



# CONNECTIONS

May, 2012

## **SAFETY MATTERS**

### **Safety Guide for your Toolbox, at Work and at Home**

Tools are essential for many of the tasks that face us at home and at work. Many jobs cannot be completed without using tools. Tool use is one of the characteristics that distinguish humans from other animals. Your tools should be a help, not a hazard. Use them safely to prevent accidents and injuries.

UMC management is committed to providing the right tool for the job and to repairing or replacing damaged tools. This is a commitment to the safety of our people and to a job well done. It is also a sizable financial commitment: in 2011, the company spent more than \$40,000 in tool repair alone. Sometimes when the gang boxes come back from jobs, the tools are simply thrown into the box in a tangled mess. Many times the tools are damaged beyond repair and even when repair is possible frequently the tools are not tagged with a description of the problem.

All of your tools, at work and at home, should be treated with care. This will save you the frustration and expense of having to buy a new tool the next time you need to use it. With a little care and planning, your tools will last longer and help you complete many projects.

Follow these tips for the safe use of tools:

- Inspect tools before each use. Look for signs of wear or damage – mushroomed heads on impact tools, sprung jaws on wrenches, cracked handles or chipped blades. Remove damaged tools from service.
- Tag damaged tools with a description of the problem so that they can be repaired.
- Maintain tools according to the manufacturer's instructions. Tools may require sharpening or oiling on a regular basis.

- Store your tools carefully where they will not be damaged or cause injury. Never leave hand tools in areas where they may be kicked off onto lower levels or where they may be a tripping hazard. A place for everything and everything in its place is a good motto for tool storage.
- Use the right tool for the job. Do not use makeshifts. Use the correct bits and blades for the material you are working on. Using a tool that is too big or too small is also dangerous.
- Use the tool the way it was designed to be used. Never use a wrench for hammering or a chisel as a crowbar.
- Wear proper personal protective equipment, such as gloves and eye protection. Eyes can be injured by flying particles and broken pieces of tools. Follow the PPE chart and wear goggles when working overhead in situations that may produce falling debris.
- Consider the ergonomic impacts of tool use: extensive repetitive motion should be minimized. Watch how you hold the tool and your posture while working. Use stretching exercises when needed.
- Be wary of the effect of your actions on other nearby workers.
- Carry tools in a safely secured toolbox. Do not carry tools in your pockets. Don't carry tools in your hands when climbing a ladder; instead hoist them up or use a tool belt.
- Support the material you are working on by placing it on a stable surface and securing it with a vise or clamp as necessary.
- Protect your free hand so that you do not accidentally strike or cut it with the tool.
- Don't drill or cut blindly where there is a chance of contacting electrical wiring.
- When using electric tools, inspect the cords for damage and grounding. Stay out of water.
- Practice good housekeeping to keep the work area clean and orderly.

Your tools are essential for your success. Take care of them at home and at work.

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

## LEVERAGE OUR INNOVATION

*UMC is focusing on three specific strategic objectives: Leverage our Innovation, Build a Sales Organization and Workforce Development. The objectives key in on UMC's strengths in these areas. This month's update focuses on Leveraging our Innovation Objective.*

Innovation does not always "start from scratch" and "re-invent the wheel". Sometimes, great innovation starts with keen observation of what is working for others, and adapting the product or process for UMC and our client's requirements. Such is the case with the **UMC CRASH CART**.

UMC's innovation process is utilized from job to job with great ideas incorporated into each new project. The UMC CrashCart, arose out of our extensive experience building and renovating millions of square feet of our hospitals, urgent care facilities, and medical office buildings. Taking a preliminary concept from Matt Mifflin, UMC Superintendent, a group of UMC foreman is responsible for asking and answering the question, "Is there something similar to a hospital's crash cart that we could use to build and renovate client's facilities more safely and respond to damage or other mechanical emergencies quickly?"

We can, and have, learned a lot from our clients over the years and incorporate our full understanding of our client's technology, business processes, and facility requirements to provide superior mechanical services. With this foundation in mind, the UMC CrashCart was born and built by Bruce Lincoln.

