Editorial

ISHM was created to manage the certifications then offered by the National Safety Management Society (NSMS). NSMS’s purpose then, as it is today, was to provide a medium of communication to encourage the development of information and the application of techniques to advance the degree of professionalism of safety management. It provided a favorable environment to encourage the contribution of all academic and managerial disciplines for the purpose of promoting safety as a truly integrated management function. (From the NSMS Website)

Managing the safety function was, and still is, a foreign concept to many managers and there was, and still is, reluctance to get total commitment to safety in many organizations. By not treating safety management as a critical company asset they are missing out on the opportunity to grow the bottom line.

It is a probably a true statement that every professional safety manager has crossed swords with production managers as we try to assure that the workforce, the equipment, the environment and the public are kept out of harm’s way as production proceeds. Yeah, we have all heard the standard fall back. “We are here to make money and all you do is hold us back. We will never build or make anything if we follow all your silly rules.”

When we finally hit a total logjam with the production folks we go to the ‘head shed’ where all the elephants stomp around. During that exciting meeting we may have run into a situation where upper management erred on the side of production at the expense of safety. Now we have a real dilemma, do we quietly leave with that decision in hand or do we draw line in the sand, stating that we cannot accept that decision in good conscience and we must insist that greater emphasis be placed on safety and risk management, indeed make it a company priority. We personally know of folks who drew this line and soon were looking for a new position.

It happened in the past, it happens today, and it will happen in the future. Are you prepared to have this conversation with upper management? Will you walk or not? Certainly not an easy question to answer but one we should prepare to deal with before it happens.

The Wall Street journal ran an interesting story in the wake of the BP drama that started in the gulf and travelled at the speed of light to other BP facilities. It makes a good read.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704515904576075992850313426.html

Thanks for supporting ISHM!!!!!!

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Passing

It is with great sorrow that we must report that one of us, Mr. Francis Connor, passed away November 9, 2010 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Mr. Connor was passionate about safety and ISHM. He will be missed.

Cell Phones and Driving

Using cell phones while driving has been an issue for several years. Some university studies revealed that talking on the phone while operating a vehicle resulted in impairment equal to four alcoholic beverages. (Scary)

Insurance companies have long been pressuring their insured’s to implement companywide policies prohibiting the use of cell phones while driving.
States have been either implementing or thinking about implementing restrictions on the use of cell phones while driving on public roadways.

The issue really became both heated and complicated with the explosion of text messaging. It appears that regardless of what we are doing, a text message takes priority over all else. Now we have the problem of not only being distracted but also taking our eyes off the road to respond to some important message. It is time to address this issue professionally at our work and personally with our family and friends.

Follow this link to an excellent video that should have an impact especially on younger drivers.

http://www.schooltube.com/video/4386d84344d2a7345c5e/ATT-The-Last-Text-Documentary

It IS all about you

In coming issues of the ISHM newsletter, and on the website, we would like to highlight the achievements of safety professionals. If you have, or know someone, with an interesting story please send their name to us so we could do a phone interview for future editions.

ISHM BOARD

Three ISHM board members will have their term expire September 30 of this year. We need dedicated safety professionals to replace these folks. Please send in your nomination (you or someone you know would be a valuable asset to ISHM) so we can get the nominating committee to work on the process.

Safety + Health Magazine

In case you missed it the first go round. You can receive the NSC Safety +Health Magazine free for one year. What a deal!

It's easy to subscribe, Select "New Subscription" and fill out the form. A free one-year subscription to Safety+Health will begin immediately.

Thank you! We look forward to keeping you (and your co-workers) updated on the latest safety news, trends and best practices.