

# Environmental, Health and Safety News

March 2015

We're Proud of Our Work

## Something to Think About!!

Each one of us is ultimately responsible for our own safety, practice safety everyday!

*The last several weeks have been very busy and I have had little time to spend in the office writing new material for this month's newsletter. My good friend Robert Stone, "Stoney", wrote this article and I published it a few years ago in this forum. It deserves repeating.*

Recently, I was asked on a job-site by a visitor who inquired, "Who is responsible for safety on this job?" I thought, before answering, of a very good series of articles that I'd read in the trade journals and thought of an unwritten rule that Walt and Terry conveyed to me whereby, in the name of safety, it's alright to plunder, steal, and plagiarize any safety ideas or concepts. I answered the visitor by pointing to the nearest employee and saying, "He is." I'd point to another and add, "Him too".

I explained to the somewhat confused visitor that I could answer that it was the responsibility of the Safety Director, General Manager, Superintendents, Foremen, Board of Directors, or President and would have been correct on all counts. All of these individuals play a very important role in the safety of our company's employees on our job-sites. The regulatory agencies and our company define very specific responsibilities in the areas of safety for these individuals. It is, however, virtually impossible for any of these well-intentioned people to be with every person, every minute of his or her workday. If their role is to simply format, present, and enforce a long list of rules and policies without sufficient interaction, even this necessity is compromised by employee resentment and possibly defiance.

Safety on job-sites rests undeniably with each employee. Every person is equally responsible for

safety. It takes the participation of every employee contributing as a member of a team to finally have a working safety culture on the job. It requires the everyday commitment of each person to maintain such a safety mind-set. Communication is a key element discussing in open forums the issues of best practices, safe procedures, and the identification of potential hazards. Helpful in this process is a review of basic tried and proven principles.

### Look for Hazards

While performing routine tasks, look for safety and health hazards. An additional fresh set of eyes may spot a hazard that isn't obvious to others.

### Report Hazards

Take the time to report the hazards that you identify to your supervisor. Correct hazards that you can. If it can't be readily corrected, warn others and barricade or restrict access to the hazard until it can be corrected.

### Stop Unsafe Actions

Don't take "short-cuts" where safety is concerned. Ask yourself if you would be comfortable letting a close friend or family member do what you're doing. Don't hesitate to gently remind other employees that you observe doing something unsafe. It's very important that we all watch out for one another.

### Avoid Horseplay

Most of us relish practical jokes, but we must be very cautious when goofing around diverts someone's attention from a dangerous task at

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## Irving Materials, Inc Environmental, Health and Safety News

Editor:  
Walt Tharp  
2321 E - 150 N  
Bluffton, IN 46714

Cell Phone: 317-432-9604  
Office Phone: 260-824-3428  
Fax: 260-824-4422  
E-mail: walt.tharp@irvmat.com

**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!!**

hand. It's no joke if someone gets hurt as a result.

### Follow Instructions

Follow safety rules and policies as established by the regulatory agencies and the company. These rules and policies are there to prioritize the employee's safety as the number one issue.

### Practice Good Housekeeping

Maintain a safe, organized work area. Poor housekeeping is a powerful indication of larger problems present.

### Dress Appropriately

Use the appropriate Personal Protection Equipment for the assigned task. Jewelry, loose clothing, and long hair can be entanglement hazards.

### Make Suggestions

Be involved as a member of your safety team. Each person is empowered to make the worksite better, safer, and more productive. Communication implies "two-way" enlightenment. Contribute to the worksite's safety effort by your involvement.



Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

please sign below, confirming the material was reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_ March 2015

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**Thanks again to Robert Stone, Safety Manager at Hunter Marine Aggregate Division.**

**One last thing**, you have heard this before, but it is worth repeating as well. It goes along well with Stoney's article: Every task should begin with a **SLAM! STOP, LOOK, ANALYZE, MANAGE**

**Stop**—before entering into anything, stop first to evaluate the conditions.

**Look**—closely look at the situation trying to identify anything out of the ordinary, dangerous or hazardous.

**Analyze**—hazards associated with the task need to be analyzed. Are all of the proper tools available? Do other people need to get involved? Maybe someone with more knowledge about the conditions.

**Manage**—manage the task. Take whatever measures are required to minimize and control the hazards. When in doubt, get help!

It looks to be a busy season in 2015. If we work together we can make it our safest every.

**Have a Great March!!**