

"Prevention is
our Intention"

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Safety Partnership Group

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Safety Partnership



Zero incidents by choice through
Partnerships for Safety...

Safety Partnership News

Hazardous Condition Reporting

The new Hazardous Condition
Reporting card is available now!

A Safety Partnership Working
Committee developed the card and
piloted it late last year. Feedback
from these studies was evaluated
and changes were made to the
design of the card in January.

You can now obtain these new
orange cards from the IEC and try
them yourself. The Working
Committee anticipates reviewing the
card in four to six months and
making further improvements if
necessary. We would really like to
get your feedback on this revised
safety initiative.

The current yellow Near Miss
reporting card will likely continue to
be in use at many plant sites, but
plant representatives have agreed to
accept contractors' use of the new
card at their sites.

The design of the new card is an
improvement in some key areas:

- 1) It focuses on hazardous
conditions more than behaviours
- 2) One side of the card is
designated for the worker
observing the hazard.
- 3) The other side belongs to the
contractor or client that "owns"
the hazardous condition.
- 4) Clear expectations regarding
giving feedback to the observer
as well as timelines for
eliminating the hazardous
condition are outlined.

Why not pick up a few orange cards
and try them out in your workplace?

We'd be grateful for any feedback as
we **re-introduce** this proactive
safety initiative!



Seven Ontarians a Day Injured Cutting Grass

Injuries seem to be highest in
children younger than 15 and in
people over 60. Lawn mowing still
seems to be the domain of men,
who account for most of the
injuries among adults.

The number one cause of lawn-
mower injury is debris such as
rocks and branches being
propelled at high speed from
mower blades, the researchers
report in their study, published in
the journal *Annals of Emergency
Medicine*.

According to the Canadian
Institute for Health Information, 95
people were admitted to Canadian
hospitals in 2003-2004 for
treatment of lawn-mower injuries,
mainly amputations or severe
bleeding. Over the same time, 810
people were treated in Ontario
emergency rooms for injuries
caused by lawn mowers, the
organization said.

"When you consider our summer
lawn season is about four months
in length, that is about seven
Ontarians a day visiting
Emergency during that time due to
a lawn mower incident," said
Margaret Keresteci, CIHI's
manager of clinical registries.

"Getting hit by a stick shooting out
of your lawn mower is something
people under-perceive (as a risk)
and the thing to do is to wear
goggles and protective clothing.

PUPPY LOVE

Visits from Pets Boost Nursing-Home Residents' Spirits!



That's the upshot of a new study that found nursing-home residents who had regular visits from a dog felt better and less lonely - better, in fact, than after visits with a dog and other people.

Initially, the researchers thought the dog would act like a "social lubricant" and increase interaction between residents, thereby reducing their feelings of loneliness. But that wasn't the case.

Instead, the residents, ranging in age from 75 to 90, found that some quiet time alone with a furry friend was a lot nicer. The study suggests that pets make people in nursing homes feel better by simply being with them, not by enhancing socialization between other residents, the researchers said.

The study also found that the loneliest individuals benefited the most from the canine companionship. The research will appear in the March issue of *Anthrozoos*, a journal that focuses on human-animal interaction. The majority of nursing-home residents who participated in the study had pets during their childhood and adult years.

Residents who spent time alone with the dog confided in him and reminisced a great deal, talking about their experiences with pets. Loneliness is common for people in long-term care facilities, often due to the loss of loved ones and independence, health experts say.

OFF-THE-JOB INJURIES COST COMPANIES LOTS OF DOLLARS!

Contrary to popular belief, today's workers are safer on the job than they are at home or in their communities. According to the National Safety Council, recent gains in lowering workplace death rates; down 17 percent since 1992, have been undone by the rate of fatalities occurring off the job, up 14 percent in that same period.

According to 2004 National Safety Council statistics being presented at the nation's first Off the Job Safety Symposium in Orlando, twice as many workers, 6.8 million, were seriously injured while off the job than were injured while working. And of the 49,000 injury-related deaths in 2004 involving workers, roughly 90 percent occurred while employees were off the job.

In addition, off-the-job injuries accounted for employers losing 165 million days of production time, compared with 80 million lost work-days as a result of workplace injuries.

In addition, research presented at the 17th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work last fall found that for every dollar businesses spend on safety, they realize a \$3 to \$6 savings.



BE SAFE: Live Next Door to a Church!

If you live within a mile of a church, you're far less likely to have a car accident than drivers who live more than a mile from a church.

But if you live within one mile of a restaurant, you face a significantly greater risk of an accident than most other drivers.

Those are among the key findings of a study released today by Quality Planning Corporation; a firm that helps insurance companies price insurance more accurately and fairly.

QPC examined the relationship between where a vehicle owner lives and the likelihood that he will be involved in an auto accident, and concluded that the riskiest place to live is within one mile of a restaurant.

In fact, if the owner of an automobile lives with one mile of an eating establishment, he is 30 percent more likely to crash his car than if he lived more than one mile from the restaurant.