



Irving Materials, Inc.

Safety Topics

Volume 6, Issue 007

June 2007

For What It Is Worth!!

Beer, Fishing, Sex and Golf

A man was walking down the street when he was accosted by a particularly dirty and shabby-looking homeless man who asked him for a couple of dollars for dinner.

The man took out his wallet, extracted ten dollars and asked, "If I give you this money, will you buy some beer with it instead of dinner?"

"No, I had to stop drinking years ago," the homeless man replied.

"Will you use it to go fishing instead of buying food?" the man asked.

"No, I don't waste time fishing," the homeless man said. "I need to spend all my time trying to stay alive."

"Will you spend the money on a woman in the red light district instead of food?" the man asked.

"What disease would I get for ten lousy bucks?" exclaimed the homeless man.

"Will you spend this on greens fees at a golf course instead of food?" the man asked.

"Are you NUTS!" replied the homeless man. "I haven't played golf in 20 years!"

"Well," said the man, "I'm not going to give you the money. Instead, I'm going to take you home for a terrific dinner cooked by my wife."

The homeless man was astounded. "Won't your wife be furious with you for doing that? I know I'm dirty, and I probably smell pretty disgusting."

The man replied, "That's okay. It's important for her to see what a man looks like after he has given up beer, fishing, sex and golf."

* *Do you have a Safety* *
* *Topic idea for me? I* *
* *would like to hear from* *
* *you!* *



What is Safety Worth? A Finger?

I sometimes think that I sound like a broken record, saying the same things over and over and over again. Like, "There is nothing that we do that is worth anyone being injured over". I have talked in this space about how we get away with taking short cuts and get comfortable in that way of doing things even though what is being done is not the safe way of performing a task. I have talked about the importance of lock out/ tag out when working around equipment. All of these safety conversations should have been on the mind when on May 14th the plant manager at one of our ready mixed concrete plants was preparing the plant for an early morning start. Clean-up was being performed prior to the start of what was scheduled to be a very busy day for the plant.

It was early Monday morning. The plant manager had started before 3:00 AM to prepare for an early morning pour. The plant manager had been gone the week before so he was diligently tidying up the plant. He found that some material had accumulated in the box around the head pulley of the conveyor that loads the trucks. This was not an unusual occurrence. The plant manager had cleaned this area many times.

The conveyor had been started and was running. One of the first drivers of the day stated that he heard the plant manager shoveling under the plant in the area where the materials are loaded into the trucks. The driver heard an odd sound and when he went around to the office area the

plant manager was coming from the plant holding his hand. The driver followed the plant manager into the office where the plant manager went straight to the restroom. He quickly returned and told the driver to call 911. Soon the emergency services personnel arrived and the plant manager was rushed to the hospital where two fingers and a broken arm were repaired. When I visited with him in the hospital a few days later his first words were, "You are here to give me an *** chewing". He was well aware of the mistake that he had made.

Last Thursday, May 24, 2007 the pinky finger and the outside of the left hand were surgically removed from that plant manager. This man now has only nine fingers instead of the usual 10. I haven't talked with him yet this week, but I am willing to bet that he had a Memorial Day weekend that he will not soon forget. I'll bet that he did not celebrate the holiday weekend like most Americans. Without a doubt, he would exchange all of the last two weeks for an opportunity to start the morning of May 14th over.

The morning of the injury the plant manager started the plant and went to clean up. Does anyone recognize a potential safety hazard here? The clean-up that was being performed did not require that the plant be running. While shoveling around the

**The Goal Is Clear!
2007 As Our Safest Year!!**

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We're Proud of Our Work

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!!

Location: _____

Supervisor: _____

please sign below as an indication that the material was read: June 2007

Continued from the front—What is Safety Worth?

area it was noticed that material had accumulated inside of the box around the head pulley. He stuck his gloved hand in beside the running conveyor to brush the loose material out. Lagging on the head pulley caught the glove and you can picture what happened. In the blink of an eye, this man’s life was changed forever. Oh, he will come back to work and he will be able to perform his usual job. You know, I don’t think they make gloves with 3 fingers and a thumb, except in cartoons. This is no laughing matter! It was so unnecessary!

I can’t think of anything to say that I have not said before. This man knew he should not put his hand into the area where he was injured, he told me so. I don’t know exactly what went through his mind. He may have thought that he didn’t want to take the time to go back into the office to shut the conveyor down before cleaning the box. He may have thought, I have done this before and not been injured. He may have not been thinking at all, although I find that hard to believe. Whatever he was thinking, he chose to ignore several safety procedures and it cost him

a finger and part of his hand. Was ignoring safety procedures worth a finger and part of a hand? Please think about that the next time you perform a task, any task. Consider the risks, assess the hazards, then take whatever measures are required to eliminate the hazards. There is nothing that we do that is worth someone being injured!!



Summer arrives this month. Have a safe and fun season.

*Measure wealth not by the things you have,
but by the things you have for which you would
not take money!*

- Author unknown -