

## SWANSEA HOUSING AUTHORITY

### Preventative Maintenance Procedures and Policies

#### INTRODUCTION

It is the objective of the Swansea Housing Authority in preparing this Preventative Maintenance Guide, to provide a system where basic principles for organizing and managing maintenance operation in a public housing authority can easily be outlined and adapted by Maintenance Staff. The guide is intended for use in a wide range of housing authority areas and outlines the minimum procedures in each area to address maintenance functions.

#### Physical Facility

The Swansea Housing Authority maintains its facilities with the care and concern of the public, the residents, the employees. Each area provides a different role in delivering and receiving services of the Management and Maintenance Staff of the Authority. The responsibility for maintaining the physical aspects of the facilities is not the job of the maintenance staff alone.

#### Administrative and Management

The Board of Commissioners and the Manager have designed policies and procedures that encourage resident cooperation and understanding. In addition, penalties have been put into place for residents who are negligent or abuse property. Through the oversight and interaction with residents, staff and maintenance personnel, reconsideration or designs of new policies are considered an ongoing process that has a general beneficial effect on the physical facilities and the well being of those who reside in the facilities.

#### Resident Admissions

Employees involved with resident admissions clearly support the maintenance efforts by doing proper applicant screening for non-economic criteria. It is their responsibility to weed out through the screening process those applicants with a history of destruction of property, poor housekeeping habits and/or social problems that could result in property damage or greatly affect the environment of the community. Additionally, this department must have appropriate applicants ready to lease units when the maintenance department finishes preparing vacant units for reoccupancy. Unoccupied vacant units invite vandalism which results in costly repairs.

This guide is intended to outline the steps taken by the Swansea Housing Authority in managing its maintenance operation and will address the following areas:

- a. Timely response/resolution by maintenance staff to emergencies
- b. Preventative Maintenance Programs, which include:
  1. Annual Inspections/Repairs
  2. Regular servicing of mechanical systems
  3. Regular servicing of equipment
  4. Regular inspection and upkeep of building/grounds
- c. Work Order System
- d. Procedure for repairing and returning vacant units to occupancy within **the** acceptable time frame **of 15 business days**.
- e. A routine maintenance program including regular janitorial services
- f. Minimal backlog of maintenance work orders
- g. Maintenance work force:
  1. Training
  2. Staffing
  3. Supervision
  4. Utilization
- h. Quality Control
- i. Inventory
- j. Resident Charges
- k. Budgeting
- l. Capital Needs Evaluation
- m. SHA Maintenance of Vehicles & Equipment

A. TIMELY RESPONSE/RESOLUTION BY MAINTENANCE STAFF TO EMERGENCIES

It is the intent of the Swansea Housing Authority to respond to all emergencies as quick as possibly upon notification. Maintenance staff has been instructed that information relative to an emergency situation will take precedence over all routine work. The SHA on-call system addresses evening, weekend and holiday emergency calls in the manner outlined in our Call Service Policy:

1. Water that cannot be shut off
2. No heat

B. PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS:

1. Annual Inspections-
2. Regular Servicing of Mechanical Systems

A Preventative Maintenance program will ensure that the SHA can plan, direct and control provisions that require maintenance services. With the information, the SHA can anticipate and plan expenditures while maintaining all physical facilities (buildings, grounds, public areas, service systems and living units).

In an effort to do this the following Preventative Maintenance Contractors are publicly solicited and contracts awarded annually to the most qualified bidders:

1. Fire Alarm Testing
2. Rubbish Removal

For details on the Instruction to Bidders and the Request for Proposals, please refer to the SHA's Contract and Bid file.

All Maintenance Staff are required during their normal routine, to report immediately all deficiencies or maintenance problems to their Supervisor. Any item which poses an immediate threat to the health and safety of residents or to SHA property are required to be reported to the Executive Director.

While performing their daily routine, throughout the course of each day, Maintenance personnel are informed of their responsibility to observe and report unusual conditions in the areas listed on Page 6.

By instructing Maintenance Staff of the importance of “an overall awareness” of the condition and status of SHA facilities and property, it is anticipated that the public, residents, and supervisory staff will be informed of existing conditions and ongoing developments.

It is the philosophy of the Swansea Housing Authority, to promote an atmosphere of open communication at all levels in its operation. The agency strongly believes this is the key to successful management and is routinely reinforced by the Management.

Routine Observations expected by Maintenance Staff

Maintenance Staff are required to report “anything out of the ordinary” to the Manager. The following is not a checklist but areas where observations should be acute.

