as Employee Safety & Emergency Services.

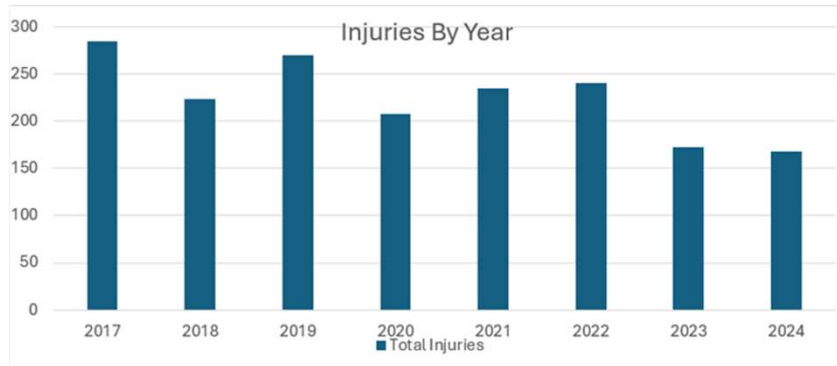
In addition to welcoming the three staff members from Hazardous Materials, the department was pleased to add a second Administrative Manager and two Safety Technicians to the team. This growth has resulted in the department now being able to offer specialized support to the Construction Bureau, provide additional occupational safety services across AOT, and address encampments on AOT rights of way.

This is a re-allocation of existing positions not additional ones.

## **Emergency Management**

- Continues to work with FEMA public assistance on damages exceeding \$100 million accrued over 7 open declared disasters since July 10, 2023.
- Contracted with Guidehouse, Inc. to support FEMA recovery.
- Supported two AOT-ICS activations (April Eclipse, July flooding).
- Collaborated with staff across AOT to develop new digital tools to support emergency response efforts and data collection.
- Delivered mandated ICS Refresher Training to all District ICS staff and currently working with the Agency Technical Training Center to develop role-specific training.

## Employee Health & Safety



- Developed and implemented Control of Hazardous Energy Program (Lock Out Tag Out) & Hearing Conservation Program, both aimed at reducing injuries and increasing VOSHA compliance.
- Analyzing data to evaluate for patterns and trends to aid in development of mitigation strategies.
- 7 encampment sites cleaned up, including 2 multi-day cleanup (collaborated with Hazardous Materials)
- Reported injuries saw a 2.3% decrease from 2023 to 2024. Since monitoring began in 2017, reported injuries have decreased by 51.6%.

## Hazardous Materials

- Arranged disposal of 190,000 pound of hazardous waste and responded to over 100 spill notifications, ranging from minor motor oil spills to catastrophic propane tanker causing asset damage.
- Provided over 400 hours of training to AOT Staff, including presenting at the annual spring and autumn safety training days for all AOT district staff facilitated by Employee Health & Safety group.
- Coordinated the closure of the last of 62 Underground Storage Tanks at District Maintenance Facilities (milestone).
- Supported mobile home demolition/disposal initiative resulting from 2023 & 2024 flooding.