Happy April!

April fools day can’t ‘trick’ you or your team into a short cut or at-risk act. This edition of Safety Meeting Starters is dedicated to eliminating shortcuts and being in a safe place when ‘it’ happens. Enjoy the material.

Enjoy Safety Meeting Starters, and please share with your supervisors, managers and fellow safety professionals.

Enjoy this month’s safety material. And as always, send me your feedback, matt@safestrat.com.

Wishing you and your family a blessed and safe month. Thanks again and Remember, no one gets hurt today! God Bless, Matt.

Eliminate Shortcuts Today!

Bucket List, Eliminate Shortcuts Today in Order to Live Your Dreams Tomorrow will be released any day!

This is a full month’s worth of safety meeting and safety awareness material all specially focused on eliminating shortcuts. It’s a must have for 2014! Click this link to order or learn more. http://www.safestrat.com/review-and-order-safety-books-dvds/
Will you be Ready When ‘IT’ Happens?

Matt Forck, CSP & JLW

“He’s drowning,” students yelled. “Help…someone help him!” shouted teenagers as their fellow classmate KeAir Swift, a 14 year old freshman, rested lifelessly on the bottom of the pool.

Mr. Jonathan Sails, the teacher for the East Detroit High School was not close to the pool, instead he was on the bleachers with other students while class participants in the remedial swim class were in the pool.

Sails heard the shouts and headed over to look in the pool. But Sails didn’t jump in to assist. Instead Sails went to the locker room. Sails, the swim teacher, didn’t have on swim attire. His trip to the locker room was to suit up, so he could jump in the water. But, Sails didn’t have to get wet, the vice principal happened upon the scene and in full street clothes jumped in the pool to get Swift to safety. It was too late...he had been under the water too long. He didn’t make it.

Jonathan Sails was not a full time teacher, instead a substitute teacher filling in because the ‘regular’ swim teacher’s swim instructor credentials had expired. The East Detroit Public Schools use a third party contractor, Professional Educational Services Group, one of the largest staffing companies of its kind in the country, to fill substitute positions. So, technically Sails was their employee, not one of the public schools. And, Sails lied about his certifications.

"The defendant misrepresented that he was certified through the Red Cross as a lifeguard, which is what you need pursuant to state regulations to teach a swimming class," says Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith.

Unfortunately, this story is true. For the family of KeAir Swift they wish it was all ‘made up’ and their son would just return

About Matt...

Matt Forck is a board-certified Safety Professional (CSP) and former Journey Lineworker in the hazardous field of electrical line work (JLW). Matt’s recent innovations include the development of the Safety Committee MAP process, a systematic process for safety committee success, and the Informal Leader Program aimed at engaging the true safety leaders within any organization.

Matt has published nearly 100 safety articles and written seven books including his latest release, What Safety Leaders Do. He is a frequent speaker at national and regional safety conferences and leads corporate sponsored safety, motivational and culture building keynote presentations. You may contact Matt through his website, www.safestrat.com. SMS is a FREE monthly newsletter to the safety community.

Safety Book of the Month...

What Safety Leaders Do...click here to change your safety culture now!

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Safety Keynote?

Energize your Safety Program today, www.safestrat.com
home..."It's terrible and they really need to pay for it," said LaKisha Swift, KeAir’s grieving mom. "They really need to pay for it. They need to suffer like I'm suffering. And my son's lost his life. He had a great life. He was a happy child."

Jonathan Sails now faces charges of involuntary manslaughter which carries the potential of a 15-year sentence and/or $7,500 fine.

In utility safety there is a thought that says, “Where will you be when ‘it’ happens.” The meaning behind that saying is that all things mechanical can and will fail. And, all people make mistakes. So, ‘it’ will happen...just like it did in this remedial swim class, for KeAir, for East Detroit Public Schools and for Mr. Sails. In utility safety, if we are following the rules, executing our work plan, ‘it’ will simply be a near miss, and something we talk about and learn from for years to come. But, if we are not following the rules - - bad things will happen when ‘it’ happens. Just ask LaKisha Swift.

