



Occupational Safety
and Health Administration

The Pennsylvania Consultation Connection

Summer – Autumn 2012



Seven-D Industries

-a long road to SHARP

As one of the newest **Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP)** certified companies in Pennsylvania, **Seven-D Industries** couldn't be happier. Of course, any goal worth achieving is worth working for. Just ask Ronald Neuhart, Safety Manager, and Mike Pettenati, General Manager, the driving forces behind the company achieving this elite award.

Seven-D Industries is a window and patio door manufacturer in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania. They are a division of the DeGol Corporation, a family owned organization in neighboring Altoona.

Their first experience with the PA/OSHA Consultation Program and OSHA's SHARP occurred in 2005, when they were located in Patton, PA. After receiving a letter from OSHA due to high injury and illness rates, they contacted the consulta-

tion program to request health and safety surveys. During these surveys, they learned about the SHARP, and decided it was a goal worth working for.

Over several years, several consultation visits, and a lot of hard work, SHARP certification was within reach, except for one thing – injury and illness rates. Although they had implemented many safety and health program improvements and had reduced their recordable injuries and illnesses, the company's rates were still above the industry averages.

While the company continued to focus on safety, the SHARP goal remained just that - until the company relocated to Hollidaysburg as part of a consolidation of several divisions of the organization. The re-location not only included equipment, employees, and management. It also included the lessons learned and programs developed while working toward SHARP certification at the previous location.

After going over a year with no recordable injuries or illnesses in the new location, the company decided it was time to start the SHARP process again. This time the results were different, and **Seven-D Industries** became SHARP certified on March 27, 2012.

The company had a formal ceremony on May 7, 2012, at which time they were presented with a SHARP flag by Samuel Gualardo, PA/OSHA Consultation Program Director (see pictured).

When asked if the time and effort to achieve SHARP certification was worth it, Mr. Pettenati said **Seven-D Industries** is now a stronger and safer company. He said that he believes attitude is the key to safety, and the **Seven-D** employees have great attitudes. He believes the company will be flying the SHARP flag for many years to come.

It's Official: OSHA Doesn't Kill Jobs. It Stops Jobs from Killing Workers

A landmark new study by business school economists at the University of California and Harvard University confirms that OSHA's inspections not only prevent workers from getting hurt on the job, they also save billions of dollars for employers through reduced workers' compensation costs.

The study, entitled "[Randomized Government Safety Inspections Reduce Worker Injuries with No Detectable Job Loss](#)," appeared in the top scientific journal *Science* and reports that *workplace injury claims dropped 9.4%* at businesses in the four years following a randomized OSHA inspection, compared with employers who were not inspected. Those same employers also saved an average of *26% on workers' compensation costs*, compared to similar companies who were not inspected. This means that *the average employer saved \$355,000* (in 2011 dollars) as a result of an OSHA inspection. Benefits were observed among both small and large employers. Nationwide, these savings to employers amount to an estimated *six billion dollars*.

As researchers David Levine, Michael Toffel, and Matthew Johnson explain, "***The benefits of a randomized safety inspection appear to be substantial. These results do not support the hypothesis that OSHA regulations and inspections on average have little value in improving health and safety.***" Furthermore, the researchers found "no evidence that these improvements came at the expense of employment, sales, credit ratings, or firm survival."

Following an interview with study co-author and assistant professor Michael Toffel, Michael Blanding of [the Harvard Business School newsletter](#) described the enormity of the findings:

Those who charge that OSHA regulations cost business money have it completely wrong. In fact, the regulations save money. The magnitude of the results surprised even Toffel and Levine, who expected perhaps a small savings if any. But the strength of the findings, they say, should persuade even skeptical antiregulatory critics.

On May 21, Assistant Secretary for OSHA David Michaels responded to the new findings [in an entry](#)

[on the Department of Labor blog](#), writing:

The fact is OSHA inspections save lives and jobs at the same time. This is not a surprise to me. I regularly hear from employers, both large and small, that they value OSHA inspections and treat the inspector as an additional, expert set of eyes. The findings should finally put an end to the criticisms that OSHA inspections make running a business more expensive without adding value. The results are in: OSHA saves lives and jobs!