**The** UMC CrashCart is for emergencies, but typically on the jobsite to quickly address damage or an issue with a mechanical component during commissioning or after the building is "live." In an operational facility, the risk to life increases dramatically if there is damage to an installed product. There are a lot of people who work on jobsites, and, unfortunately accidents can happen. Mechanical system emergencies cost time, can cause significant water damage because of product failure or damage to the mechanical product through the construction process, and can be life threatening in facilities that are operational. Time is always of the essence in a construction emergency. When water is flowing after a break in the line, or oxygen and other life sustaining systems are disrupted, time becomes critical.

Having the right corrective tools and equipment organized and readily available to patch the system is essential. This is the goal of the UMC CrashCart: Patch the system quickly and gain time to allow a more permanent and safe fix. Who in particular?



### Leveraging our Innovation (cont'd)

The current version of our UMC CrashCart will evolve from what we learn each time we use it. Not sure how it will evolve just yet....that is part of the fun! What is your guess? Send it in!

Our effective "word of mouth" system of adaptive innovation is alive and fully operative on a daily basis. Matt Mifflin, our UMC superintendent, is pushing hard to formalize the documentation of the innovative processes in leadership meetings, job planning meetings, daily foremen and project management communications, and provided feedback for this innovation highlight. UMC foremen and project managers play a key role in project planning meetings, daily construction meetings, and during facility commissioning process. This UMC Innovation isn't just "cool," it begins with being simple, effective, productive, and sustainable....which is definitely COOL in the construction world!

Because accidents happen, and we like to facilitate safe work places, we take great pride in seeing The UMC CrashCart become a mainstay at many of our client's facilities, and it has already been embraced by a number of general contractors we partner with on projects.

#### Innovations to Share?

Do you have an innovative idea you want to share? Do you have an adaption of something that our clients use or we use like the CrashCart that will increase quality, save time, or, save material costs? You can email your ideas to [innovation@umci.com](mailto:innovation@umci.com) and have your ideas heard, understood, and get a chance to be put your innovative ideas into our production processes!

Thanks to all of you that continue to innovate, and a special "GREAT JOB!" to all of you who had, and continue to have, a part in the design, creation, and evolution of the UMC CrashCart.

## **NEW UMC TEAM MEMBERS**



Jason Hewitt started working for UMC on 4/16 as a Senior Engineer, reporting to David Malone. Jason's last position was with CB Engineers doing mechanical/plumbing design and energy modeling where he worked for 5 years. Jason has 11 years of experience doing mechanical design work and is excited about joining UMC. Jason enjoys spending time with his two kids.



Ian McFarland started working for UMC on 4/9 as an Account Executive, reporting to Pat Stephens. Ian's last position was with Aircuity, selling airside energy-efficiency control systems, used to manage contaminants in critical environments. He's been selling turnkey energy-retrofits for the past five years and in sales since graduating from the University of Puget Sound in 2003. He enjoys golf, fitness, Trivial Pursuit, theater, University of Washington sports and obscure movie quotes. He and his fiancée Melissa are marrying this October.

## LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

### 2012 EVENTS CALENDAR

#### AUGUST

Picnic

**Saturday, 8/4**

10am-2pm

Cottage Lake Park

Woodinville



#### SEPTEMBER

Golf Tournament

**Sunday, 9/9**

7:30am shotgun start

Harbour Pointe Golf Course

Mukilteo

MCAWW Conference

**Thursday, 9/27**

WA State Convention Center

Seattle

#### OCTOBER

Trick or Treat

**Tuesday, 10/30**

3pm-5pm

UMC

#### DECEMBER

Santa Party

**Thursday, 12/13**

5pm-7pm

UMC

#### JANUARY

Holiday Party

**Saturday, 1/12/13**

6pm-Midnight

Lynnwood Convention Center

### YEARS OF SERVICE

#### **10 Years:**

Mike McNeil (May)

Maria Boyer (June)

Rich Happel (June)

#### **5 Years:**

Jon Ericson (May)

Nazar Bontso (May)

Greg Lincoln (June)

### "HAPPY BIRTHDAY"

#### May

2 Chris Sandhop

5 CV Nguyen

5 Gail Kinner

9 Cindy Littrell

9 Tom Donaldson

17 Debi Seriales

19 Rene Soucy

25 David Malone

26 Rich Happel

26 Antonio Fernandez

28 Tom Boysen

#### June

11 Jon Baker

18 Rich Munoz

21 Catherine Waldren

24 Steve Russo

25 Konstantin Aluf

