



What Successful Companies Do To Create Successful Safety Programs

(By Jody Warner, ASP, CFPS - Cambridge Risk Control)

I have recently celebrated my 19th year in the safety profession and I've been out to visit many of you that receive, and read, this monthly Safety Newsletter. We've had many, many discussions about what to do to make your work place safer, employees happier and your workers compensation costs lower. It's easy to determine that some companies need more safety consultation than others...some companies don't need *any* safety assistance at all. I'll be the first to say that a significant number of employers do a great job with their safety effort – I hope that I've told you so when we met.

After all these years, however, I started to think about the larger topic. And then, while teaching at a risk management seminar, someone asked me to summarize the common things that successful companies do when they have successful safety programs. Hmmmm, I thought to myself - good question. Surely after 18+ years in this business I could determine the best answer to that question. I could and I did.

This following list is a summary of common things that contribute to successful safety programs. Or, "...the common things that successful companies do to have successful safety programs...". Most don't need to be explained:

2004 Dates To Remember:

January:

Plan Your Safety Training Now!
Call Jody For Training Ideas!
312-381-8208

February:

8-14 Child Passenger Safety Week

March:

16-22 Poison Prevention Week
Workplace Eye Safety Month
Save Your Vision Month

April:

Sports Eye Safety Month
4-10 Intl Building Safety Week
7-11 Workzone Aware. Week
26-30 Playground Safety Week

May:

Clean Air Month
Melanoma Awareness Month
Electrical Safety Month
16-22 National EMS Week
16-22 Poison Prevention Week

June:

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

July:

Eye Injury Prevention Month

August:

Prepare Your Winter Safety Training!

September:

19-25 Farm Safety/Health Week

October:

5-11 Nat. Fire Prevention Week
20-24 School Bus Safety Week
20-24 Radon Action Week

November:

Take advantage of the weather and do your classroom training!

December:

"3D Month" - National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month

- They have an active **Safety Committee** that distances itself from daily operations, unless needed.
- Their line **supervisors have documented, specific safety responsibilities.**
- **Management- ALL LEVELS** – shows **visible commitment, interest and involvement** in the safety effort.
- **Management- ALL LEVELS** – has a greater **interaction** with employees on a day-to-day basis.
- **Management- ALL LEVELS** – shows greater **empathy** with their employees.
- They **integrate the day-to-day cost of safety into operations** – PPE, training, etc.
- They **provide personal protective equipment (PPE)** without hesitation to cost, every time it's needed.
- They have extensive and comprehensive **employee relations programs** – daycare, wellness, support programs, etc.
- They have documented severe, but fair, levels of **discipline** associated with operations and safety.
- They display tedious **housekeeping and cleanliness** practices.
- They use **lead workers and supervisors to train employees.**
- They have formalized **hazard inspection programs.**
- They provide **comfortable break, lunch and bathroom facilities.**
- They have written, enforced **safety policies and procedures.**
- They thoroughly **investigate all incidents of loss or near loss** to determine the root cause.
- They have "Time Out" or "Push Back" programs that **empower line employees** to halt operations if they feel that safety is being compromised.
- They have a sophisticated means of **selecting and screening employees**, both new hires and those being considered for advancement and promotion.
- They provide **physical safeguards** to the maximum extent possible, when needed.
- They frequently and consistently **train employees** in good safety and health practices.
- **Safety is an instinctive behavior at all levels and in all operations within the company.**

"We encourage the creation of a Safety Culture in all companies."

As you can see, there are several references to management, supervisors and lead employees. That's not by accident. We in the safety field have known for years that, without unconditional support from top management, a safety program is at serious risk of failure. Or even worse, a safety program that simply fades away so that employees notice that it's disappeared. Your employees *will* notice the safety program fading away, just ask them if they remember the safety committee that you "...use to have...".

Also, you might think that some of the items listed above seem slightly outside the common issues of safety consultation. Why in the world would I suggest that in order to have a successful safety program, you need, "...comfortable break, lunch and bathroom facilities"? Another very good question. What I'm trying to emphasize here is that a good safety program isn't always about safety glasses, gloves and hard hats. It has a lot to do with being a good partner and friend. A good partner to the stockholders, vendors, the community and certainly – the employees. Show them every day that their safety is as important as production. Show them that it's important to you that they see their husband, wife, kids, friends or parents at the end of the day. If you're not actively involved with your safety effort, learn to become involved, soon – it will make a huge difference! We encourage the creation of a "Safety Culture" in all companies.

Heat Cramps, Heat Stress & Heat Stroke – it's that time of year!

