

NATF Redacted Operating Experience Report

Equipment and Vehicle Incident Safety Bulletin

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Redacted operating experience reports are posted on the NATF public website to allow the NATF and its members to more broadly share information, especially safety-related alerts and learnings, with contractors and other utilities to benefit the industry at large.

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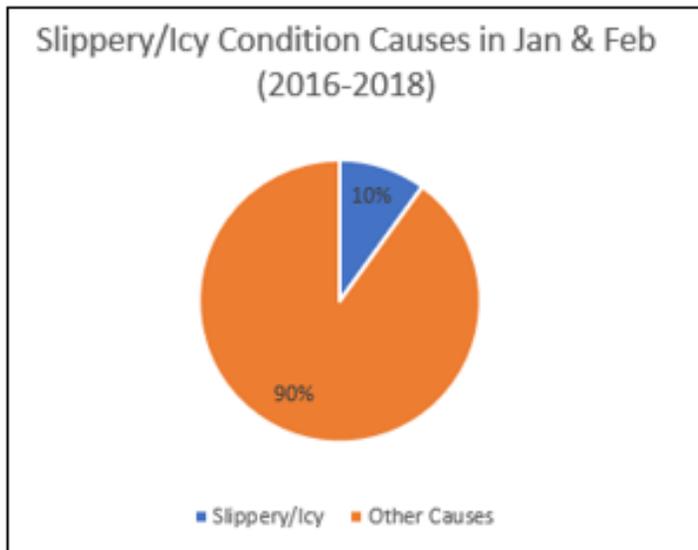
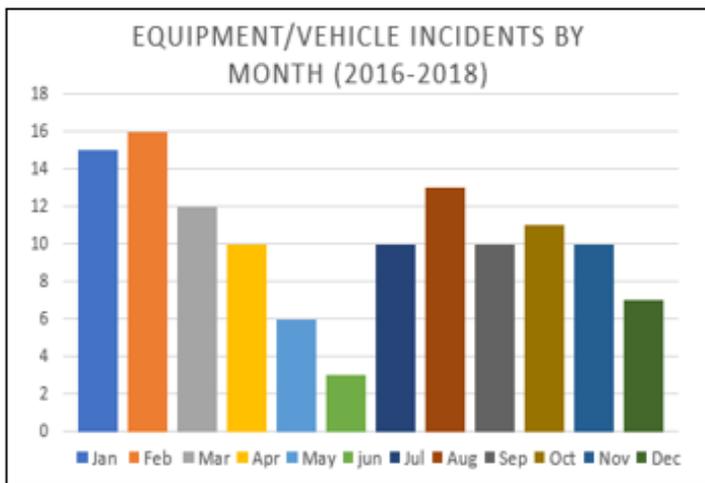
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Topic

Equipment and Vehicle Incident Safety Bulletin

Description

In 2018, our company experienced a spike in equipment and vehicle incidents during the months of January and February. We expected weather conditions to be the primary cause of the incidents. However, when we analyzed the data from the past three years, a different story emerged. Slippery/icy conditions represented only 10% of the incidents. The charts below illustrate data on equipment incidents from 2016-2018.



Lessons Learned

Eighty percent of the incidents involve construction equipment being used on our right-of-ways (ROWs) and in our substations. Mat trucks, cranes, bucket trucks, and dump trucks located on job sites present additional risks.

1. Mat truck incidents accounted for 22 percent of our equipment incidents in the last three years.
2. High-traffic areas presented an increased risk of incidents. After an increase in dump truck accidents on one project route, planning was improved to limit the number of construction vehicles using high-traffic areas, congested roads, and highways.
3. Drivers were found to be at fault in 96 percent of the equipment incidents.

Actions Taken

The following best practices can help reduce the chance of an incident:

1. Use spotters for all equipment movement in substations and all ROWs when equipment is backing up.
2. When possible, plan routes and work to avoid high-traffic areas and times.
3. Emphasize attentive driving and situational awareness for all equipment activity.
4. Ensure operators are fully trained on the equipment they operate. Be careful not to assign these tasks to new employees unfamiliar with all aspects of operating equipment safely.

Extent of Condition

N/A