

# CONNECTIONS

March 2010



## Safety

### **Risky Silence**

Across the industry, time loss due to workplace injuries dropped 50% between 1991 and 2008! Most of the gains in workplace safety can be attributed to improvements in awareness, equipment, policies, and training. In the search for other areas to improve, a survey of more than 1500 workers was conducted. The results identified a trend of risky silence, particularly concerning these three Issues:

1. Just this once - unsafe actions are justified because they are exceptions to the rule.
2. This is overboard - unsafe practices that bypass safety policies because workers think the policies are excessive.
3. Take one for the team - unsafe practices that are justified for the good of the team, the customer, or the company.

**Just this once.** More than half of the survey respondents said that they have seen their coworkers make unsafe exceptions to safety rules for convenience, or in an attempt to correct mistakes or salvage opportunities. I think all of

us have used this line of reasoning sometime. When it comes to making exceptions to rules and policies, only one in four people is willing to speak up and express their concerns to the unsafe person.

**This is overboard.** Workers sometimes ignore new rules and guidelines in favor of their old habits. The reasoning goes like this: "I have been doing this for twenty years - I am a professional. I don't need to follow this new policy. I know what I am doing." Old habits die hard and frequently workers encourage each other in this grumbling. But ideas on safety and unnecessary risk are changing. When people ignore new rules, three out of four of their coworkers either say nothing or fail to share their real concerns.

**Take one for the team.** Close to 60% of the survey respondents reported that they have seen their coworkers violate safety precautions for the "good of the team, the company or the customer". In order to save face ("I am not going to be the one to wimp out."), keep customers happy, or meet expectations, only one-quarter of those say they speak and share their concerns with the person who is putting the team at risk.

The results stated here are from a random survey. It could be that UMC employees do not engage in such risky silence when their coworkers engage in unsafe practices for these reasons. Monitor your own behavior: first be

sure that you are not using these excuses for being unsafe, and then make sure you speak up when you see unsafe work practices. Don't be one of the silent ones: speak up and encourage your coworkers to follow safety rules.



## Birthdays

### March

- 6 Bruce Lincoln
- 7 Ryan Hoggatt
- 8 Chris Bondelid
- 11 Max Harshman
- 12 Mike Harshman
- 14 Randall Gaylor
- 14 David Babington
- 14 Henry Biggs
- 15 Dori Jenkins
- 15 Brian Will
- 23 Krista Powers
- 23 Dave Johanson
- 30 Mehrdad Rad
- 30 Stuart Erholm
- 31 Maria Boyer
- 31 Ryan Lynn

### April

- 1 Al Howell
- 5 Clarice Kellogg Olson
- 9 Deborah Black
- 15 Judy Gaylor
- 15 Ed Toyoji
- 21 Daniel Vu
- 24 Marshall Nichols
- 27 Bill Coston



## Anniversaries

### **10 Years:**

Clarice Kellogg Olson (Apr)  
Scot Davis (Apr)

### **5 Years:**

Dave Johanson (Mar)  
Dave Gordon (Mar)  
Gerhard Renz (Mar)  
Warren Rose (Mar)  
Bryan Ireby (Apr)  
C V Nguyen (Apr)

## NOVEMBER

Book Fair  
TBD

## DECEMBER

Santa Party  
Thursday, 12/9  
5:00pm-7:00pm  
UMC

## JANUARY, 2011

Holiday Party  
Saturday, 1/15  
6:00pm-Midnight  
Lynnwood Convention Center



## 2010 Calendar of Events

THE EVENTS FOR 2010 HAVE  
BEEN DETERMINED - THE  
DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS  
ARE BELOW:

### AUGUST

Summer Picnic  
Sunday, 8/8  
10:00am-2:00pm  
Cottage Lake Park, Woodinville

### SEPTEMBER

Golf Tournament  
Sunday, 9/12  
7:00am-2:00pm  
Harbour Point Golf Course

### OCTOBER

Trick or Treat Party  
Thursday, 10/28  
3:00pm-5:00pm  
UMC

## UMCCF

### REMINDER.....

#### Mukilteo Food Bank

The UMC Charitable Foundation is  
collecting money for the Mukilteo  
Food Bank and we need your help!

There are a growing number of  
families that rely on the food bank  
in the local community and the  
Charitable Foundation is supporting  
their efforts.

During the month of March, a money  
jar has been placed at the front  
desk and we ask that you give  
generously as you walk by each day.

Thanks for your help!!

