



SAFETY

Since the establishment of the Diamond State Port Corporation (DSPC) in 1995, improved safety measures and procedures have been initiated at the Port of Wilmington to ensure a safe and regulatory compliant working environment for its employees and cargo. Since July 1997, the formal beginning of the safety program, the

for the maritime industry, the Port of Wilmington is well below the national average for recordable cases.

“The safety program at the Port of Wilmington covers all areas of operations including environmental, HAZMAT, docks and warehouses, food cargo, lift truck and heavy equipment safety, water

The Port of Wilmington has developed and implemented a Food Safety Management Program in compliance with the Federal Drug Administration to ensure the safe handling, storage and distribution of food cargoes. Under this program, this cargo is inspected in sanitized areas by employees trained in food safety management and stored in warehouses that comply with federal sanitation and good housekeeping practices.

The DSPC also has safety procedures covering transportation operations, including ship, truck and rail loading and unloading activities. Truck restraining systems, personal protective equipment, and rail crossing and traffic control are a few of the areas covered by safety policies and procedures.

Safety training is a critical part of the Port’s Safety Program. Since 1997, over 300 members of the International Longshoremen Association and casual employees have been safety certified in lift truck operations and must



NEED CAPTION

Port has reduced its accident rate by 20 percent each year. Based on Department of Labor accident statistics

safety, and fire and emergency response,” explained DSPC Manager of Safety and Training Dave Castagna.

Measurements

Reach New Standards at the Port of Wilmington

undergo a recertification evaluation every three years. Operators involved in lift truck related accidents must retake the safety training program before they can return to operating mechanical equipment at the Port.

In fiscal year 2001, the Port competed for the State of Delaware Blue Collar Training Funds and was awarded partial funding for its documented training in lift truck operations. In addition to lift truck training, 75 Port employees were trained in General Scanning Techniques and Meat Inspection Scanning Procedures, both of which are critical to maintaining accurate cargo inventories.

The Port's effort to promote a healthy work environment is evident by the success of the Flu Vaccine Program. Each year over 50 employees receive flu shots free of charge and some take part in the Port's Wellness Program.

Compliance with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations is also critical to maintaining a safe and health working environment. The

FDA, USDA, FEMA, USCG, DNREC, and state and local fire departments are a few of the agencies that regulate various aspects of Port operations.

Castagna stresses that the Port actively and routinely pursues better

safety practices by daily inspection of the Port's docks, warehouses and premises. "We strive to continue reducing the number of accidents at the Port and improving our safety records," Castagna noted.



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