



The Presidents Corner ...

By: John A. Monson



Safety Dad

A story about a 10 year associate who broke her arm under the safety managers watch.

Recently one of my associates asked me why she broke her arm. She said, "Dad you're a safety person right? How come you let me break my arm?" It made me think...

It was a warm springtime Sunday night. There was an accident. It was a serious accident. I heard the yells for help. It was my 10 year associate (my daughter). Help! Help! I could hear how serious it was in the voice. As I ran to the scene with my 7 year associate (my son) in tow, I could see her arm was broken. It was clearly her radius and ulna bones. The EMT in me kicked in. I ran to my truck and got out the EMS bag, pulled out a splint, sat my 10 year associate down and said "hold this on the arm". She held it, looked at me, and said "Dad I think it's broken". She never cried a tear.

Then the dad in me kicked in. I realized I couldn't splint this by myself. I needed to activate the plant's (our house) emergency action plan. I called 911. My nervousness as a dad kicked in when I spoke with the 911 dispatcher. The dispatcher recognized my voice when he answered. "John" he said in question, "yes" I said. I gave him my report and he dispatched help. I then immediately called my plant manager (my wife) who was offsite in a committee meeting (she really was). "It's me, come back to the plant right away. There's been an accident. She clearly broke her arm." When the emergency dispatch went out, my fellow firefighter/EMTs recognized the address of the plant and that I had a 10 year associate on my team. The cavalry came and fast. This was a thrill to my 7 year associate, not so much to the plant safety manager (me). By this time all of the other plant managers and their associates were on the street watching and offering help.

Emergency services allowed me to be a dad. ICS kicked in and they took over the scene. Once the arm was stabilized and splint, it was decided the safety manager would transport the associate in the plant truck versus an ambulance. Women and Children's hospital took great care of our associate. She recently got the full arm cast off and is following her return to work (play) restrictions and cooperating with her PT.

My initial investigation into the accident determined the cause was clearly the 10 year associate's behavior. She was climbing a chain link fence and fell to the ground below. A 10 year associate must know that is against plant rules. Case closed right?

A few days after the accident, my daughter asked me "Dad you're a safety person right? I said "yes". "How come you let me break my arm then?" I thought about that question. Did management's actions or lack of action contribute to this accident? Was it really just behavior that caused the accident? Did I stop in my determination of cause to early? It was time for some root cause analysis. No I didn't fish bone the accident nor did I five (5) WHY it. I love safety, but not that much. What I did do is realize that about two weeks before the accident I saw my daughter climbing over a 4 foot high similar fence with a friend and never said a word. I didn't prohibit it, I didn't explain the hazards, and I didn't "train" her on the proper methods. I did do something that contributed to the accident. I gave implied consent that it was ok to climb any fence. Although there are many contributing factors in the accidents we investigate as part of our profession, we need to remember to look at all the factors, and not just stop at the associate's behavior.

Have a Safe Summer!

Regards,

John

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**THINK
SAFETY
FIRST**



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News Release

U.S. Department of Labor

Wal-Mart signs corporate-wide settlement with US Labor Department *Agreement resolves OSHA citations at Rochester, N.Y.,*

store following 2011 inspections

WASHINGTON – Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., has entered into a corporate-wide settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor to improve safety and health conditions in all 2,857 Wal-Mart and Sam's Club stores under federal jurisdiction. The settlement, which resolves two enforcement cases that began in 2011, includes provisions for the Bentonville, Ark.-based retailer to enhance safety and health practices and training related to trash compactors, cleaning chemicals and hazard communications corporate-wide.

"This settlement will help to keep thousands of exposed Wal-Mart workers safe and healthy on the job," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels. "We hope this sends a strong message that the law requires employers to provide safe working conditions, and OSHA will use all the tools at our disposal to ensure that all employers follow the law."

Under the settlement, trash compactors must remain locked while not in use, and may not be operated except under the supervision of a trained manager or other trained, designated monitor. Wal-Mart will also improve its hazard communications training; and, for cleaning chemicals, will enhance its procedures to ensure that employees do not handle undiluted chemicals. Also, the company must ensure that a protective protocol is in place in case of any malfunctions with a store's cleaning chemicals dispensing equipment. Wal-Mart will ensure employees are trained on the new procedures in a language, format, and vocabulary that the workers can understand.

For the safety citations pertinent to the corporate-wide trash compactor abatement, the settlement affirms one repeat lockout/tagout citation, two serious lockout/tagout citations, two serious confined space citations, and one serious machine guarding citation.

