

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Melody Kirksey brings passion for teaching to COH safety

Melody Kirksey is beginning her second tenure with the City of Houston. She worked with the Houston Health Department for more than 10 years before taking a new career path. Now she is back with the city's HR Risk Management division. No matter the twists and turns her career has taken, safety and teaching have been at the center of Kirksey's professional life.

ZIP: Tell us a little about your background.

Melody: My professional background is in environmental safety. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in public health in 1988 from Central State University. I was employed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality prior to my return to the City of Houston. I enjoy educating industry to strengthen the safety culture.



ZIP: How long have you with the City of Houston?

Melody: Since June 27, 2022. I am a returning City of Houston employee. I worked for the Houston Health Department for 13 years from 1988 to 2001.

ZIP: What made you choose to work in safety with the Risk Management division?

Melody: I wanted an opportunity reach and teach people on improving their skills in a good safety culture.

ZIP: What is the most interesting or exciting aspect of working in safety?

Melody: It's giving employees the tools that help change their mindset from reactive to proactive safety.

ZIP: Why is safety important to you, and why should it be important to COH employees?

Melody: It's important to me to educate and give people the tools necessary to protect themselves, and it should be important to City of Houston employees because it can be lifesaving.

ZIP: What do you do in your free time?

Melody: I enjoy sports. My top favorite sports are football and track and field.

ZIP: What key message do you want COH employees to understand about the importance of safety?

Melody: If you have a proactive rather than a reactive mindset when approaching safety, it becomes a good habit and elevates good safety culture.

ZERO IS POSSIBLE

City of Houston Safety Program