

HOME AND COMMUNITY *Safety*

NEW PROGRAM BEING DEVELOPED AT THE NDSC

At the summer NDSC Board of Directors meeting, one of the topics of discussion was the development of a Home and Community Program that would include off-the-job safety.

The National Safety Council's (NSC) research shows that for every two injuries that occur on the job, there are five that occur off the job. This means that over 70 percent of all workers injuries are occurring away from work.

The directive was given to Chuck Clairmont, Executive Director and CEO of the NDSC, to gather additional information from the NSC and other NSC local chapters on a Home and Community Program with the idea that the NDSC would move forward with adding the program.

In September, the North Dakota Safety Council made the decision to hire a new program coordinator. Serena Schmit, a recent college graduate of Minnesota State University Moorhead, was hired to take on the task of developing the Home and Community Program for NDSC members.

We are currently in the research phases of developing this program. Schmit is working on a ND needs

assessment and has developed surveys to help determine what our members want from this new program. This survey will also help us find members who have off-the-job safety programs and partners to help develop a more effective program. A key resource has been Lynn Beiswanger, a Safety Coordinator at Basin Electric. He serves on the NSC Off-the-Job Advisory Panel and brings a great perspective in the development of this program.

What is Off-the-Job Safety?

Off-the-job safety is the extension of a company's on-the-job safety culture. Off-the-job safety includes programs to educate and help employees who are "off-the-clock." Formerly not considered part of business, off-the-job safety is now seen as critical to helping employers manage their health care costs, productivity and profits. But what's most important, off-the-job safety programs help save the lives of employees and their families.

Direct and Indirect Costs

Unintentional off-the-job injuries and deaths to workers cost the nation at least 223.7 billion in 2006, a staggering \$817 per U.S. worker. This

figure includes lost wages, medical and hospital costs and administrative expenses associated with insurance.

Employers lost more than 225 million days of production time due to off-the-job accidents. This figure compares to 80 million lost work days resulting from workplace injuries.

Future lost production time resulting from off-the-job injuries occurring in 2006 will total an estimated 515 million days-more than 7 times the 65 million days lost in future years resulting from workplace injuries occurring in 2006.

Look for more information about our new Home and Community program at the 36th Annual Safety and Health Conference in February. You can also log on to www.ndsc.org/homeandcommunity to learn more about the effects of off-the-job injuries and the financial burden it may be placing on your company or organization.

If you would like to help with the development of this program or would like to serve on our advisory committee, please contact Serena Schmit at 701.223.6372 or serenas@ndsc.org.

New!

WEBSITE ADDITION

THE NEW HOME AND COMMUNITY

WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING.

VISIT WWW.NDSC.ORG/HOMEANDCOMMUNITY

TO SEE WHAT OUR NEW

PROGRAM IS ALL ABOUT.

MEMBERS ONLY SURVEY

YOUR INPUT IS KEY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM!

PLEASE TAKE FIVE MINUTES OF YOUR TIME TO TAKE THIS SIMPLE SURVEY. VISIT THE NEW WEBSITE LISTED ABOVE AND FOLLOW THE LINKS.



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DATES TO REMEMBER

36th Annual North Dakota
Safety & Health Conference 2009
February 10-12, Bismarck Civic Center

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POISONING DATA ALARMING FOR U.S.

Poisoning—particularly from overdoses of over-the-counter, prescription and illicit drugs—has surpassed falls to become the nation’s second-leading cause of unintentional death, after motor-vehicle collisions. With an 80 percent increase from 2001 to 2006, poisoning is the fastest-rising cause of accidental death in the United States.

While most people think of poisoning as a childhood issue, adults are overwhelmingly to blame for the steep recent increase in unintentional poisoning deaths.

Between 1993 and 2003, there was a 107 percent increase in the unintentional poisoning death rate from overdoses among Americans ages 20 to 64. In Washington state and the District of Columbia, overdoses have surpassed motor vehicle crashes to become the leading cause of unintentional death.

Drug-related poisonings are often due to overdose or misuse of opiod analgesics initially prescribed to treat chronic pain. While the greatest number of these deaths is occurring among white men ages 45 to 54—up nearly 6,000 in a decade—poisoning death rates are increasing fastest among white women—up more than 300 percent.

“ With an 80 percent increase from 2001 to 2006, poisonings are the fastest-rising cause of accidental deaths in the United States. ”

Call to Educate

A survey conducted in fall 2007 by the national Safety Council revealed that most Americans (81 percent) still believe that children are at greatest risk for poisoning. Less than 4 percent said adults, though data shows that less than one percent of fatal poisoning deaths in 2004 affected children and more than 96 percent involved adults.

The need for public education is clear. When asked to rank potential causes of poisoning in the Council’s fall 2007 survey, 53 percent of people surveyed said household chemicals were most commonly associated with fatal poisoning while just 34 percent named drugs and medicine.

While children rarely die today from unintentional poisoning, non-fatal poisonings remain a childhood concern. About 50,000 children under the age of 4 are injured by unintentional poisonings every year.

Visit www.ndsc.org/homeandcommunity for more information on how you can help prevent unintentional injuries and deaths caused by poisonings in your home.

INJURY PREVENTION FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays are a time that often involve gatherings of all ages, from grandparents to kids. If you or your employees are hosting gatherings this year, the National Safety Council encourages extra care to safeguard older guests. Before they arrive, take a room-by-room inventory of safety risks in your home and correct any potential falls hazards. Falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among older adults, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More than one third of adults ages 65 and older in the United States fall each year.

More than half of all falls occur at home. In preparation for older guests, arrange furniture to provide open pathways, remove or secure area rugs and move aside electrical and telephone cords that can cause tripping. Maintain good lighting throughout the house, especially on the stairs, and secure handrails near both indoor and outdoor steps.

Most falls are preventable, so take the precautions to reduce the risk. While simple steps can go a long way toward keeping your older guests falls-free, their increased safety also benefits children and others.

Visit www.ndsc.org/homeandcommunity for more safety tips for the holidays.

SAFE HOLIDAY TRAVELS

If you plan on traveling during the holidays, be sure to be prepared. The North Dakota Safety Council offers you these tips to keep you safe this holiday season:

- 1. BE PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.**
 - Always travel with a full tank of gas
 - Carry a spare tire, shovel, jumper cables, tow chain, salt or cat litter and a tool kit in your trunk.
- 2. CARRY A WINTER SURVIVAL KIT IN EVERY VEHICLE.**
 - This kit should include a compass, first aid kit, exterior windshield cleaner, ice scraper, wooden stick matches, scissors, string and non-perishable, high energy foods like nuts and dried foods.
 - Carry items to keep you warm if you become stranded such as wool blankets and mittens.
- 3. IF YOU BECOME STRANDED FOLLOW THESE SUGGESTIONS:**
 - Do not leave your vehicle.
 - Light flares and place on either side of car.
 - If exhaust pipe is not blocked, run the engine and heater 10 minutes every hour.
 - Keep at least one window open slightly.