

Safety Leaders Breakfast Meeting
Peg's Kitchen
1653 Park St, Regina SK
July 8, 2014

Present

Bennett Dunlop Ford, Randy Erick
Cervus Equipment, Chris Fillator
Kal Tire, Geoff Wiebe
Maxim Truck and Trailer, Roger Staub
Redhead Equipment, Jamie Jones
Redhead Equipment, Steve Karch,
Warner Industries, Vicki Radons
Warner Transportation, Andy Schwindt
Warner Transportation, Patrick Normand
Warner Transportation, Ted Klecker
Young's Equipment, Dennis Bepalko

Guests

John Weigel, Account Manager Prevention, WCB
Genie Mintram, Safe Saskatchewan

Chris Fillator welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced today's guest, John Weigel, Account Manager Prevention, WCB.

Following a round table of introductions and companies represented, Chris reminded everyone that this is an open forum for information sharing, and that John is here to share what's going on (injury prevention wise) at WCB and to answer questions.

Chris provided John with a background on how these meetings started.

Today's discussion centred around recent injuries and near misses.

Most participants shared recent injuries and near misses at their sites. A general frustration for most safety managers and supervisors is workers' non-compliance and resistance to wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), e.g. safety glasses, ear plugs, etc., and with maintaining clean walking and working areas. This non-compliance and overall resistance is leading towards managers having to implement and enforce mandatory usage of PPE. All agreed that wearing PPE's must start with the managers.

Some concerns expressed by workers include *safety glasses fog up, better quality safety glasses required and ear plugs don't fit properly.*

Redhead keeps a cabinet of safety glasses which is available for everyone to use; as well, they post a list of all tasks that require the use of safety glasses. Most will use the safety glasses but they won't use them if they don't have to.

Some among this group, do monthly shop inspections to ensure there is a stock of safety equipment others have a safety guy that comes around to make sure everything is working.

It was noted that WorkSafe's commercials pushing the use of safety glasses is a good thing.

By covering the cost of personalized ear plugs, Kal-Tire has seen a huge increase of workers using them.

John recommended that safety managers/supervisors document all refusals to wear PPE and reminded managers that wearing safety glasses in their shops is mandatory; as well, steel-toe boots and safety glasses are mandatory requirements in all **Class C** work areas.

John shared with the group that WCB is working on a 2015 strategy that will see OH&S focus on compliance. John encouraged everyone to use their safety association, Motor Safety Association (MSA) for audits. MSA provides really good reports and will do reassessments, which is very important. He advised employers not to get caught up on scores.

There was a discussion about the extent of injuries that result in time-off. The group shared their struggles with injury claims and ask if WCB investigates. John explains that whenever there is a benefit of doubt, WCB will err on the side of the employee. WCB wants Mission:Zero; Return to Work is secondary. John suggested that orientation packages include a letter about return to work modifications (e.g. other work assignments).

Doctors signing off on minor injuries is an ongoing frustration for employers. John was asked if is appropriate for an employer to have a partnership with a medical clinic that would examine employees for the employer. The answer is yes but employees have the right to choose their doctors.

Chris asked what the group would like to see at future meetings. Most agreed that they would like to see and hear more personal stories like **Emelia's Story**, presented at the at the MSA/ Safe Saskatchewan meeting on June 25th. John suggested Curtis Weber; Curtis is an injured worker and spokesperson. Genie will forward Curtis's contact information to Chris.

Chris will arrange for a guest or a representative from WCB to attend the next meeting.

John thanked the group for the invitation to attend this meeting and told everyone to contact him if they have any questions.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 9, Peg's Kitchen, 1653 Park Street

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 am.