

The 2nd Quarter Safety Meeting was a huge success. It included incident reviews, hazard analysis case studies and CPR certifications for all who attended. But the best part of the meeting was the featured speaker, Chad Hymas, who is pictured below, interacting with the audience.



Chad is a quadriplegic who was injured 9 years ago operating a tractor on his elk ranch in Utah. He told the story of how during the day he was a successful contractor with 35 employees. After work each day, he would stop by the field where his animals grazed and put out a bale of hay.

Chad had done this chore countless times before, and knew his 10 year old tractor had a hydraulic leak. He was lifting a 2,000 lb bale of hay with the front fork attachment when the boom started to bleed down. He had seen this happen before and knew the hydraulic oil was low. Rather than stop to top off the tank, he kept pulling the lever, when suddenly, the boom jerked and tossed the hay bale onto the operator's station.

The tractor did not have a ROPS, and Chad was crushed under the load with his neck broken. Luckily, he lived, but his life suddenly changed forever. When he didn't come home that evening his wife drove with their two boys to the field. She found Chad pinned, clinging to life. She raced home and called 911. Volunteer firemen responded, lifted the bale, and got him to the hospital.

Chad's message was simple . . . he said there was nothing at the job that was worth getting hurt, not even having a stitch. Over the years he has realized how his mistake, taking a short cut, affected his family and all around him. His injury caused his 35 employees to all lose their jobs, and Chad's family lost the person they knew who was a vibrant young husband, father, son and brother in the prime of his life.

Chad challenged everyone to look for hazards, never take a short cut and apply safe practices in order to reduce the risk of injury for everyone at the job.

Chad's story burned a message of safety in everyone's mind. Having Chad speak to both office and field management illustrates the company's commitment in elevating safety at all levels. Mike Crawford, Sukut's CEO addressed the audience and praised everyone for their efforts and accomplishments in reducing injuries, and asked everyone to follow Chad's message in the future.

The safety meeting ended with Quarterly Superintendent Safety Awards being presented to three outstanding Foremen. Jim Seyfried, Foreman at the Bradley Landfill, is pictured below (left) receiving his award from Dave Grattan, President of the Environmental Division.



Jim Penland, pictured above (right) is a Foreman at the La Habra job, and is pictured with Russ Thorpe receiving his award.

Mike Randall, pictured (right) could not make the safety meeting because his job was running. John Casperson caught up with him after the meeting and presented the Superintendent's Safety Award in the field.



All of these Foremen demonstrated exceptional performance during the 2nd Quarter, achieving a ZERO INJURY record while maximizing production. Each will compete at the end of the year for Sukut's Annual President's Safety Award. Make sure you congratulate them when you see them on the job.



2009 Winner
SCCA Contractor's
Safety Award

Safety Bingo continues at Sukut, and has been a real motivator in getting everyone to focus on safe behaviors which influence injury rates. Since the last newsletter, two employees have taken home Jackpots, totalling \$11,000.



Trenton Christian, an Operator working at the San Diego Airport project, won \$5,000. His card was verified just after the April Newsletter was published, so he did not receive recognition last month. A thumbs up signal indicates Trenton was very happy to win the cash.

Todd Snelson, an Operator at the 905 Freeway project, won the most recent game with a \$6,000 Jackpot. For those who give up after a win thinking lightning will not strike the same place twice, Todd proves that theory wrong. He also won \$500 in October 2008 playing Safety Bingo.



The current Safety Bingo Jackpot is \$7,000 and will continue to increase each game the company maintains the ZERO INJURY record. Safe behavior starts with good planning, identifying hazards and applying safe work practices. Do your part to work safely and watch others on your crew to ensure they do the same. There's nothing at the job worth doing that will result in an injury . . . **Safety Really Pays at Sukut.**

The front page of the newsletter featured the main events covered during the Quarterly Safety Meeting. Hazard Analysis Case Studies presented by the groups were judged, and Nathan Ritter's group came in first based on the level of detail and methods determined to perform work safely. Members of the group included Denny Evans, Jason Filary, Hector Gutierrez, Bill Levis, Jesse Ruiz, Donovan Tearnen and Keith Widney. All are to be commended for their great ideas at the meeting.

If This is Your Plate, Call (714) 540-5351 and Win a Great Prize



The Environmental Division continues to grow and needs certified HAZWOPER employees for future work. Union training centers offer courses, so give them a call and enroll when the opportunity presents itself.

Sometimes employees in Southern California forget the company has a major presence in Northern California. For the last two years Mike Mulich and the project team have performed a seismic upgrade on the San Pablo Dam, East of Oakland. All at the project have done an exceptional job, and at the recent safety lunch, 722 Injury Free Days were celebrated. The project will be finished this summer so it was a last chance to thank the crew for a job well done.



Kirk Souza, Superintendent at the project, is pictured (left) recognizing Dean Kontra as the project's "Safe Worker" for the past quarter. Dean worked for Sukut for many years in Southern California and moved to Northern California before the project started. Dean joined the crew, and has done a great job as a member of the San Pablo team, assisting greatly with safety at the project.

Project Managers rarely get much credit for safety at a project, but Mike Mulich, Ron Bane and Sam Hollarum all deserve recognition for their diligence in managing safety. San Pablo was a complex project with a number of subcontractors with high risk activities that included drilling, deep soil mixing, electrical, paving, etc. It will be a real accomplishment in closing the project with ZERO INJURIES.



James "Eewee" Hendrickson is pictured (left) after receiving a \$50 prize as the April Newsletter Reader. Eewee is a long time employee at Sukut. He is not only a top production Operator at the 905 Freeway project, but he also goes the extra mile and uses his experience to help coach younger workers with safety. If you see your license plate in this Newsletter call and get \$50.



Safety Really Pays at Sukut . . .
Field Safety Bingo Hotline (714) 318-0590
Close Call for Cash Hotline (714) 460-1034