After the incident, East Detroit Public Schools released this statement, “The teacher being charged is an employee of an outside contractor that has provided substitute teachers for the district for several years. It did not name the company.” Superintendent Joanne Lelekatch followed up the statement with this comment, "When tragedies such as this happen, our focus remains on the student, his peers and the family, "

Be in compliance when it happens...and keep the Swift family in your thoughts.

What Safety Leaders Do
The Insider’s Handbook for Safety Leadership Tips, Tactics, Secrets & Ideas

Today there is a procedure for everything that is important. Yet, more than 99% of groups fail to have a road map for safety leadership. The reason is that leadership is different. While most of those other procedures are ‘one size fits all,’ safety leadership is not. Each team, work group, and company has a different culture, history, exposures and corporate structure which means there isn’t a cookie cutter mold to safety leadership. To be successful, each organization must customize their program to fit their unique organization. To effectively ‘customize’ your company’s safety leadership program, you first need access to all of the cutting edge leadership tactics, tips and secrets - - which is exactly what this book provides! Then, you can pick the ideas that are right for your group; putting proven methods to work for you - - to get the results you have always aimed to achieve. 204 pages.Price $19.95. Save 25% per book; use code GHDF4HQD, no limits!

Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned. Peter Marshall

OSHA sites company after worker falls to his death. http://ohsonline.com/articles/2014/03/20/company-cited-for-fall-hazards-following-worker-death.aspx?admgarea=news&m=1 ...


Just for Friday safety message, excavation safety: worker stuck when hole caves in... http://www.wtsp.com/story/news/investigations/2014/03/21/osha-man-in-hole-accident/6706639/ ...

If you want to lead, you need to work on your motivation skills. http://onforb.es/1m52pTM

17 Things Extraordinary People Do Every Day http://zite.to/1hUILHm

The first great gift we can bestow on others is good example. - Thomas Morell

"Employees who are aware of their own toxic behaviors are often able to conceal them from their boss." http://f-st.co/Ote3XP5

Authorities investigate Chinatown construction collapse that left 2 injured http://hub.am/1lZ0TCz

Nobody is going to put a limit on what I'm doing. -Michael Phelps

It's not the load that breaks you down, it's the way you carry it. -Lou Holtz

OSHA finds company at fault as worker dies from fall


Police in Pennsylvania on the lookout for an Amish horse-and-buggy suspected in a hit-and-run: http://abcn.ws/1gbS0GI

Eliminate shortcuts today with this safety meeting package including DVD and posters. http://www.safestrat.com/bucket-list-free-trial-registration/ …

Let this article guide your safety decisions this week. Critical Conversations http://fw.to/evECNET


The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place. - George Bernard Shaw

Utility Safety, pole snaps and kills worker who was climbing it; OSHA investigates. http://shar.es/RjwlP

17 year old employee has arm trapped in ski lift; OSHA looking into incident http://www.nwherald.com/articles/2014/03/03/16c3e1c18d5647b58bf5809d95fc69b5/index.xml …

Airport worker’s death at LAX will be investigated by Cal-OSHA http://www.dailybreeze.com/general-news/20140226/airport-workers-death-at-lax-will-be-investigated-by-cal-osh …

Hazards on the work site; Investigations into Death of Camera Assistant who was killed while filming on rail tracks; http://www.wsav.com/story/24909137/update-on-investigations-into-death-of-camera-assistant-who-was-hit-by-train#.UyGQreMVndo.twitter …

Truck rolls down hill killing construction worker, company fined $23K http://berkeleyside.com/?p=154282

Man Falls from Coaster at Mt. Olympus, OSHA and Ride Manufacturer Investigate http://www.wsaw.com/home/headlines/Man-Falls-from-Roller-Coaster-at-Wisconsin-Resort-248921351.html?ref=351#.UyGPZTgwViM.twitter …

Wrestler loses state title, embraces opponent's cancer-stricken father http://usat.ly/1k8tcON


Oregon OSHA investigating Cedar Hills trench collapse http://www.oregonlive.com/beaverton/index.ssf/2014/03/oregon_osha_investigating_ceda.html …

Safety Culture: Whats Under Your Helmet? http://fw.to/s47Ci8i
Involved Safety Meeting Activity

Activity: Shake the Can

Estimated Time: 10 Minutes

Materials Needed: One Pepsi or Diet Pepsi in aluminum can, it works best if you can bring in one for each person.

