



Safety Topics

For What It Is Worth!!

The New Parrot

A middle aged lady in a pet store notices a beautiful parrot for sale. When the store owner is asked by the lady about the parrot, he warns, "You need to be aware that this parrot was raised in a brothel and can at times say some racy things".

Well the lady thought about that, but still decided that the bird was so beautiful and seemed to be well mannered and friendly, she made the decision to buy the parrot and take it home.

Upon arriving home the lady set the parrot up in the living room and waited for it to say something. Shortly the parrot seems to be comfortable with its new surroundings, and when the lady enters the room the next time the parrot says, "New home, new Madam". The lady is mildly irritated at the reference but then remembers what the pet store owner had told her and concluded that no harm was done.

Soon thereafter the lady's two late teenage daughters arrived home, and walked into the room. The parrot said, "New home, new Madam, new girls".

The lady was upset by the reference, but decided that there was nothing unseemly by the words. The lady and her daughters giggled about the comment and didn't think much more about it.

Later that day, the lady's husband Willard arrived home and upon walking into the living room the parrot said, "New home, new Madam, new girls, hello Willard".



NRMCA 2007

Excellence in Safety Awards Awarded to 105 Irving Materials, Inc. Plants

Check out the November issue of *The Concrete Producer* magazine for all of the details. There is a great picture of the Tipton, IN plant

Quick question, what is the safety slogan for 2007? How about

"The Goal Is Clear!"

2007 As Our Safest Year!!"

Did anyone notice that the slogan flag disappeared some time ago from this monthly rag? Why do you suppose that is? If you guessed that we were not going to meet the goal, you guessed right. When it became apparent that we were not going to meet that goal, I figured it was time to pitch the slogan.

In our policy year recently ended there were 237 work comp claims with a value of \$1,665,379 reported, and those numbers are still subject to some change. These numbers compare with 05/06 when 216 claims totaling \$1,036,159 and 04/05 with 219 claims totaling \$1,054,307 were reported.

Just a little quick math shows that, on average, a claim this year cost \$7,027 and nearly 1 out of 10 of our employees sustained an injury.

We go from celebrating 105 plants with safety awards to the harsh reality that we are still getting hurt at too great a

rate and at a very hefty price tag. We still have work to do, don't you think?

- ◆ Is safety as much a part of everyday work activity as is quality and quantity?
- ◆ Is some aspect of our safety discussed at least as often as the delivery of the

next load of product or work activity?

- ◆ When was the last time you seriously looked at your work environment and noticed a hazard that could be corrected? And then did something about it?
- ◆ When was the last time you warned a fellow employee that an activity that they were involved in was not as safe as it could be?
- ◆ Do you still jump from your work station or dismount without first looking around you for hazards?
- ◆ When you have to carry an awkward and/or heavy load, do you plan your route to avoid hazards?
- ◆ Do you seek assistance when lifting that awkward and/or heavy load?
- ◆ Do you consciously think about maintaining three points of contact every time you mount or dismount your work station?

All of these things and more have been discussed on these pages in the recent past. Is anyone paying attention? Management is. We will soon have a company-wide PPE policy. It is very easy to look at the information that is right here and understand why we need to change how we do things. Don't grumble and fight the requirement to wear a hard hat. Who knows, it may act as a reminder to do the things that I listed above.

As a company we are following the majority of the rest of the industry with our PPE requirements. Why are we being required to wear these uncomfortable items? Because it has been shown that by doing so the number and severity of the incidents can be reduced. It is all part of an overall effort to raise the awareness of the hazards associated with what we do.

We still in a 12 month period had 237 of our co-workers injured while on the job. Nobody wants this! Think about the people who depend on you. I am sure that most of them expect you to return at the end of the day with all your fingers and toes and blood.

Let's do better in the coming year!



