

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 10

October 2004

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A SAFE WORK PLACE IS NO ACCIDENT

It is still early, but preliminary results show we have made some headway. I would like to take all the credit for the outcome, but don't deserve it. It is a Company wide effort that is beginning to bear fruit. What the heck am I talking about? The results of our worker's compensation insurance. I am talking about employee injuries for all of the Irving Materials, Inc. family of Companies.

Our insurance policy year ends August 31. A report that I received September 9th shows decreasing claim numbers and dollars. I am a little cautious because sometimes the claims lag due to timely filing of claims and because of the paperwork involved. But barring a disastrous end of August, '03-'04 is much better than '02-'03 when talking dollars, and shows a trend for improvement over the last 5 years in the number of claims.

The '90s saw a lot of growth in the imi family. We expanded geographically and in scope. Along with this growth came increased numbers of claims for employee injuries. With the increase in the number of claims came an almost explosive increase in the dollars involved with these claims. By '99-'00 the number of claims peaked at nearly 400 per year. Unfortunately the dollars involved in the claims continued to climb until '02-'03. It appears right now that the dollars for claims declined by more than 40% last year. I encourage you to work at making this a trend that continues, because we are talking about millions of dollars, and those are all dollars from the bottom line, they are not insurance dollars.

As I mentioned above, the number of claims peaked in '99-'00. Since then there has been a steady reduction in the number of claims. 4 years ago there was a 15% reduction in the number of claims. Each year since, we have

reduced the number of claims by 8%, 33%, and 3% this past year. Everyone needs to be proud of this fact, but we have only started towards our goal of "zero injuries".

You may think that I am crazy to talk about zero injuries and that such a goal is unachievable. I contend that we have to develop an attitude that zero injuries is the goal if we ever hope to get anywhere close. I still find that there are people in the Company that think employee injuries are just a part of doing business. When you take the attitude that "you-know-what" happens, inevitably it does

happen.

Take pride in the fact that we are making some progress in reducing the number of work injuries and the dollars they cost, but please do not get complacent. We have to think safety every day all day long. It takes team work. Help and be a part of the team! Let's see if we can have double digit reductions in the number of injuries this year.

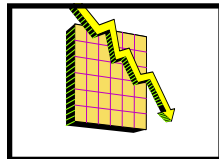
October is National Fire Prevention Month

In keeping with fire prevention safety I thought it would be good to talk about fire extinguishers. Do you know what the "ABC" on our common fire extinguishers stands for? It refers to the class of fire that the extinguisher is intended to control. Class A fires typically involve wood, paper, and cloth. Class B fires involve flammable liquids such as fuels, solvents, etc. Class C fires are fires in energized electrical equipment. An ABC extinguisher, which we most commonly have, is good for all three types of these fires.

Some important points to remember about extinguishers!

1. An extinguisher's main function is to

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For What It Is Worth!

A woman in a hot air balloon realized she was lost. She lowered altitude and spotted a man in a boat below. She shouted to him, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."

The man consulted his portable GPS and replied, "You're in a hot air balloon approximately 30 feet above a ground elevation of 2346 feet above sea level. You are 31 degrees, 14.97 minutes north latitude and 100 degrees, 49.09 minutes west longitude."

She rolled her eyes and said, "You must be a Republican."

I am," replied the man. "How did you know?"

"Well," answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is technically correct, but I have no idea what to make of your information, and I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help to me."

The man smiled and responded, "You must be a Democrat."

"I am," replied the balloonist. "How did you know?"

"Well," said the man, "you don't know where you are or where you're going. You've risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise that you have no idea how to keep, and you expect ME to solve your problem. You're in EXACTLY the same position you were in before we met, but somehow, now it's MY fault."

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Location: _____

Supervisor: _____

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Fire Extinguisher points to remember, continued:

provide a means of escape from a fire incident. The typical fire extinguisher available in the work place is not large enough to stop a fire that is out of control. Contact emergency services immediately. Use the available fire extinguisher only on small localized events.

2. Know where fire extinguishers are located and how to use them. Read the directions on the tag of the extinguisher prior to the time when you need to use it. (good toolbox talk topic!)

3. Keep the area around extinguishers clear for easy access.

4. Don't use the extinguisher as a coat rack or hanger for anything.

5. Give your extinguishers proper maintenance. Check them monthly to assure: the path to it is clear; they are properly charged; the nozzle is unobstructed and the hose is in good condition; tags are affixed and properly dated; and, it is not damaged in any way. The location of the extinguisher should be clearly marked.

6. Dry chemical ABC extinguishers should be turned upside down occasionally especially if they hang on equipment or frames that vibrate. Turning the extinguisher upside down fluffs the dry chemical inside that can become compacted due to settlement from vibration. The compaction of the

dry chemical may make the extinguisher inoperable.

7. Report damage to or any use of an extinguisher to your supervisor or to the person who is responsible for extinguisher maintenance. It is important to re-charge a discharged extinguisher immediately. You may need it to save your life.

8. If you need to use an extinguisher, always position yourself so that you have an avenue of escape. Point the nozzle at the base of the fire and swing the nozzle side to side.

9. If there is an electrical fire, it is important that the source of the current be shut off. This should stop the fire unless combustible materials in the area were ignited.

Here's hoping that you never need to use an extinguisher. Things that you can do to prevent fires:

1. Dispose of smoking materials properly.

2. Maintain good housekeeping to eliminate potential fire hazards.

3. Obey posted no smoking areas. A "No Smoking" sign is there for your protection and means that flammable liquids are present.

4. Avoid getting flammable liquids or solvents on your clothing. Clean up any spilled flammable liquid and properly dispose of the cleaning materials. Don't pour flammable liquids down storm drains or sewers.



REMEMBER - THE BEST WAY TO FIGHT A FIRE IS TO PREVENT ONE.

Make Safety Soar in 2004