Losquadro Reforms Highway Department Safety Standards
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Superintendent Losquadro (third from left) with Highway Department employees wearing new five point break away vests

Coram, NY - As part of his continuing efforts to reform the Highway Department, Superintendent Dan Losquadro has implemented a mandatory safety standard improvement program to help protect employees, save taxpayer money and keep motorists safe on Brookhaven roadways.

"When I first took office in March, I began a comprehensive review of department operations. One of the many deficiencies identified was in the area of worker safety. I have now instituted a policy to ensure the safety of all Highway employees and motorists traveling in work zones," Superintendent Losquadro said. "Embarking on this new safety standard program will protect town employees by decreasing the chance of injury and the associated liability," he added. "Apparently, the New York State Department of Labor had put the Highway Department on notice last year and nothing was done, this not only exposed employees to unnecessary injuries but would have resulted in exorbitant fines and potential lawsuits taxpayers would have had to absorb."

This new safety program has provided employees with five point break away vests as well as hardhats and require them to be worn at all times while working on the roads. The safety vests are designed to separate from the body quickly if caught by passing vehicles or equipment. These American National Standards Institute certified vests and hardhats meet the requirements of both OSHA and the Federal Highway Administration.

In addition to meeting legal safety standards, highway employees are now more easily identifiable with all vests labeled as 'Brookhaven Highway' on the back and 'TOB' on the front. Prior to this safety program, vests that were issued were neither breakaway nor labeled as town employees and no compliance program was ever put in place.

"On behalf of the members of the CSEA Highway Union, I am pleased to work with our Superintendent of Highways to raise department safety standards for the protection of all highway employees and those who use our roadways in Brookhaven Town," said Walter Green, CSEA Highway Union President.

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