For the health citations pertinent to the corporate-wide cleaning chemical and hazard communication abatement, the settlement affirms two serious citations related to personal protective equipment, and two serious hazard communication citations.

A summary of the agreement will be posted in each affected store.

Settlement negotiations followed issuance of citations from two separate inspections conducted at the Wal-Mart Supercenter store in Rochester, N.Y. A safety inspection was initiated on Aug. 2, 2011, and a health inspection began Aug. 17, 2011. As part of the settlement, Wal-Mart has also agreed to abate other hazards in the Rochester store unrelated to the corporate-wide remedy, and will pay \$190,000 in civil penalties.

For the citations not related to the corporate-wide abatement, citations affirmed in the settlement include one repeat electrical hazard citation, one serious citation for obstructed exit routes, two serious machine guarding citations, one repeat other-than-serious platform fall hazard citation, and 11 serious bloodborne pathogens citations.

The settlement agreement can be viewed at:

<http://www.osha.gov/CWSA/walmart2013.html>



2013 –2014 NFCASSE

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Date	Topic	Location	Time
September 13, 2013	OSHA Up-Date by Al Stutz and Mike Scime	JWD Danforth	12:00pm
October 2013	Medical Emergencies	TBD	Dinner
November 2013	Joint Meeting with Genesee Valley Chapter	TBD	Dinner
December 2013	Annual December Board Meeting	TBD	Dinner
January 2014	Plant Tour – Location TBD	TBD	Lunch
February 2014	Member Picked	TBD	Dinner
March 2014	WNY Safety Conference ASSE Luncheon	Seneca Niagara Casino	Lunch
April 2014	Construction Section Sponsored Joint Meeting TBD	TBD	Lunch
May 2014	Best Practices/Case Studies	TBD	Dinner



"Save the date"

*...and join us as the Niagara Frontier ASSE Chapter
"kicks-off" the 2013-2014 meeting season with:*

"The 2013 OSHA UPDATE"

Presented by:

Buffalo Area OSHA Office
Mike Scime, Asst. Area Dir. Safety Compliance
&
Al Stutz, Asst. Area Dir. Health Compliance
**This will be a lunch meeting*

WHEN: Friday, September 13 from 11:45a -1:30p

WHERE: Danforth Training Center - 200 Colvin Woods Pkwy, Tonawanda, 14150

Cost: \$15 at the door, includes lunch
Make your reservations now at www.nfasse.org and stay tuned for details!

Lightning—amazing yet dangerous

Karen Peissinger, RPIH – Watts Architecture & Engineering



If you search the Internet for images of lightning, you'll see some amazing and awesome photos. Some show actual lightning events, whereas others appear to be embellished. But, there is no embellishing the safety threat posed by lightning. And with summer upon us in Western New York, now is a good time learn more about lightning safety.

According to the [Weather Safety: Lightning](#) fact sheet put out National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), every year lightning strikes more than 400 people in the United States. And, each year between 55 and 60 people are killed by lightning. Many survivors of lightning strikes suffer permanent neurological disabilities. Obviously, lightning can strike during thunderstorms or anytime you hear thunder. But, did you know that lightning may strike as far away as 10 miles from any rainfall?

Below are several tips to avoid lightning hazards from the NOAA fact sheet:

Have a lightning safety plan. Know where you'll go for safety and how much time it will take to get there. Make sure your plan allows enough time to reach safety.

Postpone activities. Before going outdoors, check the forecast for thunderstorms. Consider postponing activities to avoid being caught in a dangerous situation.

Monitor the weather. Look for signs of a developing thunderstorm such as darkening skies, flashes of lightning or increasing wind.

Get to a safe place. If you hear thunder, even a distant rumble, immediately move to a safe place. Fully enclosed buildings with wiring and plumbing provide the best protection. Sheds, picnic shelters, tents or covered porches do NOT protect you from lightning. If a sturdy building is not nearby, get into a hard-topped metal vehicle and close all the windows. Stay inside until 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder.

If you hear thunder, don't use a corded phone except in an emergency. Cordless phones and cell phones are safe to use.

Keep away from electrical equipment and wiring. Water pipes conduct electricity. Don't take a bath or shower or use other plumbing during a storm.

Just a reminder !

We are always looking for new articles for the news letter. You can submit them directly to me at the following e-mail: newsletter@nfasse.com

Thanks,

Chris

