May 26, 2021

CAT trolley makes a guest appearance at the Eastern Wharf

Some of you may not know that in June the Dot trolley is expected to start serving the new Eastern Wharf development located along the Savannah River, pending approval by the Savannah City Council. To promote the expanded trolley route, CAT staffers recently arranged to display one of the trolleys at the new Riverworks Apartments at Eastern Wharf during an event put on by the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce.

The trolley was well received by the event’s guests and anticipation is high for the service to resume.

Maintenance workers earn CDL

Chatham Area Transit would like to congratulate four members of the Maintenance team who recently completed and passed their Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) exam. These employees are Luis Colon, Thomas Woodford, Marco Gonzalez and Luis Yariel Colon.

We’re proud of the commitment they’ve made to cross the hurdles involved and persevere to receive it. It assures the organization that the importance of obtaining this license was important to them and contributes to the safety and well-being of those that we serve in the community.
Congratulations CAT employee raffle winners

We want to congratulate the three employees of the raffle contest from last week’s “A Seat at the Table with the Interim CEO” call-in event. Wellness Screener Cameron Morrison and Operator Waki Reid won CAT swag bags and Transportation Supervisor Veronica Smalls won lunch with Interim CEO Valerie Ragland. In addition, we want to congratulate Human Resource Generalist Shawanda Jenkins and Safety and Training Coordinator Glenn Golob, who are the winners from last week’s credit class drawings. Their prize was a $25 gift card from Queensborough Trust Bank.

Safety Spotlight by Chief Safety Officer Charles Hall: Hazards

Working in public transit can be quite an adventurous job. We come in contact with all facets of the community. While our chief task is moving people, that does not preclude us from encountering other components of the community. Such encounters may include hazards. In simple terms, anything can be a hazard. We encounter hazards when fueling vehicles, cleaning facilities, using pesticides, or solvents. By technical definition, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) defines a hazard as “any real or potential condition that can cause injury, illness, or death; damage to or loss of the facilities, equipment, rolling stock, or infrastructure of a public transportation system; or damage to the environment.” There are many sources within a transit agency to support hazard identification, including the very important reporting of safety concerns by employees.

A hazard holds potential that, when triggered, results in a consequence(s) that may cause harm or damage. The severity of the potential consequence(s) may range from negligible to catastrophic, depending on the nature of the hazard and the particular operational conditions.

If a hazard lets us know “what’s wrong,” then a consequence tells us “what could happen.” A consequence may result when the hazard’s potential is triggered or acted upon. Within the Safety Risk Management process, transit agencies analyze an identified hazard to understand its potential consequences. The agency assesses how often a potential consequence could occur (likelihood) and its harm or damage (severity). This assessment results in an understanding of the safety risk associated with the hazard and helps management decide if action is needed to address the safety risk.

What should you do in the event you encounter a hazard? You should avoid any additional interaction with the hazard or the perilous environment. Then notify a supervisor. In dire situations, the police and or fire department may need to be notified. In the event that to actually come intact with what you may think is a harmful substance, please seek medical attention immediately and document the occurrence.

Remember, exposure to some hazards may cause delayed, long-term health effects. Other exposures may cause an immediate health reaction such as a runny nose, irritated eyes or skin, or itching. Again, in the event that you encounter these symptoms when coming in contact with a hazard. Notify a supervisor and document what has happened and what symptoms the hazard has produced. If it is safe to do so, try to identify the hazard. Many hazards will have some manufacturing labeling that identifies what the hazard is. But do not touch anything believed to be a hazardous material. Notify the proper authorities.

When it comes to hazards, if you see, feel, hear, smell, or taste something, say something. Stay safe.