

2006 SMACNA Safety Awards Winners

2006 SMACNA Safety Awards Program – A Huge Success

The results for the 2006 SMACNA Safety Excellence Award Program (SSEAP) represent over 56 million man-hours worked in calendar year 2005. 298 members responded to the 2006 survey, a great improvement from last year. The SSEAP is a vital program which enables SMACNA to track the safety history of the industry, and all SMACNA members are encouraged to participate. The SSEAP evaluates safety data, identifies trends, and recognizes SMACNA members with the lowest incidence rates in the prior calendar year. Additionally, with safety becoming more critical to a winning job proposal, the ability to advertise a successful safety program as a “SMACNA National Award Winner” has shown to be an important marketing tool for many past winners.

Submitting the survey form “on-line” has proven to be an easy and efficient way to get involved in the process, and this year over one-quarter of responding firms completed the survey form on-line through the SMACNA Website (www.smacna.org), an all time high. All participating firms will receive a certificate of appreciation and a free copy of the SMACNA Hazcom Toolbox Talks manual, a great resource to promote chemical safety in the workplace. Of particular note, 65 member companies reported “Zero Injury Incidents”, a commendable accomplishment. These 65 companies will receive recognition awards in the mail.

The detailed safety statistics are still being evaluated and the resultant report will be presented when SMACNA publishes the 2006 Safety Profile, but we are proud to announce the winners in the various man-hour categories. The top three chapters with significant participation also receive an award. The 2006 award winners are presented below. First place winners in each category will receive their awards and be recognized in October during SMACNA’s annual convention in Phoenix, Arizona. The other winners will receive their awards via mail.

Over 500,000 hours

University Mechanical, Inc. – Tempe, AZ
Murphy Company – Saint Louis, MO
NewMech Companies, Inc. – Saint Paul, MN

400,001–500,000 hours

CCI Mechanical, Inc. – Salt Lake City, UT
Monterey Mechanical Co. – Oakland, CA
Martin Petersen Company, Inc. – Kenosha, WI

300,001–400,000 hours

Illingworth Corp. – Milwaukee, WI
Pahor Air Conditioning, Inc. – Las Vegas, NV
Airco Mechanical, Inc. – Sacramento, CA

200,001–300,000 hours

S.P. McCarl & Company – Altoona, PA
Straus Systems, LTD. – Stafford, TX
Harris & Hart, Inc. – Ogden, UT

100,001–200,000 hours

Mechanical Concepts, Inc. – Gary, IN
East Muskegon Roofing and Sheet Metal Co. – Muskegon, MI
Niagara Frontier Custom Fabrication – Blasdell, NY

50,001–100,000 hours

Neudorfer Engineers – Seattle, WA
Environmental Heating and Air Conditioning – Oxnard, CA
Winaire, Inc. – Huntington Beach, CA

25,001–50,000 hours

A & T Heating & Air Cond. Corp. – Bountiful, UT
Lackey Sheet Metal, LLC – St. Louis, MO
Environmental Air Services – Folcroft, PA

1–25,000 hours

TRI–C Sheet Metal, Inc. – Cleveland, OH
Gieske Custom Sheet Metal Fabricators – Kansas City, MO
Tri–State Sheet Metal, Inc. – Keokuk, IA

Chapter Participation Awards

SMCA of Philadelphia and Vicinity
SMARCA of Minnesota, Inc.
The Assoc. of Mechanical & S/M Contractors of Kansas

SMACNA congratulates all award winners on having an excellent year. We also thank all of our members who participated in the program and invite all SMACNA members to continue to strive toward a goal of improved safety performance. A summary of the 2006 safety statistics will be published in the September issue of SMACNews.

For questions about the SMACNA Safety Statistics Evaluation and Awards Program, please contact Mike McCullion, director of safety and health at (703) 995–4027 or e–mail mmccullion@smacna.org.

Hexavalent Chromium Update – Summer 2006

Hexavalent Chromium – Air Monitoring Checklist Available

In previous Safety Focus newsletters, we have provided information on the new OSHA standard for hexavalent chromium. The compliance date for the main provisions of the standard is November 27, 2006 for employers with 20 or more employees (May 30, 2007 for employers with 19 or fewer employees). If needed, engineering controls to get air monitoring results below the PEL, such as modified ventilation

systems, are not required until May 31, 2010.