- Daily:
- Entrance to buildings
  - Walkways to buildings
  - Security (locks/latches etc.)
  - Windows
  - Exterior Defects due to rains, wind, and snow
  - Debris
  - Public Restrooms
  - Electricity
  - Boiler Room (hot water)
  - Vehicles (Maintenance)
  - Cleaning Supplies
  - Vehicles (Residents/Visitors)
  - Parking (Lot condition & use by Residents, Visitors, Vendors)
  - General activity of Residents & Visitors in their overall use of public and common areas
  - Unusual activities of residents/guests
  - General Condition of Common Areas
  - Stock Maintenance Materials & Supplies
- Weekly:
- Fire Equipment (alarms, extinguishers)
  - Lawn Equipment – condition
- Monthly:
- Maintenance equipment – condition
- Yearly:
- Carpet Condition
  - Interior Walls - condition
  - Exterior Walls – condition
  - Grounds overall
  - Capital Improvement List

3. Regular Service of Equipment

The following is a general guide for Maintenance Personnel in regular service of equipment and up keep of property condition.

WEEKLY/MONTHLY

1. Weekly-Vacuum all floors
2. Weekly-Dry mop, damp mop, spray and buff laundry room and clean walls of any other spots.
3. Weekly-Clean glass in community room as needed
4. Weekly-Clean filters in clothes dryers
5. Weekly-Clean kitchen floors and counter tops in community room
6. Semi-Weekly-Dust sills and wood work as needed
7. Alternate order of sewage pump operation/monthly

QUARTERLY

1. Test 25% of the fire alarm systems – contracted service scheduled by Maintenance Supervisor
2. Dust fans in community room as needed
3. **Check sewer ejector system**

SEMI-ANNUALLY

1. Fertilize lawns and grounds if budgeted and as needed
2. Snake out main drain lines-contract services, as needed
3. Annual-Lubricate blowers, fans, motors and circulators as needed
4. Dry mop and dust interiors stairwells as necessary, more frequently if time available

4. Regular Inspection and Upkeep of Building and Grounds

The following indentifies the areas and generally describes the routine followed by the Swansea Housing Authority to address maintenance items and work schedules for maintenance staff. It should be noted that these tasks are not assigned to specific maintenance staff person but are shared duties. Deviation from this program is subject to seasonal conditions, such as snow removal, emergency weather conditions, lawn care and number of vacancies. In addition, it should be noted that schedules may vary due to vacations which may result in less man hours available to perform the work planned. The outline below deals with ideal situation without the aforementioned conditions.

#### DAILY

1. Check and clean trash rooms as needed.
2. Check and clean debris from laundry rooms
3. Check rest rooms and clean as needed
4. Perform Work Orders and non-routine repairs assigned
5. Check grounds for debris and pick up as necessary
6. Vacuum and/or dry mop lobby as necessary
7. Assist or perform work in vacant unit

#### WEEKLY

1. Mop bathrooms, clean toilets and mirrors
2. Mop lobby and dust
3. Dry mop and damp mop laundry
4. Dry mop , damp mop, community room
5. Clean glass in lobby
6. Pest control as needed
7. Service tractors, lawnmower and snow blowers as required and log on sheet (depending on the season)
8. Clean hot water as needed
9. Check stairwells and clean debris
10. Clean garage of any debris

#### YEARLY

1. Check conditions of catch basins/storm drains. Arrange to have cleaned out as needed
2. Inspect all units; this includes stairwells, boiler rooms and back yards
3. Replace batteries in the Fall with change of clocks or at inspection time (depending on the time of the year inspections are done)
4. Vehicle inspection (February)
5. Reset all timers (March and November)
6. Touch up all common area paint
7. Fire extinguisher annual inspection (January)
8. Ready lawn equipment for the season (March)
9. Inspect trees and trim as needed
10. Clean and disinfect dumpsters (July)
11. Ready snow equipment (November)

C. WORK ORDER SYSTEM

This category of work refers to all “resident generated” work requests that do not fall into any other categories. These are the non-emergency calls which resident’s make seeking maintenance services to correct a problem in a unit or on the site. They are not planned for and often cannot be anticipated until the request is formally placed with management.

By definition, these requested work assignments are short-term and usually can be addressed by an on-site staff person. These resident generated requests may include follow-up calls for pest control services or for repairs that become necessary between annual living unit inspections, such as broken windowpanes or clogged drains.

These requests are placed into the maintenance workload through the normal work order intake process. Many resident generated work orders will fall into high priority categories. The Swansea Housing Authority has an emergency category to address these cases and systematically reviews daily work orders generated by office personnel to maintain continuity in servicing residents.

