



Alter the Future.... With Near Miss Reporting

Safety News

Wouldn't it be great to have some sort of system in place to prevent workplace injuries, fatalities and equipment damage before they occurred? Turns out there is a system – "Near Miss Reporting."

Near Miss reporting is our red flag system that identifies potential hazards in the workplace due to an incident that was a "close call." This can be anything from property damage occurring to an accident happening.

Near miss reporting:

- Enables us to proactively intervene and resolve hazards before a tragic incident occurs;
- It engages our workforce in solving problems;
- Exposes valuable information that otherwise may not come up, and;
- It develops a positive and necessary attitude surrounding safety.

If you experience a near miss, report it to your

supervisor immediately. But don't stop there. Participate by ensuring it is brought up at your weekly safety meeting, either by yourself or your site safety rep. Statistically, near misses will turn into accidents if they are not exposed!



Boiler Room Safety

We are currently preparing a procedure for Boiler Start ups. Please keep the following in mind:

- Please ensure all mechanical rooms are kept clean of any combustibles i.e. cardboard or chemical containers.

Housekeeping is especially essential in area's where fuel burning equipment is

about to go online.

- Fire extinguishers must be visible and checked for charge.

- Any unnecessary fuel systems should be removed during start up.

- Only essential personnel required for start up should be present and the room should be off limits to all others.

- The emergency response plan should be reviewed before the procedure is to begin, especially the location of the emergency assembly point and who is responsible for headcount.

Once the procedure has been finalized it will be reviewed with all workers.



On December 1st, 2009 Geo. A. Kelson Company Limited was notified that we have requalified for the 50 Best Managed Companies' Award.

Although it will not be official until it is posted in the National Post on February 16th, 2010, we thought we would share the great news. Thanks to all our employees for your continuous great work to make this happen!

New Projects:

- Toronto Reference Library - Toronto
- Mt. Sinai Women's & Infant Health Program - Toronto
- Sunnybrook Wellspring Centre Addition- Toronto
- Metro Toronto Convention Centre Backflow Project - Toronto

Winter Hazards

Carbon Monoxide – The Silent Killer

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a clear, colourless gas that you can not smell or taste. You can only detect CO with a gas detector. The major source of CO in construction is engine exhaust. Gasoline, propane, and diesel engines all release CO. Heater exhaust contains CO and it is also produced by certain types of welding exhaust.

When CO is produced without adequate ventilation, your life is at risk, as it interferes with your body's ability to use oxygen. CO poisoning shows very few symptoms, other than fatigue and a headache.

To avoid CO poisoning:

- Operate engines outdoors when possible
- Check vehicle-cab propane heaters for leaks and ensure proper ventilation
- When engines must be operated indoors;
 - Ensure area is well ventilated. Keep doors and windows open and use fans to bring in fresh air.
 - Limit running time and don't let machines idle.

Cold Stress

Cold Stress includes frost bite, which occurs when your flesh freezes; and hypothermia, which occurs when your core body temperature drops. Here are a few tips to prevent cold stress:

- Wear gloves and a head covering that will accommodate your hard hat
- Wear thick socks, or at least 2 pairs of thin socks
- If you get hot while working, open your jacket but keep your hat and gloves on.

Ice and Snow

Living in Canada, we have learned how to accommodate our jobs working in the winter months. Here are a few reminders on how to make your working environment safer during this time:

- Clean ice and snow from access areas and work platforms. Ensure stairs, ladders and scaffold planks are ice-free.
- Use sand, salt and other de-icing agents to prevent slips and falls.
- Watch your footing. Steel beams, decks and platforms may be safe in sunny areas, but icy in the shade.
- Remove icicles, especially when the temperature increases. If icicles can't be removed, rope off the area below them and put up warning signs.
- Clear frost and snow completely from all windows and mirrors of all vehicles and heavy equipment.

Innovative Employee



Thank you to all of the employee's who submitted idea's for the Kelson "Employee Innovation Plan." This months winner is Ryan Bajc, PM.

Ryan's idea is a simplified convenient and "green" way of doing timesheets on projects.

We intend to implement Ryan's idea over the coming months. Ryan will receive a set of Raptors tickets for his idea. Congratulations Ryan!

Please keep your idea's coming, we **appreciate** your input!

Merry Christmas

Kelson hosted its annual Christmas gala at Angus Glen on Friday November 27th. Everyone enjoyed a fun filled evening of dinner, dancing and prizes.



From the employee's, thank you to the Kelson family for your generosity and kindness.

Merry Christmas to all Kelson Staff and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year!