Dr. Michaels' full response to the study is available on the Department of Labor blog. A summary of the findings also appears in a [ScienceNow breaking report](#), and subscribers to the journal can access the study at www.sciencemag.org. For more information about what OSHA is doing to protect workers, visit www.osha.gov.



JUST THE FACTS:

9.4% drop in injury claims at workplaces in the four years following an inspection

26% average savings on workers' compensation costs compared to similar, non-inspected companies

\$355,000 average savings for an employer (small or large) as a result of an OSHA inspection

\$6 billion estimated savings to employers nationwide

OSHA Lockout Tagout Label Requirements 1910.147



Sparten Silveri has been a faculty member with the Safety Sciences Department at IUP since 1991. He received both his Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Safety Science and a Master of Safety Science degree from IUP. Silveri has taught Safety Science courses in the undergraduate and graduate programs at IUP, and provides on-site consultation services to businesses under OSHA's Federal Consultation Program. Formerly, Silveri held several management positions with Fortune 500 companies, including director and corporate safety and health director for major companies.

Q *Do labels, which are usually, white in background meet the requirement for the locks to be unique by size, shape or color in the lockout/tagout program ?*

A Color is not the only prescribed factor for the standardization of lockout and tagout (LOTO) devices. At a minimum, a lock's shape, or size, or color must provide employees with the capability to identify and distinguish a lockout device from other similar devices (e.g., security locks) in the workplace. This hardware standardization requirement requires devices to be unique to the particular use (the only ones authorized for that purpose); to be singularly identified, durable, standardized, and substantial; and to identify the user.

Moreover, the lockout devices cannot be used for purposes other than the control of hazardous energy. In addition lockout and tagout devices shall be standardized within

the facility in at least one of the following criteria: Color; shape; or size; and additionally, in the case of tagout devices, print and format shall be standardized. Lockout devices shall be substantial enough to prevent removal without the use of excessive force or unusual techniques, such as with the use of bolt cutters or other metal cutting tools. Lockout devices and tagout devices shall indicate the identity of the employee applying the device.



Q *When equipment is placed in an "out of service" status for business or production purposes (e.g., poor efficiency, recycled, sold, etc.) and not related to servicing or maintenance, is the use of lockout/tagout devices for this purpose a violation of 29 CFR 1910.147(c)(5)(ii)?*

A Yes. Applying lockout/tagout devices to equipment that was placed out of service for business or production reasons would not "preserve the integrity of the Lockout/Tagout program."



The preamble to the final rule states, at 54 Federal Register 36671 (Sept. 1, 1989): "the sight of a distinctive lock or tag will provide a constant message of the use that the device is being put to and the restrictions which this device is intended to convey. If lockout or tagout devices are used for other purposes they can lose their significance in the workplace. For the energy control procedure to be effective, these devices must have a single meaning to employees: 'Do not energize the equipment when such a device is affixed to it.'"

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FATALITY PREVENTION IN THE WORKPLACE

SPONSORED BY:
**INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
SAFETY SCIENCES DEPARTMENT**
In Collaboration With:
ALCOA FOUNDATION

**TWO-DAY FORUM
OCTOBER 29 AND 30, 2012**

A SPECIAL THANK-YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

PLATINUM SPONSOR: ALCOA FOUNDATION

Alcoa Foundation has been a longstanding supporter of the IUP Safety Sciences program. This is the second forum of its kind hosted by IUP in collaboration with Alcoa Foundation. The first event was held in November, 2007. "Alcoa Foundation is committed to educational activities around safety and workforce redevelopment, and we see this conference as a great opportunity to raise the awareness of safety issues across the manufacturing industry," said Paula Davis, president of Alcoa Foundation. "We're proud to be a supporter of the Fatality Prevention Forum."