D. PROCEDURE FOR REPAIRING AND RETURNING UNITS TO OCCUPANCY

• DAY ONE

Administration

1. Notification of move out reported to SHA Program Assistant
2. Confirmation with instructions forwarded to vacating tenant with copy to Maintenance Department (by means of a move out inspection)
3. Management received keys to unit
4. Work Order issued to inform Maintenance Department
5. Information recorded on Vacancy Log
6. Management evaluates Waiting List Pool and determines next placement

Maintenance Department

Upon Receipt of Work Order:

1. Begins preparation for revamping apartment.

- DAY TWO

- Maintenance

1. Inspection is conducted to identify all deficiencies
2. Estimate is made of skills, time, material and equipment required to correct deficiencies
3. Observation of unit condition and rehab work needed are converted into work instructions to personnel and onto inspection report
4. Coordinate with outside contractors for required work.

- DAY THREE to COMPLETION

- Administration

1. Management prepares for receipt of completed inspection report by Maintenance Staff. Preparation includes:
  - a. Tenant Folder
  - b. Calculation of Rent Share
  - c. Lease Documents
  - d. Tenant Acknowledgement
  - e. SHA/Prospective Tenant Inspection Date
2. Upon completion and acceptance of unit by prospective tenant, Management performs the following duties:
  - a. Enters information into Computer
  - b. Collects prorated rent
  - c. Adds Tenant onto SHA registers and distributes
  - d. Enters move in date on Vacancy Log



## Maintenance

Day two to completion, work in progress is monitoring through observations and/or reports by maintenance personnel.

### COMPLETION

1. Verification of all Work Items repaired
2. Inspection report completed and submitted by Maintenance Personnel/or Supervisor

## E. REGULAR AND ROUTINE JANITORIAL SERVICES

Within Section B of this policy, the Swansea Housing Authority identified the routine tasks performed by maintenance personnel, which includes routine and regular janitorial duties. These tasks are assigned to all personnel.

These tasks would include:

1. Rubbish Removal in Office Areas
2. Floors in all buildings
3. Window Washing – lower only
4. Dusting
5. Cleaning janitorial areas
6. Cleaning and maintaining community rooms

## F. MINIMIZING BACKLOG OF MAINTENANCE WORK ORDERS

Administrative Staff provides assistance in minimizing backlog and unnecessary work orders in the following manner.

1. The SHA Maintenance and Manager meet on a regular bases to address concerns of maintenance items. On these occasions, the Manager and Maintenance develop or design resident notices or instruction sheets for residents on the proper operation of SHA equipment located in units (i.e. stoves, refrigerators).

Other areas addressed in memo form to residents must include:

1. Proper trash disposal
2. Proper use of laundry machines
3. Proper use and responsibility of the user of Community Room space
4. Information on Parking Regulations

5. Regulating Tenant belongings in common areas
6. Restricting pets from building

In addition to the above items, the Manager and Maintenance also discuss the control and activities of outside contractors on the premises. Prior to work being performed these issues are discussed and procedures are put in place to minimize the degree of impact on the residents, the agency and the maintenance personnel.

2. Experienced staff instructs all new personnel on the Work Order Procedure. During this training new staff is trained on emergency and non-emergency items and the procedures for issuing a work order. New personnel is informed that if any work request is questionable, trained staff is available to assist.

The SHA has cell-phone communication with all key maintenance personnel. In the event that an issue or item arises, personnel has been trained to inform Maintenance immediately. By doing this and seeking the assistance of trained personnel or the Manager maintenance issues may be reduced and unnecessary work avoided.

3. The SHA has a non-computerized system for producing work orders. Periodically, staff is instructed to review the status of work orders in order to avoid a backlog or open-ended work order. If a work order cannot be fully completed due to unavailability of parts, or contract services are required, they are instructed to issue a new work order which would be directed to Maintenance. At the end of the year, the status of all work orders are reviewed by the Manager.

#### G. MAINTENANCE WORK FORCE

##### New Employees

The Authority makes every effort to employ individuals with experience in property management and/or maintenance management. The Authority seeks individuals with expertise in a given trade (i.e. electrical/plumbing), whenever it is recruiting maintenance personnel. Individuals with technical experience and a background in the trades, enhances the SHA's ability to train and oriented new employees.

The SHA Advertisement and job responsibilities clearly define the SHA's expectations from applicants as well as the scope of the job. However, recruitment does not always guarantee good results, therefore SHA requires a 90 day training and probationary period. During this time, work assignments are designed to determine the degree of capability of a new employee. As the individual demonstrates ability, more sophisticated tasks and work assignments are given and judgment is measured through performance.

