



## Safety Message

Division of Environmental Services

### From the Division Chief:

#### October 15<sup>th</sup> is Global Handwashing Day!

Cold and flu season is just around the corner and the best way to avoid spreading germs and to stay healthy is to frequently wash your hands with soap. Germs spread quickly and can have a domino effect on employee illness. Hand washing is also critical when working with chemicals and bacterial agents like microcystitis. Even after wearing gloves, always wash your hands when you take them off, before eating or drinking, and after visiting the restroom. Wash your hands often throughout the day with soap and running water, holding your hands downward to flush the germs and viruses off. Use a paper towel to turn off the faucet. Simple handwashing goes a long way toward employee wellness and is an easy way to protect yourself from harmful contaminants that can make you sick.

Sincerely,  
Dean Messer

### Eye Injury Prevention

More than 300,000 employees visit the emergency room every year due to eye injuries sustained at work. Most of these injuries can be prevented by wearing the proper eye protection. Always evaluate the potential hazards of the task you are performing and choose the appropriate safety glasses, goggles, or face shield for the job. Potential dangers include working with hazardous chemicals such as solvents or acids, flying particles like bits of glass, metal, or dust, or radiation injuries while welding. If you do get chemicals or foreign particles in your eye, flush for at least 15 minutes with an eye wash and seek medical attention. Eye injuries can also happen at home from exposure to household cleaners, to sports injuries, and even popping champagne corks. Take the time to protect your eyes from long-term damage. All in favor, say "Eye"!



October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month! Talk to your family members and your doctor about the importance of early detection!

Early Detection Saves Lives!

Fire safety is everyone's job. Simply being aware of your surroundings is the best way to prevent and survive a fire. Inspect your areas for hazards like overloaded outlets, improperly stored chemicals, and malfunctioning equipment. Remove clutter that may block safety equipment and exit routes. Know two ways to get out of the building and how to navigate the evacuation plan. Protect yourself and your coworkers from fire by being proactive & prepared.



Think Safety. Visit <http://swpsafety.water.ca.gov> for more information.  
Send suggestions or comments to [dessafety@water.ca.gov](mailto:dessafety@water.ca.gov)