

IRVING MATERIALS, INC.

"WE'RE PROUD OF OUR WORK"



SAFETY TOPICS

SAFETY

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

Volume 04, Issue 5

May 2004

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For What It Is Worth!

Practicing Medicine!

The Medical Lab Nurse called Mr. Smith with news of the results of his wife's recent tests. The nurse said, "I have bad news or worse news." The man said, "What do you mean?" "Well, we had two Linda Smith's in the office on the same day and the results have been mixed-up. One of the women's tests show Alzheimer's and the other show aids, and we have no idea which test belongs to your wife and which is the other woman's." The man asked, "Can't you just retest?" "No," replied the Nurse, "your HMO only allows one of these expensive tests per year. But, here is what we suggest; drive your wife to the edge of town and drop her off. If she finds her way home, don't sleep with her until we retest!"

'03 -'04 LOSSES

Well we are half way through the year. Our Company fiscal year, that is. As for our insurance coverages, we are actually more than half way through. Our insurance year starts on September 1st. Sometimes it is worthwhile taking a look at what has happened and comparing that with other time frames. As of mid-April, all of imi and its family of Companies have had 115 workers compensation claims involving \$596,944. In all of the previous year we had 208 claims involving \$1.77 million. (If you remember, I previously told you that last year the number of injuries were down, but the dollars were up.) At the moment, these compare favorably. Don't get me wrong, one claim is too many. The point is to encourage everyone to continue to make **Safety a Value** and to keep safety a part of everything we do every day!

Of the 115 claims in the current year, what type of things are happening and what body part is being injured, you may ask? Well, I am glad you asked! The major causes of injuries were:

Strains – 22;

Fall or Slip Injuries – 19;

Cuts or Punctures – 10;

Foreign Body in the Eye – 5;

Caught-in injuries – 5.

The nature of the injuries were:

Strains – 51; Cuts or lacerations – 20;

Bruise/contusion – 15; Fractures – 8; Sprain

– 8; Foreign Bodies – 4; Punctures – 4;

Crushing – 2; Other – 3.

The body parts most frequently injured:

Low back – 14; Fingers – 12; Upper arm –

11; Head – 9; Ankle, - 9; Knee – 8; Eye – 5;

Neck – 5; Wrist – 5; Multiple – 9. Bottom

line: watch out for the slips and falls that cause sprains and strains! Oh, also watch where you put your fingers.

OFF-THE-JOB

In a latest issue of "Family Safety & Health" magazine, the National Safety Council reported that there were 4,900 deaths and 3.6 million injuries at work in 2002, the last year for which statistics are available. In the home, in that same period, there were more than 33,000 deaths and 8 million injuries. In addition to those numbers, there were another 41,900 deaths and 2.2 million injuries in motor vehicles. The cost of the off-the-job injuries—more than \$500 million in lost wages, medical costs, and property damage. Off-the-job injuries in 2002 cost workers 170 million days, compared to 90 million lost days for on-the-job injuries. The noteworthy part of this information is: during the '90s on-the-job deaths declined significantly, but off-the-job deaths increased.

From this information it is easy to see that preventing off-job-injuries is just as important as preventing on-the-job injuries. As a result I have been making an effort to talk during winter meetings where I participated about the importance of using personal protective equipment (PPE) away from the job. How many of you use hearing protection in your wood shop at home or while operating you lawn mower or chainsaw? How about safety glasses? Whether you are injured on-the-job or at home makes no difference as far as your lost productivity.

It is also just as important to consider all that can go wrong with those home projects and plan ways to avoid accidents. Don't take chances, don't ask family members to take chances, have the proper tools for the job, don't take short-cuts, don't stand on the top of your step ladder, dress properly for the job and use appropriate PPE, get assistance when moving heavy or awkward loads, and on and on. The same ideas that we talk about at work. **HAVE A SAFE SUMMER!**

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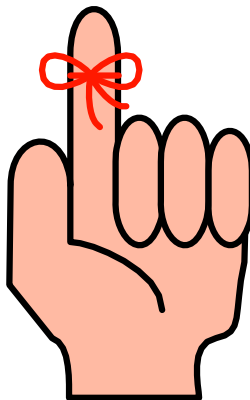
please sign below as an indication that the material was read:

START EACH DAY WITH SAFETY!

Reprinted from the U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration Although this was aimed at the mining industry, it easily applies to every work place. I removed the mine in some locations.

Everyone's lives seem to be very busy in this fast paced world. We rush to go to work and then rush home. We urge all work places to take one or two minutes at the beginning of each shift to talk about safety at work. Such talks can have several safety and operational benefits. The talks will prompt everyone to stop thinking about and/or worrying about non-work issues and help focus everyone on the job at hand for the day. It's only one to two minutes out of the average workday of several hundred minutes and it can pay huge benefits. What do we talk about, you may ask. Here are some examples:

- Heavy rains last night have caused the roadways to become slippery, so slow down. You may have specifics.
- Repairs will be occurring



on part of the plant today, so be aware that some things will be locked out.

- A contractor will be doing some work; on our plant or down the road, etc.
- Hunting season starts on Saturday and most of you are anxious, but let's stay focused on the job at hand.
- We have worked so many days without an injury, let's keep up the good work.
- Relay recent accident details or even close calls and what can be done to prevent re-occurrence.
- Does anyone have any safety and health concerns or suggestions?

The point is to get everyone's attention on safety. If we were to make it a daily habit the results would be impressive.

Make Safety Soar in 2004