



Environmental, Health and Safety News

February 2011

We're Proud of Our Work



It's 2011 and during this year.....
"BE SAFE AND STAY HEALTHY!" is our cheer!

Safety Milestones!!

2 Years—No Lost Time

- **Aggregate Group**
- **NW Indiana Ready Mix Group**
 Jeff McPherson's ready mix group worked all of 2009 and 2010 without an employee lost time injury. Steve Crane and the imi aggregate group passed the 2 year anniversary of no lost time injuries at the end of January 2011. These two groups together represent over 1.2 million man hours worked without a lost time injury!!!

- Don't jump on to or off of platforms, trucks, etc.
- Don't carry a load that you can't see over.
- Focus on where you are going and what you are doing.
- Expect the unexpected—survey the area.
- Wear sturdy shoes with non-skid soles.
- Avoid baggy or loose pants.
- Clean ice, snow and mud from your feet, often.
- Provide adequate lighting in dark areas, especially areas that are entered from brightly lit areas.
- Walk slowly on slippery surfaces. It is best to shuffle your feet.
- Use three points of contact when climbing. And when walking on slippery surfaces, if possible.

Certainly in winter weather we have compounded issues with slips, trips and falls. Icy surfaces to and from our working places and on equipment that must be entered, present more than double the trouble.

Slips, Trips and Falls—Still #1 on the hit parade

Slips, trips and falls is still the number one reason for an injury in our work places. That same thing is true for most industry in the United States. Over 10 million injuries occur every year due to slips, trips and falls. Thousands of these injuries result in disability and some even death.

There are various ways to suffer slips and falls while working or playing. You can slip and lose your balance, you can trip over objects left improperly in the walkway, you can fall from an elevated position above the ground.

Maintain Work Areas to Prevent Slips, Trips and Falls

Housekeeping is the key to preventing falls on level surfaces and from elevated positions.

- Keep walkways free of trip hazards.
- Clean up any leaks or spills.
- Repair or report floor problems.
- Block off areas when repair or clean-up is not immediately possible.
- Walk, don't run.

- Make every effort to eliminate icy walkways with the application of ice melting substances and/or abrasives (sand or ashes).
- Maintain three points of contact.
- Remove ice from steps of equipment prior to climbing, up or down.
- Park equipment where these issues are minimized, if at all possible.
- Be constantly alert to conditions around you.

Slips and falls occur every day. The extent of injuries and recurrence can be minimized through proper safety knowledge and attitudes. Practice safety . . . Don't learn it through "Accidental Experience".



Something to Think About

Who is wise? He that learns from every-one. Who is powerful? He that governs his passions. Who is rich? He that is content. Who is that? Nobody.— Benjamin Franklin

We are on the web
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Safety is never an accident: it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skilled execution! It represents the wise choice of many alternatives!!

Location: _____

Supervisor: _____

please sign below, confirming the material was reviewed:

February 2011

Inspection of Working Places

Inspection of Working Places – I like that name, but it just as well could be – Pre-shift Inspection or Walk Around. I am sure there are other things that it could be called as well! Every regulatory agency, OSHA, MSHA, DOT, EPA, etc. has some requirement that inspection of working places is accomplished. And if you look at the big picture, I think you will agree that these inspections make a lot of sense.

DOT regulations require that pre-trip inspections take place for every vehicle placed into driving service. A pre-trip inspection is a part of the qualification process of obtaining a CDL. It may be that a review of the pre-trip requirements would be a good topic of discussion during a toolbox talk.

EPA regulations require that daily, weekly and monthly inspections of various water and air permit functions occur. The purpose of which is to record what is happening on sites that have these permits and if controls are functioning properly.

OSHA and MSHA require that prior to operating any mobile equipment an inspection of the equipment occurs. MSHA requires that all working places are inspected at least once per shift and that documents are generated that record that inspection.

Back in 2005 there was a report about the cause of an explosion at a refinery that occurred earlier that year. There were several fatalities and nearly 170 injuries caused by this incident. One of the main causes of the

explosion was a lack of an adequate inspection prior to the start-up of some equipment. Other causes included poor communication and inadequate planning. All of these are related and a part of the inspection of working places. If a good inspection is performed and deficiencies are identified but not communicated to the proper person or group, then the process fails.

Most times planning is required to assure that the identified problem is resolved in a timely fashion. Depending on the seriousness of the problem, a vehicle or a piece of mobile equipment may have to be removed from service for a while. Whether it does or not, communication will be required to complete the task. And there are several people or groups involved in this planning process. Be sure to include all of the people involved.

Bottom line: the inspection process is required. But it is also an important part of a safe operation. We are not only doing this because some regulatory agency says we should. We do it and require that it be done because it is the right thing to do and it is extremely important.

Make the process a worthwhile effort by understanding the importance of the task and of the communication and planning that is required. When you are given the task of performing that pre-shift inspection or examination of working places or whatever it is called, take the job seriously. Truly your safety or the safety of your co-workers is at stake!

Have a Safe and Healthy February and Remember that “Safety is No Accident”