Hexavalent chromium is a chemical by-product generated when welding on stainless steel, and to a lesser extent, galvanized steel and chrome-coated metals. In addition, low levels of hexavalent chromium may be an ingredient of the welding rods and wires used in the welding processes.

SMACNA members are encouraged to evaluate their welding processes and related activities, identify which processes may generate excessive hexavalent chromium fumes, and implement a compliance plan. Initial air monitoring may be needed and can be done in-house, by an insurance provider, or an outside consultant.

SMACNA has developed compliance information that is posted on the SMACNA website, safety webpage at www.smacna.org/safety. This is a "members only" site, so you will need your password to access the safety webpage. One recent addition to the compliance information is a checklist of air monitoring variables that you can take into consideration when conducting personal air monitoring for hexavalent chromium exposures in the workplace.

The purpose of the checklist is to evaluate and document the "environmental" conditions in the workplace at the time of the air monitoring. With so many variables in a typical welding activity, it is critical that you document the surroundings so you can replicate the sampling effort, if needed.

Should you choose to conduct air monitoring, feel free to contact SMACNA's safety and health director, Mike McCullion, prior to the air monitoring activity for any assistance he can provide. Also, please forward Mike any air sampling results so an industry-wide database of results can be collected (your company will remain anonymous...please use the checklist). The database can be used to evaluate the overall scope of the issue on an industry-wide level and help with developing control strategies.

For more information and to forward sample results, contact Mike McCullion, SMACNA's director of safety and health, at 703-995-4027, or mmccullion@smacna.org.

CURT Safety Award Program

CURT Safety Program

SMACNA is a member of the Construction Users Roundtable (CURT). According to the Mission Statement on the CURT website, "The mission of The Construction Users Roundtable (CURT) is to create strategic advantage for construction users. CURT will accomplish this by providing aggressive leadership and focus on business issues that promote excellence in the development and execution of engineering, maintenance and construction projects."

The CURT safety committee recently released and published the Owners' Safety Blueprint (OSB) as evidence of one tangible way to fulfill its mission. The OSB represents the collective position and approach of the CURT owner community. Most importantly this level of safety excellence means that far fewer contractor workers (people) are being and able to fully enjoy a quality of life. Robert S. Krzywicki, Chairman of the CURT Safety Committee told SMACNA, "We also know that this level of performance has significant, positive business impact making projects more attractive for owners and additional work for the contractor community."

For those progressive firms, both owner and contractor, who are willing to embrace the aggressive approaches described in the Owners' Safety Blueprint, the ability to sustain success will be greatly enhanced. The OSB is the latest of many in a series of publications by the Safety Committee of CURT. The

following is a partial list of safety publications available from CURT:

- R 807 CURT Owner Safety Blueprint
- UP 801 Construction Safety: Contractor and Craft Worker Prequalification
- UP 802 Construction Safety: The Owner's Role
- UP 803 Construction Safety: Pre-Bid and Bid Clarification Meetings
- UP 804 Construction Safety: Contract Terms and Conditions
- UP 805 Construction Safety: Monitoring Performance
- UP 806 Construction Safety: Improving Safety Programs

SMACNA contractors wishing to add a new twist to their safety programs and to take a safety program to a higher level, are encouraged to implement the measures described in these documents.

In addition, CURT has a national safety awards program each year. According to the CURT website, "The Construction Industry Safety Excellence (CISE) Awards program will recognize commendable safety management and safety improvements of owner member companies of The Construction Users Roundtable (CURT). The organization will recognize those firms or organizations that have most effectively implemented the recommendations in the Construction Owner's Safety Blueprint, CURT report R 807." SMACNA contractors need to submit CURT CISE awards program applications through SMACNA as a sponsoring industry association. A SMACNA member, J.B. Henderson Construction of Albuquerque, NM, won a CISE award in 2003.

To obtain these documents, go to the CURT website, publications webpage at www.curt.org. For more information on CURT safety programs, contact Mike McCullion, SMACNA's director of safety and health, at 703-995-4027, or mmccullion@smacna.org.