Since this is the June Safety Newsletter, you'll be getting it in the middle of May - just in time to offer some safety tips about working in hot weather. Here is some information that can make it a safe summer, think-

"Hydration, Ventilation, Clothing, Shade and Limits"

- Hydrate your body – Drink plenty of fluids and have it available at the worksite. Avoid alcoholic beverages.
- Work in well ventilated areas – When possible work where there's an adequate air flow to help cool you.
- Wear light colored, lightweight clothing – This helps dissipate heat through the sweating / evaporation process.
- Shade is your friend. When you're hot, find some shade. Work in the shade if you can.
- Limit exposure – Limit the amount of work done during extremely hot parts of the day. Schedule around it.

A few easy steps can keep your work force healthy and happy throughout the hot summer weather.



Simple Summer Safety Suggestions!

Painting

Paint tends to be a fairly safe substance when used correctly, but it is far from risk-free. You can work safely with paint if you use some simple safety thought, check labels on the can and abide by the warnings.

- Keep only as much paint as needed for the job.
- "No Smoking" signs are posted and obeyed.
- Check that a fire extinguisher is available for painting tasks.
- Wear protective clothing that fully covers skin.
- Wear gloves to protect against specific ingredients.
- Wear eye and face protection.
- Wear respirators in spray booths and when otherwise required.
- Use water-based rather than oil-based paint whenever possible.
- Remove paint from skin promptly with soap and water or according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Do not use solvents or thinners to remove paint from skin.
- Paint only in well-ventilated areas, away from heat and ignition sources.
- Do not use paint if the label is missing or illegible.
- Use fiberglass ladders and follow standard ladder safety procedure.



Mowing
Trimming
Landscaping

Now that summer's here, you may be grooming the grass, bushes, trees and flowers so that they look great and grow bigger. It's a simple process, but sometimes wrought with hazards. Here are some items to consider:

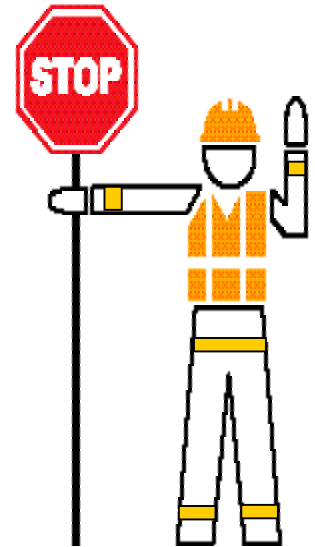
- Hire those 18 years old and over.
- Wear long pants and sleeves.
- Wear a dust mask when needed.
- Wear eye and face protection to block flying debris.
- Wear hearing protection to block engine noises.
- Watch out for the "poison family" – ivy, oak & sumac. Consider barrier creams for those with high allergic reactivity.
- Bees! Watch out for Bees! Find them before they find you.
- Always consider the weather – heat, rain, lightning, wind, etc.
- Always use a helmet, eye and face protection, hearing protection and protective chaps for chainsaw use.
- If you climb trees or operate a man-lift or cherry picker, wear a full body harness.

Road Work

In 2002, there were 1181 fatalities in work zone motor vehicle crashes, according to the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse.

Visit - <http://wzsafety.tamu.edu> for more information.

Stay Visible – Stay Alive



Cambridge Integrated Services
Risk Control Department
175 West Jackson, Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60604
phone 312-381-8072
fax 312-381-9811
www.cambridgeriskcontrol.com

Mark Almburg,
Risk Control Manager
312-381-8240
mark_almburg@cisqi.com

Steve Rusicka, CHSP
Risk Control Supervisor, East
800-686-2762 x416
steve_rusicka@cisqi.com

John Tahlier, MS
Risk Control Supervisor, Midwest
608-837-7602
john_tahlier@cisqi.com

Jody Warner, ASP, CFPS
Training & Technical Services
Web & Newsletter Editor
312-381-8208
jody_warner@cisqi.com

Safety Resource Center

It's Good To Know:

Crash-Free June!

The National Safety Council (NSC) is leading a nationwide effort to address the leading cause of injury death in America - motor vehicle crashes. The theme of this year's National Safety Month will be "**Crash-Free June**", a month-long initiative to change driver behavior that causes crashes.

U.S. law enforcement authorities reported that, in 2002, there were 6.3 million motor vehicle crashes, resulting in 2.3 million disabling injuries and 44,000 deaths. The NSC estimates the total cost to society of these crashes to be \$242.7 billion.

www.nsc.org

June is:
"National Safety Month"



www.nsc.org

Office Ergo Tip:

If you frequently need to enter data from a written or typed page - try a document holder or document stand.



It will help keep you looking straight forward.