

"Prevention is  
our Intention"

Issued September 2003

Safety Partnership Group

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UPGRADED SMA

EMAIL

[bbs@sarniasafety.com](mailto:bbs@sarniasafety.com)

WEB SITE

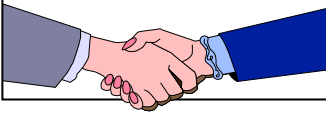
[www.sarniasafety.com](http://www.sarniasafety.com)

To submit items  
of interest  
contact  
Peter Stock

337-1716  
Fax 383-1305

Industrial Educational Co-op  
252 Chippewa Street  
Sarnia, Ontario  
N7T 8A9

# Safety Partnership



Zero incidents by choice through  
Partnerships for Safety...

## SAFETY PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENTS

### Recognition of Excellence

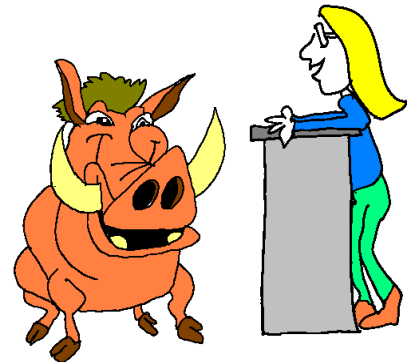
A Safety Partnership Working Group met recently to look at the "what, why, where, when and how" of recognizing excellence in safety performance. This group believes that positive recognition may assist safety performance. Positive Reinforcement is one of the most effective ways to affect performance. Much attention is paid to those companies that are not yet achieving the results they would like in Safety. Often companies that are achieving world class results do not get the same amount of attention. Bruce Knight, representing Labour, asked whether a worker would know if they were working for a company that excelled in safety performance. Ed Debevc, from Industry, wondered whether you should recognize good programs rather than good companies?

It was noted that each company or individual has their own wants and needs in terms of recognition. Doug Chalmers, stated that recognition by Industry Leaders has been well received by contractors.

It was also felt that individual Plants and Contractors should recognize Project Performance and Special or Innovative initiatives. The Safety Partnership could recognize special or innovative performance as well. The Recognition Process could identify innovative procedures, processes and initiatives that might be shared with the larger community for the betterment of all companies.

A summary of this working group meeting will be presented to the Safety Partnership Steering Committee and Executive. A follow-up meeting of this working group is planned for late October or early November.

### PUMBA VISITS THE IEC



**I DID HAVE PHOTO ID...BUT  
UNFORTUNATELY, I ATE IT!**

### VALIDATION OF PERSONAL ID

Since March 1<sup>st</sup>, workers who receive their IEC photo ID cards have been required to show two pieces of identification. One piece must be a photo ID. We want to thank you all for being patient with us as we adopt this security measure.

### ONE on ONE MEETINGS

Over the last few months, Peter Stock, our Best Practices Coordinator, has met with more than 25 contractor leaders in a bid to communicate more clearly Safety Partnership goals and expectations. During these interviews, Peter has also been able to determine the status of key Best Practices such as:

- Behaviour Based Safety
  - Pre-job Safety (TASC)
  - Near-miss Reporting
  - Root Cause Analysis
  - Safety Management Assess.
- Initial results show that BBS, TASC and SMA programs are generally well executed and understood. However Near miss and Root Cause Analysis programs are not as well utilized. Plans are in place to address these gaps.

# BACKPACK SAFETY

Most kids carry their schoolbooks and supplies in a backpack. Wearing a backpack the wrong way can harm joints and muscles, cause back injuries and even lead to scoliosis (curvature of the spine). In the elementary school years backpack weight is not usually an issue. But in higher grades some packs can weigh as much as 25 pounds. If a backpack is worn the wrong way, damage can be done to the spine. Some newer packs are designed so that the wearer cannot wear it incorrectly. Backpacks with wide straps and padding at the shoulders are a must. Thin straps can cut into the circulation of the shoulders which can cause weakness and tingling in the hands over a period of time. Wearing just one shoulder strap to look "cool" will make your child lean to one side. The uneven weight causes curvature of the spine that can lead to scoliosis. Some companies are making packs that have straps that cross over in front of the chest to allow full support and less pressure on the shoulders. Other backpacks have a strap that goes around the waist and makes more of the weight rest on the hips to ease the pressure on the back and shoulders. The best backpack may be a backpack on wheels with a retracting handle. Many of these can be rolled or worn as a traditional pack. A good rule of thumb is to keep the backpack light, not more than 10 percent of the wearers' body weight.

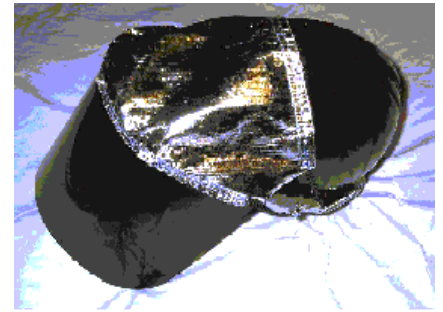
**Let's get back to school safely!**



**BACK TO SHCOOL?**

## METAL PARTICLES & EYE INJURIES UPDATE

Three sample welding-shrouds were received from Mid North Safety last month and are currently being tested by a local contractor and plant. Feedback so far has been positive. A local safety supplier is investigating the possibility of stocking this item. For further information, please call or e-mail Peter Stock at the IEC. We will keep readers informed through this sharing of learnings in this Safety Partnership Newsletter as well as the news section on the website: [www.sarniasafety.com](http://www.sarniasafety.com).



**Lambton Safe  
Community Council  
hosts the  
Safe Communities'  
National Conference  
October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>!**

**Make plans to attend this  
premier safety event  
Further information at:  
[www.xcelco.on.ca/~lscouncil/](http://www.xcelco.on.ca/~lscouncil/)**

## Safety Management Assessment

As of September 1<sup>st</sup> 2003  
companies that have not yet  
completed a Health and  
Safety Profile will need to  
use the new version.

A Safety Partnership  
working committee  
participated in the upgrading  
process to capture both  
leading and lagging  
performance indicators.  
This document is found on  
our website at:

[www.sarniasafety.com](http://www.sarniasafety.com)

For further information call  
Paul Therriault at the  
Industrial Educational Co-op  
at 332-6366

## SAFETY MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT UPDATE

95 companies have submitted their  
Health and Safety Profiles to the  
IEC's Paul Therriault for  
verification to date. The WSIB  
indicated last December that they  
were most impressed with this  
Safety Partnership Best Practice.  
A list of these proactive companies  
is found at the Safety Partnership  
website link at:

[http://www.sarniasafety.com/contr  
\\_health\\_safety\\_pro.htm](http://www.sarniasafety.com/contr_health_safety_pro.htm)