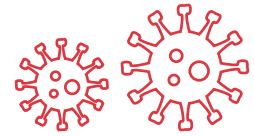


CLEANING AND SANITIZING VEHICLES IN A PANDEMIC ENVIRONMENT



Issue:

More and more businesses are being impacted by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The safety of employees, drivers and passengers needs to be considered during these unprecedented times.

Consideration:

Consider the following when cleaning and sanitizing vehicles.

- Develop a list of items and points of contact in a vehicle that need to be sanitized between each use
 - Thoroughly wetting the surface with sanitizing solution and following contact time requirements is critical. Consider www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2
 - Ensure workers are trained on the hazards of cleaning chemicals and bloodborne pathogens
- Create a training video as a tool to show common touch areas and the proper way to disinfect them
 - One resource example can be found at: www.nrspp.org.au/2020/03/20/covid-19-vehicle-hygiene-should-now-be-part-of-your-pre-start-check-process/

Precautions or Policies for Vehicle Operators and Passengers

- Outline steps to take when a driver or passenger tests positive:
 - Quarantine the vehicle immediately
 - Contract with an outside company to have the vehicle sanitized
 - If they're a remote driver utilize a tow service to return the vehicle or send directly to the contract company for cleaning and sanitizing
- Implement a policy that does not allow multiple employees to be in the same vehicle (this can be accomplished through the use of spare/idle vehicles or rental vehicles)

- For situations requiring multiple individuals working in close proximity, it is a best practice to keep them as a team rather than rotating them in and out and consider providing masks
- Provide traveling employees with an “essential operation” card or similar to present to authorities upon request (consider placing signage on the vehicle)
- Route drivers away from high risk areas, if possible
- Move to the use of LMS and virtual driver training, including in-vehicle coaching that utilizes road observations performed from a separate vehicle
- For organizations with in-house fleet maintenance the following steps should be taken:
 - Shared tools must be cleaned between each use
 - Only allow service techs in the garage area
 - Employ single use gloves
 - If codes exist for documentation of services performed, develop a work code for the wiping down of vehicles (in the event of a disaster declaration the activity could be reimbursable by FEMA)
 - Disposed gloves and wipes are not considered a bio-hazard
- Develop guidelines on what to do in the event of a crash, including the practice of social distancing when sharing information or documentation
- Avoid riding with the tow truck driver if the vehicle is disabled in an accident or otherwise

Additional Resources

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/disinfecting-transport-vehicles.html

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html

For more information on COVID-19 TIPS and other fleet resources, please visit TheHartford.com/riskengineering



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