



Media Release

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Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission.

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VISION - Leadership in Energy Delivery, Excellence in Customer Service... enhancing the quality of life for all.

MISSION - To provide a safe, reliable, high quality electricity supply, in an environmentally responsible manner, utilizing best practices, through empowered employees committed to excellence and customer satisfaction.

Friday July 14, 2017

Fire Officers attend electricity safety workshop

Approximately 20 Trainers/Instructors from the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service (TTFS) participated in the first-ever National Emergency Responders Health and Safety Information Exchange hosted by the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC). The session took place on Monday July 10, 2017 at the Stanley P. Ottley Building, Mt. Hope.

Senior T&TEC engineers and HSE Managers used experiential data to emphasise lessons on fire and electrical safety as they sought to educate the Fire Officers about the Commission's electrical network and infrastructure. One main focus was the safety procedures officers should observe when responding to emergencies in the vicinity of and/or involving electrical installations, apparatus and infrastructure. These include maintaining prescribed safety clearances from all electrical infrastructure, contacting T&TEC to de-energise and isolate circuits prior to fighting fires and exercising caution when using conductive equipment such as metallic ladders, rods, vehicles and small tools.

Fire Officers of varying ranks, including Assistant Divisional Fire Officer Earl Sampson, were also informed of electrical installation, from generation to consumer; identifying faulty electrical equipment; low, medium and high voltage apparatus; and the effects of electricity on the body.

T&TEC's Acting General Manager, Courtenay Mark, said the session was timely, as "...We must have a common understanding of the dangers that we deal with." He encouraged officers to share their new knowledge with their colleagues, and also to share "some of your knowledge with us to improve our operations." Also on hand to welcome the Fire Officers were David St. Clair, T&TEC's HSE Manager and Jacqueline Cheesman, Assistant General Manager, Human Resources.

The information exchange was organised by T&TEC to mitigate the risk faced by fire officers when responding to emergencies where live electricity is present. The need for such training was brought into sharp focus in 2016, when a ladder being used by fire officers in a flood rescue on the Priority Bus Route in Barataria came into contact with an overhead line, leaving five officers hospitalised. ADFO Sampson acknowledged the incident, saying that "[Monday's] discussions will serve us in good stead to avoid incidents like what took place."

Annabelle Brasnell

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