

"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...

HERE WE GROW AGAIN!

Sarnia-Lambton Industrial
Educational Cooperative

The I.E.C. extends a warm welcome to UBE Automotive as our 20th member! UBE opened in 2000 and employs approximately 250 people. They manufacture a wide range of aluminum wheels as original equipment for a broad range of automotive clients.



RAPID DECISION MAKING

In today's fast-paced business environment, leaders and managers often have to make critical business decisions involving hundreds or thousands of dollars, "on the fly"; without the luxury of time or all the data that needs to be considered. Given these constraints, what can be done to ensure that sound, quality decisions are made?

RAPID Decision-Making is the answer. This process is used when leaders have only a few hours to a few days to make an unexpected decision that carries reasonable risk and that can be made using available resources. The IEC's RAPID Decision Making course helps leaders learn how to accelerate the decision-making process, yet still make quality decisions with limited time and information.

The IEC is piloting RAPID Decision-Making on January 6, 2005. This ½ day course has no pre-requisites, is suitable for informal and formal leaders at all levels, and will be offered five more times throughout the year. For further information or to register for RAPID Decision Making, or any of our nine Leadership & Workforce Development courses, please visit our website www.sarniasafety.com.

NEAR MISS REPORTING

Recently at a local industry, the rope handle of a tool-lifting bag broke. On investigation of this incident, it was determined that the manufacturer had changed the "rope" material to a different substance. This material didn't hold up well under adverse weather conditions and deteriorated over a period of a few months.

The learning from this near miss incident was to inspect the rope to make sure that the back-braided ends were properly taped and the rope was not unraveling.

The other issue concerned the weight rating for these lifting bags. The manufacturer suggests 150 lb., but we would discourage anyone from trying to lift that kind of weight with these bags.

Thanks to Imperial Oil's Don Millar,
Contractor Safety Advisor
Mechanical & Engineering Dept.

SHARE LEARNINGS

MEASURING HEALTH & SAFETY THROUGH PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

In reviewing Safety Management Assessment results, it is clear that formally evaluating employee performance on a regular basis is lacking for a lot of contractors. There are many cases where this evaluation is being done regularly but lacking in documentation.

Integrating health and safety into a documented performance appraisal system should be part of a company's plan to close gaps with respect to their Safety Management Assessment results.

There are many different types of employee evaluation systems to choose from. There would be a different set of expectations depending on the employee's role within the contractor organization. Supervisor duties, worker duties, health and safety representative and health and safety committee responsibilities should all be measured, evaluated and documented at least annually.

Local companies could also measure their employee participation and involvement in Safety Partnership Best Practices. These would include, Behaviour Based Safety, T.A.S.C. cards, Near miss reporting as well as PPE compliance issues.

This evaluation process becomes an opportunity for the employer to get feedback on employee perceptions of the company's health and safety standards.

The IEC has a survey that evaluates these kinds of worker perceptions. This would work well in conjunction with a comprehensive employee performance appraisal system.

Contact the IEC for more information on:

- Performance appraisal systems that integrate a strong health and safety component
- How to arrange a Safety Perception Survey for your company

Our Sympathies

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of former I.E.C. instructor and safety advisor Barry Knowles.

There are many families, friends and co-workers that appreciated his dedication and contributions to local sports as well as his efforts towards contractor safety.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family on this sad occasion.



Barry Knowles

NEWS FROM YOUR SMELLOLOGIST

The members of the Association for Chemoreception Sciences, (doctors of smell), have discovered that the smell of peppermint increases performance on the basketball court and the aroma of cinnamon chewing gum sharpens thinking.

Bryan Raudenbush, a sports psychologist, said research has found that inhaling peppermint odour prior to and during athletic activity increases strength, speed and endurance. It has also been found to reduce fatigue, perceived effort and perceived frustration and increase levels of vigour and motivation. Higher levels of inhaling peppermint was associated with increased motivation, energy, speed, alertness, reaction time, confidence and strength.

In a second test, Cinnamon chewing gum made people score higher on tasks that showed a link to attention, memory and visual-motor quickness.

So I guess all I want for Christmas is a pack of cinnamon chewing gum and a large box of peppermint patties!

Computer Users Warned about Risks

Workers who sit in front of a computer all day are at increased risk for developing glaucoma, a disease that can lead to blindness, a new study suggests. Scientists at Japan's Toho University tested 10,000 office workers (average age, 43) and found a link between heavy computer use and glaucoma.

Researchers found that five percent of office workers had visual abnormalities, while 32 percent had suspected glaucoma. The research also indicated that shortsighted computer users who spend more than eight hours a day staring at screens are at higher risk for developing the eye disease.

Glaucoma occurs when the optic nerve in the eye is damaged, possibly due to high pressure and strain. This is raising concern among occupational health and safety advocates who point to increasing computer use and its effects on office workers. Glaucoma is treatable if detected early enough, which is why computer users are encouraged to have their eyes checked regularly.