

MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE



To / Destinataire Mayor and Members of Council

File/N° de fichier:

From /
Expéditeur General Manager
Transportation Services Department

Subject / Objet March 18, 2017 Incident in Confederation
Light Rail tunnel

Date: March 21, 2017

The purpose of this memo is to provide information to Mayor and Members of Council pertaining to the incident that occurred on the Confederation Line Light Rail project this weekend, including background information regarding safety protocols and the action taken by staff to date.

Details relating to the March 18 incident:

- On Saturday, March 18, Emergency Services were called to the tunnel shaft entrance located on Queen and Kent Streets;
- A worker was struck by a hose that was being lifted by a crane;
- The worker walked out of the tunnel of his own volition, and was taken to the hospital to be assessed;
- The Ministry of Labour (MOL) was notified in accordance with established protocols and procedures;
- Work continued as scheduled in all locations in the tunnel;
- The worker was released from hospital and is following protocols for head injuries, which entails rest period, etc. before returning to work; and,
- The Ministry of Labour yesterday investigated the location of the incident and did an inspection. They have not issued any orders or laid any charges.

The General Manager of Emergency and Protective Services confirmed there were no restrictions placed on Paramedics to speak about this issue with the media. This was communicated to all paramedics for future incidents. In addition, Public Information and Media Relations worked with the Rideau Transit Group (RTG), who is the lead on operations in the tunnel, to ensure media inquiries were answered.

Details relating to the March 1 incident as reported on CTV:

Additionally, I am also including information from Emergency and Protective Services pertaining to the statement of an unidentified worker, who appeared on CTV on March 20th to claim he was injured on March 1st.

Emergency and Protective Services reviewed the 9-1-1 tapes from the incident of the unidentified worker that spoke to CTV on March 20th.

They have confirmed that two calls were received by Paramedics regarding this incident on March 1. During the first call, the paramedic dispatcher worked with the caller to determine where the ambulance should arrive and attempted to identify the nature of the injury of his co-worker.

Paramedics arrived at the agreed upon location, but neither the patient nor the caller were on-scene. Paramedics then received a second call from the same individual cancelling the call as a co-worker was transporting the injured person to the hospital.

On the night of this alleged incident there was an emergency phone within 100 metres of the incident.

Health and Safety program relating to the Light Rail Project

The health and safety of the employees working on the project is governed by Ontario's *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and its associated regulations. As an employer, Rideau Transit Group is responsible for ensuring that it takes every reasonable precaution to ensure the safety of its workers. Furthermore, as is the case on every other city construction project, RTG is considered the "Constructor" and the City has put in place strict contractual requirements to ensure that RTG meets its statutory health and safety obligations, specifically that it "*comply, and cause each Project Co Party to comply, with Applicable Law relating to health and safety, including without limitation the OHSA and the FCLC, and all regulations thereto*". Based on its experience to date, and considering the scale and complexity of this infrastructure project, the City is confident that RTG has a robust health and safety program and is taking all reasonable steps to protect the health and safety of workers engaged on this project.

On Monday morning, I along with Steve Cripps, Director of O-Train Construction met with Antonio Estrada, CEO of RTG, and reviewed all the facts associated with this latest incident and we asked for, and were provided, additional details regarding their safety records, MOL inspection status, orders, etc.

RTG has confirmed that their Lost Time Injury rate is 0.32, which is below the average of 1.0 for Heavy Civil Construction in Ontario. It's important to note that to date over 4.9 million hours of labour has been logged on this project and to date 11 lost time injuries have been reported prior to this incident. They also advised that they have no outstanding orders or charges from MOL. We can confirm that as the work transitioned from excavation to concrete pouring in the tunnel, the MOL expressed concern regarding housekeeping practices in the tunnel. The City asked for, and RTG conducted, an audit and the MOL issued an order that housekeeping be improved. RTG has complied with the direction.

With respect to work schedules regarding the 2018 completion schedule, RTG has added additional resources including shift modifications running 24 hours, 7 days a week and 24 hours, 5 days a week at various locations, extra worker resources and additional equipment.

We asked for, and RTG provided, training details and safety elements for workers on the project. Currently approximately 1,100 employees are working on the project and they have all been trained. RTG has confirmed to the City that over the span of the project approximately 7,500 personnel have received training of various forms. We are advised that everyone who works or enters the tunnel receives specialized training including procedures on emergency response, evacuation, etc. RTG has 3 full time safety coordinators conducting inspections twice daily in the tunnel. The City has the right to request safety audits and as noted above has request one such audit to which RTG fully complied in a timely manner. RTG has confirmed that the MOL has not issued any subsequent orders or directives.

In addition to our work with RTG in this regard, I have reached out to Mr. Sean McKenny President, Ottawa District Labour Council, and he will be meeting with Mr. Cripps, Antonio Estrada, CEO of RTG and me this week to hear any concerns or issues, and to work collaboratively to address any concerns and establish open lines of communications as we all share the common goal of safety for everyone working on this important project.

In closing, I want to assure Members of Council we are taking these matters very seriously. Should you have any questions pertaining to the emergency response information contained in this memo, please contact Anthony Di Monte, General Manager, Emergency & Protective Services at ext. 22458. For all other questions or comments, please contact me at ext. 52111.

*Original signed by
John Manconi*

cc: Senior Leadership Team
Transportation Services Departmental Leadership Team
Director, Public Information and Media Relations