Reference materials: See ISMA below:

The ISMA:
Shake the Pepsi or Diet Pepsi and then ask for a volunteer to open it (if each person in the audience has a can, have them shake their can). Obviously no one will open it because they will get splashed with soda if they do. After a few minutes having fun with the audience, shake your can again then holding the can upright, turn it in your hands end over end (360-degrees) slowly. This one revolution or turn should take between 4 to 5 seconds. Then pop the top. The soda will not explode; the turning action will relieve the pressure within the can.

The Take-a-ways:
In general, we don’t act unless we can be sure of the outcome and we wouldn’t open a soda can unless we were sure it wouldn’t get us wet. Yet in our jobs, we cut corners or sometimes take risks (bring in recent injury data or safety observations statistics to help re-enforce this fact). When we cut a corner, it is like shaking a can and opening the top, it is going to explode. If we work each job safe, we know that there is no way we can get hurt.

Also, it’s interesting because we won’t take a chance in getting wet with a soda but we take a risk of loosing an arm, eye or life to an at-risk act. Re-evaluate each task and do the job the safe way.

Note: I have only used Pepsi or diet Pepsi, use other brands at your own risk! Have fun…

Want to energize your next safety meeting? Get ISMA…and get your people involved!

Learn more; http://www.safestrat.com/review-and-order-safety-books
SAI - Safety Awareness Items
(ideas to get raise your team’s awareness!

Nail File  
File Down Injuries with Safe Work

Fire Extinguisher (small)  
Be Prepared, at home and at work.

First Aid Kit  
Be Prepared

Fish Hooks  
Get Hooked on Safety

Fish Scale  
Safe Acts Always Measure Up

The Untapped Secret To Selling Safety - And 401½ Tangible Items Guaranteed To Help Make That Sale!

- - How well do you sell safety? The truth is that we are at the mercy of our ability to sell, no matter how “tight” the presentation. Regardless of our education or the facts surrounding an issue, we are still in a position where we have to make the sale in order for a positive change to take place. And, the better we are at selling, the greater our results. The fact of the matter is that there are secrets to selling...even selling safety. One such previously untapped secret is revealed here and your safety results will never be the same! “Matt's passion for safety continues to shine through as he drives to inspire us to be the best we can be” wrote Bill Dampf, safety professional with three decades of experience. “Through this latest effort, he provides us with hundreds of ways to promote safety awareness to our employees. Although keeping our workers safe is always a challenge, this simple approach to helping us sell safety can be a tool that all of us can use.”  

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How Safety Leaders Win

If you were asked to pick the best, most successful, college coach who would you suggest? UCLA’s legendary basketball coach John Wooden comes easily to mind, as does Alabama’s football coach Bear Bryant. Thinking a little more, Mike Krzyzewski Duke’s basketball coach is a good guess as is Tennessee’s former woman’s head basketball coach Pat Summitt. Or, Dan Gable of Iowa wrestling fame is certainly on the short list. But a name that you would probably not have said is Anson Dorance. Coach Dorance is the head coach of one of the most successful programs in the history of college athletics. He is the head coach of women’s soccer at North Carolina.

Coach Dorance’s coaching record is almost unbelievable. In 1979 Dorrance worked with the Association of Athletics for Women to establish a national women’s soccer program. The first NCAA women’s soccer championship was three years later, won by Dorrance’s NC Tar Heels. For his 33 year career as head coach of the lady Tar Heels Dorrance is 719-39-24 for an unheard of 93.5% winning percentage. He led his teams to a 101 game winning streak and coached 20 players recognized as National Player of the Year. If that’s not impressive enough Dorrance’s teams have won 21 NCAA championships.

