

Friday, April 21, 2006



==== UMC NEWSBLAST ====

Safety Corner

Safety Tips for Lawnmowers

Spring has Sprung and so is the time to mow lawns, here are some safety tips for lawnmowers.

Buy a mower that has a "kill switch" built into the handle, so that when you release the handle, the engine stops and the mower stops moving. There are sensible age limits for mowers. To use a riding mower, you ought to be at least 16 years old. For regular, walking mowers, 12 years old. Wear strong shoes or boots, not flip-flops or sneakers. Pick up rocks, sticks, pinecones, and toys before mowing, even if you are using a mower that collects the clippings automatically. Wear goggles or safety glasses, and wear hearing protection. Once you get used to protecting your hearing, you'll be amazed at how annoyingly noisy a mower is when you aren't wearing anything. Don't mow when other people are nearby. Put gas in your edger and mower outside, and do it before you start, not during. If you are going to remove or replace the blade, disconnect the spark plug first. Turn off the mower and wait for the blade to stop spinning before you empty the grass catcher, unclog something from the blade or under the mower, or push the mower across rocks or gravel. Riding mowers aren't meant to carry passengers.

If you have any questions about any of the safety tips, please ask Jim Schick or Brian Van in our safety department.

UMC Core Values

UMC's "STAR Performance" Core Values (**S**afety, **T**eamwork, **A**ccountability, **R**espect, **P**erformance) truly reflect our culture and are instrumental in the achievement of our goals.

—▶ [May's STAR Performer:](#) Jack Willits

When it comes to big, tough and complex projects one name always jumps to mind: Jack Willits. Jack is clearly on the top of the heap for any pipe fitter in the Pacific Northwest. UMC has had the honor to have Jack as an employee for 28 years and he has worked hard for every single minute of it. Jack has a long list of excellent traits that define him. He is well respected by both his peers, by owners, by project managers and by other crafts. Jack is very driven and his endless curiosity on how things work keeps him on the top. Jack's ingenuity and creativity over the years has continued to make the 'impossible' jobs go smooth and easy.

Jack started his career as a pipe fitter working on the Alaska Pipeline in Prudhoe Bay. After this stint in AK working the 48" pipe he came to work at UMC and proceeded to build the Columbia Tower project. He continued from there to perform countless large projects over his years here. He has bulldogged many a general contractor and always strove for the best for his crew. No matter how small the task he takes the time to think it through and consider every cost and the comfort of the men performing the work.

Thanks Jack for your dedication you are truly one of a kind and will be sorely missed if you ever decide to retire!

- Written by Steve Otis

Welcome to UMC!

Rene Soucy rejoined UMC on 4/17 in the detailing department, after previously working for UMC briefly on the Big Hanaford project about 4 years ago. Rene has over 25 years of construction and manufacturing experience, primarily in management. He worked with Rick Hawkins and Randy Gaylor on the Satsop Nuclear project back in the early 80's. Rene enjoys playing guitar and golfing.

Please stop by or drop an email to give Renee a UMC welcome!

Quotable Leader

"The beginnings and endings of all human undertakings are untidy."

- John Galsworthy, 1867 - 1933

Project Spotlight

Dave Johanson & Pat Damitio gives us this update on the Kimberly Clark Shutdown.

UMC recently completed a two-week, around-the-clock shutdown for Kimberly Clark in Everett. Most of the work was in and around their hog fuel (waste wood) fired co-generation boiler. Inside the boiler itself, UMC's boilermakers, ironworkers and millwrights executed major repairs to the traveling grate mechanism called the "Kablitz" where the wood waste is burned to power the ten-story tall boiler.

Simultaneously, UMC's carpenters, laborers and ironworkers built a large concrete ash containment bunker. The structure included a rail-embedded slab and 10' high walls. In all, UMC crews built this 300 CY concrete structure in just over two weeks time.

Our Pipe fitters, Boilermakers, Ironworkers, Millwrights, Carpenters, Laborers and Cement finishers peaked at three dozen hands that were well led by craft supervisors James (Sparky) Stacy, Rick Pelletier, Will Welsch, Jack Willits, and Mike Yonich. The UMC site staff was led by: Pat Damitio and included Judy Gaylor, Ned Miller, Jim Schick, and Rick Wiseman. The shutdown was completed earlier than originally planned and the mill's boiler start-up went well.

UMC Health Awareness Corner

Here are ten more easy tips for a healthier life...

11. Every six months check expiration dates and clean out your medicine cabinet. **12.** Mark your calendar and change your toothbrush every three months. **13.** At daylight savings time each year, change the batteries on you smoke alarms. **14.** Buy a thermometer for your refrigerator to make sure your food is kept at the right temperature. **15.** Put sunscreen on your hands as well as your face and neck every single day. **16.** Play. **17.** Read. **18.** Be optimistic. **19.** Volunteer in your community. **20.** Mentor someone.

Mark your Calendars

May 13, 2006 – Skagit Spring Classic This is a 25, 62 or 100 mile bike tour of the beautiful Skagit Valley. The ride takes you from the Skagit Valley, by Lake Samish and on the scenic Chuckanut Drive. See Jerry Bush if you are interested.

June 3, 2006 – Issaquah Triathlon This is a great race for both novice and experienced triathletes. It is a short course or "sprint" triathlon starting with a nice cool swim in Lake Sammamish. Give it a tri!! See JB for details.

August 13, 2006 – Guts & Glory 5K Walk/Run The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America will be hosting the Annual Guts & Glory 5K Walk/Run at Qwest Field. This will be a fun-filled day for the entire family. More information will be coming in the next few weeks regarding the fund-raising efforts/contest that UMC employee's can be involved in.

August 26, 2006 – Annual UMC Family Picnic Come join the family fun at Cottage Lake Park. More information will be coming in the months ahead.

September 10, 2006 – Annual UMC Golf Tournament The date is set and the Course is picked. Join in on the fun of a little golf and a lot of good stories and getting to know your fellow employees. Harbour Point Golf Course is a fun, challenging course for the beginner and even the advance golfer.

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