2006 SMACNA Safety Award Program – Summary of Results

SMACNA Safety Survey Program Shows Increased Participation

Participation increased in the 2006 SMACNA Safety Excellence Award Program (SSEAP) as over 295 firms submitted surveys, representing 56.1 million man-hours worked in calendar year 2005. The SSEAP evaluates safety data, identifies trends, and recognizes SMACNA members with the lowest incidence rates in the prior calendar year. Electronic responses to the survey continue to be a popular way of submitting the survey, as over one-quarter of the submittals were through the SMACNA website.

Nearly one-quarter of responding SMACNA contractors reported zero lost workdays during the 2005 calendar year, a significant achievement. In general, incidence rates decreased as hours worked increased. The average incidence rate for responding firms was 6.31, an increase from the previous year. However, incidence rate is a measure of frequency and does not necessarily reflect the severity of cases (days away from work or restricted duty). As an example, on a positive note, the average "lost workdays per incident" was 82 days, down from 160 last year.

Training is key to successful safety programs and the survey indicates that SMACNA members continue to use toolbox talks and video training aids, as well as computer-based training aids, such as those available through SMACNA and SMOHIT. Larger companies tend to conduct new employee orientation and SMACNA encourages all members to complete safety training with all new employees. To assist in this, SMACNA and SMOHIT have developed a Safety Orientation video that can be part of a new hire training program. This educational video will be sent to all SMACNA members later this year and make it easier for

SMACNA members to conduct safety orientation for new employees in the sheet metal and HVAC industry.

The number of SMACNA contractors reporting that their firm has instituted a formal drug and alcohol abuse program continued to increase with over three-quarters of respondents (78 percent) implementing a program. Contractors with substance abuse testing programs experienced significantly fewer lost workday cases.

The average experience modification rate (EMR) of 0.85 remained the same from the previous year and has held steady compared to previous years. The EMR is an insurance rating with 1.00 being the average “insurability” rating for the industry. An EMR below 1.00 generally indicates that safety and health programs are effective in addressing injuries and illnesses in the workplace. Indeed, more large projects and clients are requiring contractors to have an EMR in the 0.85 range.

Again this year, cuts were by far the most common injury reported by respondents. Although usually not severe, these types of recordable injuries inflate the overall industry OSHA incidence rate due to the frequency of the injury. SMACNA encourages members to review their policies and procedures for cut prevention and take appropriate steps to avoid cuts in the workplace.

Ninety-six percent of SMACNA Contractors reported they had a written safety and health program, and 97 percent stated their firm has a designated safety coordinator within their organization, both increases from last year. Another category increased when nearly 92 percent of contractors reported conducting safety inspections, an excellent way to identify safety hazards as an injury prevention method.

Evaluating a new category, SMACNA was able to identify some common issues in contractors that perform “well above the average”. These “superior performers” implement policies and procedures to address key safety and health issues such as consistent training and a formal drug policy. These contractors worked over 100,000 man-hours, yet had an incidence rate of less than 2.00. These contractors exceed the average for all respondents in the critical response categories such as instituting a formal drug policy and utilizing OSHA 10-hour training.

Contractors with a higher level of safety commitment often experience better safety performance results than those with more basic safety programs. For example, the average EMR for “superior performers” was 0.79, less than the overall average of 0.85. And their incidence rate for 2005 was much lower than the overall average.

SMACNA members wishing to compare their own safety performance to those performing similar types of work may review the 2006 Safety Statistics Profile at www.smacna.org, on the Members Only Safety Web page, <http://www.smacna.org/members/safety/>. For more information on the SSEAP, contact the SMACNA Safety and Health Department at (703) 995-4027.

Heat Stress Card Available

Heat Stress Card Available

SMACNA recently developed a Heat Stress and Heat Illness Tip Card to be used in providing training to employees on the hazards of heat exposure. The purpose of the tip card is to supplement training on the subject of heat stress. Several states, including California and Washington, recently passed new or revised regulations regarding heat exposure.

The cards have a theme, PAT – Prevention, Awareness, and Treatment, as a way to emphasize the various aspects of heat exposure. Prevention discusses drinking plenty of fluids, wearing proper clothing, and taking breaks in the shade or ventilated areas. Awareness centers on the main types of heat illness. Treatment focuses on notifying the supervisor and seeking medical attention if needed/

For more information or to order copies of the heat stress cards, contact Mike McCullion, SMACNA's director of safety and health, at 703-995-4027, or mmccullion@smacna.org.

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