So, what’s Coach Dorrance’s secret? His success over time is likely much more complicated than can be shared in a short 1,200 word article. Having said that, there are three keys to his success that can provide great insight into his winning program, and also give us additional insights into how we can be even more effective in leading safety programs.

Compete
There is a legendary story about Henry Ford. He had two shifts at one of his factories. These two shifts used the exact same assembly line so had the same tools, work hours, number of employees, etc. For some reason the first shift always assembled more cars than the second shift. One evening Ford walked on the floor of the second shift, took a piece of chalk and wrote a number on the floor, 48 for example. The number represented the number of cars produced by the first shift. Ford didn’t say any words, he just wrote the number and left. When he walked in the next morning he was surprised to see his number was scratched out and a new number written, 54…that was the number produced by the second shift. Ford left
it there and the first shift then wrote next to it as their shift ended, 56. The night shift would not be out done - - they produced 58 that next night.

Coach Dorrance says, “Competition is key to developing players. The only practice environment in which you truly develop a player is a competitive arena.” What most teams consider drills, Dorrance will chart then post for all of the players to see. It pushes those players who are on top of the list to stay there, and those who are not on the top of the lists to work even harder.

I do not support the idea of competing for the lowest injury numbers since this could drive workers not to report incidents, which is not the goal. But, this idea of competition is one to consider for training exercises, safety rule knowledge, most safe acts, most supervisory job observations, housekeeping inspections, and many more categories. Post these lists and reward those on top…and your organization will push to be even better.

**Care**

A December 7, 1998 Sports Illustrated Article says that, “Dorrance insists that players call him Anson. Before the last home game of the season, he presents each senior with a red rose. On the wall in his office is this sign: PEOPLE DON'T CARE HOW MUCH YOU KNOW UNTIL THEY KNOW HOW MUCH YOU CARE. "That is the critical element in coaching women," Dorrance says. "You can't get me to do anything unless you care about me first. Soccer is not that important to them. Connection is.”"

When I was a safety professional serving a major mid-western utility I served over 400 electrical line workers and substation technicians. One thing I did to make a connection is to write a personal birthday note to each worker and supervisor, about 500 letters per year. After a few years of this I saw a birthday note that I had written taped to a locker. I found the locker’s owner and asked him why it was there. He simply said that in nearly 30 years working for the company receiving that birthday note was the best thing that had happened to him.

Dorrance says, “This game rewards you for playing with huge hearts.” For those workers who had received birthday notes, they simply knew that I cared. So when I showed up to coach, teach, instruct or correct, I mostly found open ears and workers willing to listen...because they knew I cared.

“He taps into the core of your being,” says national team assistant coach and former Carolina player Lauren Gregg. Anson Dorrance cares.

**Prepare**

Dorrance wants soccer games to be a ‘day off’ for his team. What he means by that is he wants practice to be so hard and ‘tough’ that his team is very well prepared for any game. Practices are so stressful that players have named Tuesday’s conditioning day as ‘throw up Tuesday.’
"We've tried to design a system that's difficult to play against," Dorrance said. "That system is predicated on work ethic and high pressure. It's hard for other teams to replicate that in practice. Often times, even when a quality team plays us for the first time, it's a bit of a shock."

How do our work groups prepare? And as supervisors and managers, how do we prepare them? Are our training sessions, job briefings and tailgate sessions, safety meetings, safety committee work really preparing our workers for the day’s hazards?

Dorrance says, “The vision of a champion is someone who is bent over, drenched in sweat, at the point of exhaustion when no one else is watching.” Does your safety program do the equivalent?

In the end, if we can infuse our safety programs with healthy and appropriate competition, caring and preparation, we will find our results to be elite - - just ask Coach Anson Dorrance.

Matt Forck, CSP & JLW, is a safety speaker and former journey line worker who specializes in utility safety. Eliminate shortcuts today through Bucket List, a motivational DVD package for your next safety meeting. Learn more by logging onto www.safestrat.com

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