GOLD SPONSOR: DUPONT SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

DuPont Sustainable Solutions has arranged for *Captain Chesley Sullenberger* to be our dinner speaker on October 29th. Captain Sullenberger is an international hero lauded for his successful emergency water landing of US Airways Flight 1549 in New York City's Hudson River on January 15th, 2009. DuPont and Captain Sullenberger share similar philosophies on the importance of leadership, teamwork, and operating discipline as building blocks to sustainable performance. He shares his story with a variety of executive-level DuPont clients as an example of decision-making in diverse, complex situations and has been involved in the joint creation of training programs about the importance of these building blocks in developing robust safety and sustainability cultures.

BRONZE SPONSOR: EDISON MISSION GROUP

"Edison Mission Group is committed to achieving our vision of a sustainable, injury-free culture across our fleet of nearly 50 facilities nationwide which use coal, gas, and wind to generate electricity," said John Kneedy, senior VP. "To achieve our vision, EMG recognizes the value of benchmarking and shares best safety-management practices across the industry. Through our sponsorship, we are proud to be a part of sharing effective prevention tools and strategies during the 2012 Fatality Prevention Forum."

Forum Description

IUP, in cooperation with Alcoa Foundation, DuPont Sustainable Solutions, and Edison Mission Group, will host a national two-day forum to study the nature and cause of fatalities in the workplace, as well as prevention strategies. This forum is a natural extension of the 2007 Fatality Prevention forum. Through a series of presentations, breakout discussions, and best-practice sharing, participants will be able to do the following:

- Identify practical approaches a facility can use to develop a risk profile
- Recognize the most effective leadership styles and organizational attributes necessary for a fatality-prevention effort, including but not limited to training, root-cause analysis, and employee engagement
- Determine the role of human-performance concepts in preventing fatalities, especially as it relates to human-systems integration and the recognition/elimination of error precursors
- Evaluate the influence of an individual's perception of risk, the required mental and physical aspects of the task, latent conditions, and performance modes as they relate to fatality prevention
- Discover best practices, innovative technological concepts, and tools that have the potential to transform our ability to identify, assess, mitigate, or eliminate the risk of fatal and life-altering injuries
- Identify areas of future safety research and public policy that drive significant improvement in the ability to predict and prevent fatalities

Highlights

- Experience presentations from seven leading authorities on fatality prevention representing industry, labor, and academia.
- Share your experience through participation in one of the highly interactive breakout sessions focused on the following: *leadership/organization attributes, defining your risk profile, effective risk-assessment methodologies, effective hazard controls for high-risk tasks, managing the contractor/contracted services risks*
- Leverage your participation by earning 1.3 CEUs for professional development
- Take advantage of this valuable opportunity to network with industry experts, engage in meaningful fatality-prevention discussions, and share best practices
- Because of the interactive nature of the breakout sessions, forum enrollment will be limited to 200, so register ASAP!

Agenda

Visit www.iup.edu/safetysciences and follow the "Fatality Prevention Forum" link.

Accommodations

The forum will be held at the Embassy Suites located near Pittsburgh International Airport (Route 376 east to Exit 3 Moon; take the Thorn Run Road exit and bear right at the Cherrington Corporate Center). The Embassy Suites has blocked rooms for attendees to the forum at a rate of \$119/night. Individual room reservations must be made by Saturday, October 6th, 2012. Contact the hotel at 1-800-EMBASSY (1-800-362-2779).

Cost and Registration

The cost for this two-day forum is \$400 which includes lunch both days and dinner on the first day. Register at www.iup.edu/safetysciences and follow the "Fatality Prevention Forum" link.

EMBASSY SUITES · 550 CHERRINGTON PARKWAY CORAPOLIS, PA 15108 · 412-269-9070

October 29 & 30, 2012 Seating is Limited... so register now.

Go to: <http://www.iup.edu/safetysciences> and select the "Fatality Prevention Forum" link

or <http://www.iup.edu/page.aspx?id=128336>