

"Prevention is  
our Intention"

Issued October 2005

Safety Partnership Group

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# Safety Partnership



Zero incidents by choice through  
Partnerships for Safety...

## Safety Partnership February Forum

At a recent Safety Partnership Executive Committee meeting it was agreed that the upcoming Forum in February 2006 should be a celebration of 5 successful years, and that a theme of celebration and recognition would be appropriate. Ideas for guest speakers would be welcomed.

If you have an idea for the February Forum, please contact Peter Stock or John Barnfield at the IEC.

**WEBSITE of the  
MONTH**  
Stairway to Health  
[http://www.phac-  
aspc.gc.ca/sth-  
evs/english/index.htm](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/sth-evs/english/index.htm)

*Congratulations!*

## TWO YEARS INJURY FREE at CABOT

On Sept. 29th 2005 Cabot Canada Limited recorded two years with zero contractor recordable injuries at this site.

This is a remarkable achievement and reflects everyone's

- AWARENESS,
- ATTITUDE and
- ACCOUNTABILITY

for their own safety performance and the safety performance of their colleagues.

Dean Pearson

SH&E Manager  
Cabot Canada Limited

## Supervisors said:

IEC Supervisory impressions to date:

- 1) D&A Policy has a regressive effect on reporting injuries and hazardous conditions
- 2) Paperwork and accountability/ responsibility are big issues
- 3) More training needed on the "green book"
- 4) Too much negativity! Not enough positive reinforcement
- 5) Management focuses too much on what's wrong, not what is going well
- 6) Positive feedback and communication are key to the job
- 7) Supervisors need to be more aware of the definition of a supervisor as well as the competent person definition

## Multitasking: You Can't Pay Full Attention to Both Sights and Sounds

The reason talking on a cell phone makes drivers less safe may be that the brain can't simultaneously give full attention to both the visual task of driving and the auditory task of listening.

Research helps explain why talking on a cell phone can impair driving performance, even when the driver is using a hands-free device. The reason? Directing attention to listening effectively turns down the volume on input to the visual parts of the brain.

When attention is deployed to talking on a cell phone; it necessarily extracts a cost on the visual task of driving. Researchers found that when the subjects directed their attention to visual tasks, the auditory parts of their brain recorded decreased activity, and vice versa.

Cell phones and driving definitely don't mix is the conclusion of this study by Steven Yantis, a Johns Hopkins University psychologist.

A 2002 study looked at more than 26,000 people who had been involved in car crashes.

## Obesity Risk in CAR CRASHES

It found that people who weigh between 100 and 119 kg (242 to 262 pounds) are almost two-and-a-half times as likely to die in a crash as people weighing less than 60 kg (132 pounds), but obesity is a more important factor than body weight alone.

Reasons for the higher risk of injury or death include:

- the sheer force of the weight;
- underlying health problems that hinder recovery; and
- the difficulty of extricating an obese person from a crumpled vehicle.

The Canada Safety Council is a longstanding partner in encouraging workplace programs that promote healthy eating and physical activity.

**Stairway to Health** is an on-line resource that encourages stair use as a way to build physical activity into daily living, focusing on the workplace. Health Canada has an objective to reduce obesity by 10 percent.

More information about this program can be found at the following link:

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/sth-evs/english/index.htm>

## Danger associated with "Uni-Bright" brand refillable BBQ lighters

The "Uni-Bright" brand refillable lighters have demonstrated flame heights over 15 cm, which Health Canada considers dangerous for lighters. They have also continued to burn after they were turned off and leak fuel when exposed to elevated temperatures.

The "Uni-Bright" brand refillable barbecue lighters are approximately 27 cm long with red, green, blue, or yellow handles and a black metal ignition shaft with a grey plastic collar around its base. The handle has fuel-reservoir windows on both sides near the base. The lighters are packaged in blue blister cards with the brand "Uni-Bright" and the letters "BBQ" in large capitals beneath. "Made in China, Distributed by GW CANADA" is printed beneath the barcode on the back of the package. The barcode number is 6 28750 81158 7. These lighters are imported by U.B.I. Trading Company of Toronto. Consumers should stop using them immediately and contact their local municipalities on how to dispose of them properly. For more information, contact Health Canada's regional Product Safety Office.

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