

Be aware of your surroundings

City employees share safety tips during meeting

Leave yourself an out.

That was the message during the monthly City of Lake Ozark Public Works safety meeting recently.

Public Works employee Darryn Robertson led the meeting, urging his fellow employees to be careful around equipment or when undertaking a job.

“Maintain situational awareness,” he said. “Remember to leave yourself a way out of a situation if it goes bad.”

If a hydraulic hose breaks, a load could come crashing down or a piece of equipment could collapse.

If a chain breaks under pressure, it could snap back and strike an employee or damage a vehicle.

A tree being cut down or limbs being removed could fall the wrong direction, injuring an employee or damaging equipment.

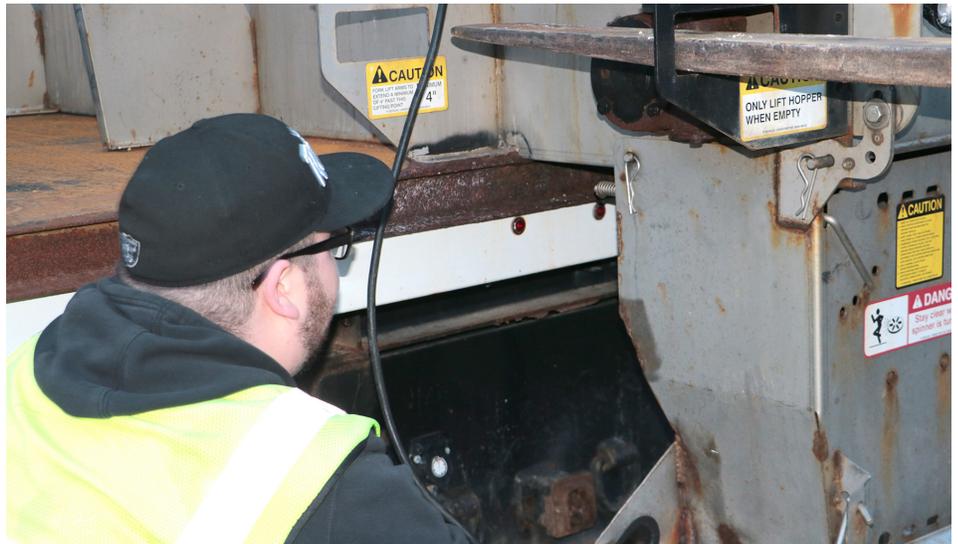
Wear gloves when dealing with cable or in situations where hands and fingers could be injured.

“You need to have a way out,” Robertson said.

When dealing with flammable liquids, have a plan in case of a flash fire.

When driving a snowplow, anticipate the consequences if you lose control on icy roads.

Always consider a safe distance when following vehicles during a



Public Works employee Kyle Maha demonstrates how easily he could be injured if he was not aware of the skid loader fork just above his head to the right. He and forklift operator Darryn Robertson were in constant communication to help avoid an accident while prepping the salt spreader.

snow or ice event.

“Have a defensive mindset,” Robertson urged. “And encourage your fellow employees to be safe and to be aware of their surroundings. We all want to go home to our families at the end of our day.”

The same safety reminders go for the public as well, he said. Be aware of residents or visitors who aren’t paying attention in a work zone; anticipate the damage or injuries of a piece of equipment malfunctions.

“Unexpected things happen,” Robertson reminded.

Equipment and vehicles should always be stored appropriately to

avoid injuries or damage to personal vehicles.

Work zones

With road and highway construction increasing in recent months, motorists have been observed ignoring warning signs, speed zones and safety cones.

“The cones are placed for the safety of employees and motorists and should never be ignored,” Robertson said.

He and other Public Works employees shared stories of motorists disregarding safety cones and speeding through work zones.