

This month offers a testimonial on the importance of safety in your company's culture authored by Tom Stewart (Dura-Line)

I feel fortunate in many ways working for a large, global corporation. One of the most important reasons is that we have people who are dedicated to establishing health and safety programs. They are knowledgeable, and they keep us focused on the importance of working safely.

How much of a priority is this for our organization? Our CEO, Sameer Bharadwaj, begins quarterly updates by sharing detailed safety performance worldwide, thus placing safety front and center. We are shown our safety goals and detailed progress, including recognition of individuals and locations that have demonstrated outstanding results. Without compromise, expectations are high for safely doing our job.

PPI membership is made up of large, medium, and small companies. It is not uncommon for managers in medium and small companies to have multiple responsibilities, only one of which is fostering a safe working environment. The main objective of a good safety program is to eliminate injuries while creating a healthy work environment; however, the tough part is proactively establishing an effective program. This is especially true when a manager's attention is divided among multiple responsibilities.

Unfortunately, during my working career, I've been exposed to some job-related accidents that resulted in serious injuries and in one case, death. Hopefully you have never experienced such catastrophic events. Know that a person's life can be dramatically changed or ended in an instant by taking undue risks and not following safety protocols. You can't help but look back and think about how these tragedies could have been prevented. Understandably that is a reactive response; however, reactive is not the position neither the victim nor the observer wants to find themselves. Instead, we must be proactive in prevention.

OSHA states on their website that "a safe workplace is sound business" continuing with:

"The idea is to begin with a basic program and simple goals and grow from there. If you focus on achieving goals, monitoring performance, and evaluating outcomes, your workplace can progress along the path to higher levels of safety and health."

All the critical practices and benefits are outlined on OSHA's website as well as in PPI's safety program as enumerated by OSHA below:

- *Prevent workplace injuries and illnesses*
- *Improve compliance with laws and regulations*
- *Reduce costs including significant reductions in worker's compensation premiums*
- *Engage workers*
- *Enhance their social responsibility goals*

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- *Increase productivity and enhance overall business operations*
The link is: <https://www.osha.gov/safety-management>

David Fink, President of PPI, shared an article that was published in “Plastics News” describing how OSHA and seventeen State Attorneys General have been pushing for public release of safety data. Theoretically, this would be done to shame companies into creating safer work environments. This is controversial. I would encourage everyone to read the article. Here is the link: https://www.plasticsnews.com/news/osha-wants-public-release-safety-recordsindustryfearsshaming?utm_source=pndailyreport&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220812&utm_content=article4-readmore

A key takeaway from the article is a proposed requirement for public reporting for companies with 100 or more employees and recordables above 3.5. Some want the trigger to be low as 3.0 or less recordables. The article also reports that plastic pipe manufacturing shows recordables of 3.7. We have work to do! Involvement in PPI’s safety program provides a forum to address controversial issues.

Not sure where your company falls in terms of recordables, but this brings us to why participating in PPI’s safety program provides tremendous value. Collectively and proactively, we can improve our industries’ safety standing. This is important because we are all negatively impacted when our industry has a poor safety record.

Every company can benefit from participation in PPI’s safety program. We can all gain better insights in terms of benchmarking our individual company’s standing and our industry’s progress by anonymously reporting recordables. Small to medium-sized member companies’ involvement can lighten their burden through participation in PPI’s safety program. All those who labor in serving our industry deserve to have their safety placed front and center. For this reason, I would strongly encourage each member company to fully participate in the PPI safety program.

Authored by Tom Steward (Dura-Line)

Reminder - Recordable Tracking and Sharing of Corrective Actions:

PPI is encouraging your company to participate in this monthly report. Background on this process and the template are available on the PPI Members’ Only site. Questions should be directed to David Fink at dfink@plasticpipe.org. We look forward to your company’s participation so that together we can support each other in continuous improvement of our safety performance.