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Health & Safety News

 NEW Electric Inc.

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Safety by the numbers:

- * **167,483** continuous hours worked with NO Last Time Accidents.
- * **148,569** continuous hours worked with NO Reportable Accidents
- * **663** employee safety training hours during the first two months of 2009
- * **15** unique safety presentations and training modules offered during the first two months of 2009

Safety is Customized

NEW Electric Inc. has customized its safety program to the very unique niche that this company fills.

It is not common for a company to operate under the regulations of FTA/DOT, MSHA, OSHA General Industry, and OSHA Construction. Let alone the regulations conferred by various customers, NEC, NFPA, IBC, and so much more.

"Safety, for us, just doesn't come out of a box," implores Orrin Dockham, General Manager, "we must tweak every little aspect to ensure complete and total compliance that fits with the work we do



and keeps our customers satisfied."

This isn't always easy. There are times when complying with one regulation will place you in violation with another. An example is removing trigger locks from angle grinders. MSHA requires a "dead man switch"; however, OSHA will cite you for using a piece of modified equipment if used off the minesite. Employees must be trained on the differences as well as how to work in full compliance on either side of the mine gate.

NEW Electric not only trains their own employees, but they are now acting as a training resource to other companies and

assisting them to become fully compliant as well as safe.

NEW Electric has approved MSHA training plans for new miners, experienced miners, and annual miner refreshers. They are working on their training plan for electrical refreshers. They also provide 2 year American Heart Association CPR and first aid training throughout the region. This specialized training is even integrated in their new miner course.

By the end of the second quarter, NEW Electric will be offering 10- and 30-hour OSHA courses for construction as well as general industry to other companies.

It's a new world. In this new world safety is customized.



by: **Eric D. Roesler, LUTCF**
Safety Director, NEW Electric

Ignoring Close Calls

We can come up with lots of excuses for ignoring close calls/near misses. You've probably heard some of these:

- Nothing bad happened, I don't need to say anything.
- I don't have time to deal with it.
- If I say anything, I'll be asked to write it up.
- I don't know how to report it or whom to report it to.
- The next person will notice the problem and report it.

A close call or near miss is an incident that could have resulted in an injury, death, or property damage, but didn't. Close calls are red flag warnings about unsafe conditions, actions or equipment. You should take action to correct the situation and report all close calls, no matter how minor they may seem.

WHAT'S THE DANGER - Ignoring close calls/near misses can lead to serious results, including injuries and fatalities. A

mild shock for one person could prove to be fatal for the next. If you've just jumped out of the way because some poorly stacked materials have fallen, the next person to come along could be crushed. A worker is nearly hit by a forklift because visibility is obscured at a pedestrian crossing. The next person could be run over.

EXAMPLE - It's a winter day. You're walking quickly across the parking lot. Suddenly your foot goes out from under you as you slip on a patch of ice. You avoid falling to the concrete, but continue on your way without giving it another thought. Minutes later, a co-worker carrying an armload of materials slips and falls on that same patch of ice. The result is a cracked elbow, a lot of pain and a month away from work.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF
Check work areas and equipment daily. Take steps to evaluate your work practices. Following all safety procedures.

DO NOT cut corners to save time or turn a blind eye to fellow workers or contractors unsafe practices. Barricade or clean up any slip and fall hazards on floors immediately. Tag any damaged or broken machinery or equipment. Familiarize yourself with your company's close call reporting system. Report any unsafe acts, improperly used equipment and work conditions. Report and follow up on any close calls/near misses to make sure that a hazard is identified and corrected.

FINAL WORD - A close call/near miss should not be considered a negative or inconvenient event. It is an important opportunity to discover a hazard and correct it without anyone being injured. Prevent injuries, fatalities, and damages by reporting all close calls/near misses. Be sure to make a report to ensure that corrective action has been taken to remedy the situation.

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**You can't get "home"
unless you're "safe"**

**Service without Compromise,
Excellence without Excuses**



NEW Electric's new safety logo and safety initiative

Businesses Fined for OSHA Violations of Contractors

On February 26, 2009 the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld OSHA citations against Summit Contractors for safety violations incurred by a company that was doing work for Summit. While this has been common under MSHA and even allowed under OSHA's construction-side of regulations (29 CFR 1926) it has not been practiced on the general industry (such as oil & gas or services as regulated by 29 CFR 1910) until now.

This case has been through a rather thorough review and overturned a number of times up to this point. However, it seems clear that the appellate decision will likely be the final word.

What this means to our potential customers is that they will be even more likely to look at the safety records of the companies they have doing work for them. They cannot afford to simply do business with the lowest bidder unless that contractor can also prove their ability to protect their own workers. OSHA fines have been increasing dramatically and with a recent push toward contractor safety this trend is going to become even more important to our customers.

What does the Chao v. Summit ruling mean to NEW Electric Inc. and our professional staff?

NEW Electric has the best experience modification rating (EMR) for any electrical contractor up to our size in the entire State of Wyoming. This ruling means more business opportunities for NEW Electric. Your safe work practices have set the table for our company to continue leading our industry in workforce safety; thus, securing work opportunities for our employees.

I am Safety

by: Eric D. Roesler
Safety Director, NEW Electric

Creating a "safety culture" is the buzz in workplace safety. However, there are a number of merits to this. My first experience in creating a culture that revolved around safety was in healthcare. This particular field of healthcare was well known for "creating their own clients," was the phrase coined by Doc Holliday, Wyoming OSHA Consultant at the time.

It took a number of years before I even arrived on the scene and I was able to build upon the foundation that was laid. I had the opportunity to oversee more than 3/4 million hours worked with no lost time accidents in an industry and company known for injured workers. Doing so required the emphasis on culture and encouraging every person to embrace their own and others' safety. We even held true to the safety creed, "Anyone at Anytime May Stop Any Activity They Deem Unsafe." Not always easy when you have client outbursts and high needs. However, it worked.

NEW Electric has a very strong safety culture as well. We will now work together to make it even stronger. I have developed the "I am Safety" program and the accompanying logo to give us a rallying point that best emphasizes who is responsible for our workplace safety. As we go about our daily activities it is very important for us to remember that each of us Is safety. We can always find the person responsible for our work safety by looking in a mirror.

I've not found any other company or organization using this particular slogan and definitely not our safety logo. I thought about adding gloves and even a respirator. The gloves may happen some other day, but the respirator was just too much.

Please enjoy this program as we work together to create an enhanced culture of safety in our everyday work. Remember to be safe out there.

Is better to lose one minute in life than to lose life in a minute.