Initially, all new maintenance personnel are assigned to work with existing personnel. Orientation is provided through the direct and daily supervision. Throughout this period, however, Maintenance and/or Manager provide overall goals and expectations for the new employee, along with an explanation of SHA policies and procedures.

Direct supervision has been delegated by the Manager to the SHA's Maintenance.

#### Maintenance Staff, Training & Reporting

Given the size of the agency, the Swansea Housing Authority exercises flexibility in its personnel. The work force includes both full-time and part time personnel, along with contracted services, where applicable.

Contracting services for the agency is more involved, given the size and number of units managed by the Administrative Staff. Contracted services are used at several sites and monitoring is the responsibility of Maintenance to ascertain whether or not the product or service is delivered.

The Swansea Housing Authority has taken effort to control the quality of both the Management and Maintenance of its physical facilities. This begins with personnel and includes active continuous follow up of actual work performance. Monitoring and correcting service delivery systems ensures that policies adopted by the Swansea Housing Authority are being followed in a manner which allows the agency to meet its performance goals and standards. This is done through:

- a. Assigning responsible staff duties which include monitoring the performance of individuals under their supervision
- b. Monitoring the degree of supervision under which the work is to be performed
- c. Recruitment
- d. Instruction and Training

#### I. INVENTORY

The Authority annually performs an inventory check on items purchased with a value of \$300.00 or more. All inventory is controlled and tagged by the Manager who with the assistance of other staff, including maintenance, physically views all items within the value range and updates the inventory cards.

This information is kept on a permanent basis for auditing and accounting purposes. These records are contained in the Administrative office of the Authority in a secure location.

J. CHARGES TO RESIDENTS

From time to time, the Authority finds it necessary to assess tenants for damages. This will be based on current prices and Maintenance wage rates. In all cases, when the Authority has found it necessary to charge a resident, a "Bill for Damages" is sent to the resident.

Labor costs are based on the hourly rate of the Maintenance Labor, which is determined by the Department of Labor and Industries. These rates are subject to increase by the Department of Labor and Industries on an annual basis.

K. BUDGET

In order to effectively maintain the SHA facilities and anticipate mechanical equipment and structural needs, the SHA routinely includes its Maintenance Staff in the budget planning process. Input is required on the condition of the buildings, properties, equipment and stock. Through this process and planning, the Authority is able to project its costs on a short term and long term basis.

L. CAPITAL NEEDS EVALUATION

The Authority has also conducted an independent survey of its long-term capital needs. This effort demonstrates the Authority's interest in the capital investment made by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Swansea Housing Authority.

The report generated by this survey conducted by On-site/Insight in November, 1992, provides the Authority with a planning tool for modernization needs over the next 20 years. With the information contained in this report, the Authority continues to develop its Long Term Goals.

M. ONGOING PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE OF DHA VEHICLES

Outside contractors perform routine maintenance of the SHA truck. General oil changes, fluid checks and minor repairs are performed on a regular basis. Operators of all SHA vehicles are informed that they must advise their immediate Supervisor of any irregularities. The following list represents a guide for Maintenance Employees:

### Daily

Check tires, wear, pressure, etc.  
Check frame and suspension: for loose bolts, cracks, etc.  
Check parking brakes  
Check safety lights  
Fluid leaks  
Steering column lock and starter safety switch  
Check transmission shift indicator  
Check instrument gauges, oil amperes, etc.  
Check spare tire and jack

### Monthly

Check fluid levels, crankcase, transmission, etc.  
Check antifreeze, radiator rust inhibitor and thermostat  
Check windshield washer fluid  
Check belts, hoses  
Check plugs, wiring, battery, clean and grease terminals as needed  
Clean out air cleaner if necessary  
Check carburetor hoses and linkage  
Check wheel alignment and tire balance (uneven wear of tires)  
Check heater and defroster  
Check wiper blades for wear

### THREE MONTHS OR 3,000 MILES

Change oil and filter  
Grease fitting on chassis  
Lube drive shafts, universal, linkages  
Check fluid in master cylinder  
Check fluid level in power steering unit  
Lube front suspension and steering linkage  
Adjust carburetor idle speed

### YEARLY

7,500 miles or yearly rotate tires  
Change transmission fluid and filter  
Change air filter  
Change rear axle fluid  
Drain radiator and flush; check all hoses and cap. Also, clean outside radiator  
Change fuel filter  
Change spark plugs, adjust timing, and check distributor cap

ADOPTED BY BOARD:  
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