

VOLTS Newsletter

VALUING OUR LIVES THROUGH SAFETY

August 2017

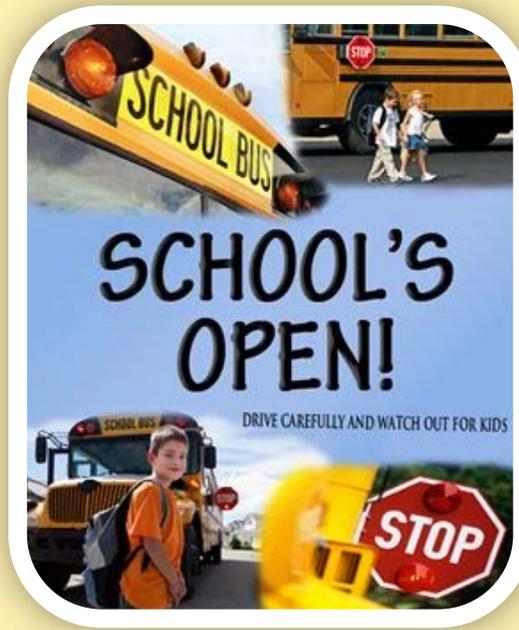
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Back to School

Where has summer gone? It seems like the summers keep getting shorter. It wasn't that long ago when the outage ended, the grass turned green, the leaves came out on the trees, and the days started getting longer. Now the kids are getting ready for school to start and the grass is turning yellow. The end of summer brings the promise of cooler weather, football, hunting and recreation in the mountains, and the opportunity to resume learning. As the kids return to school to continue the education that will help prepare them for life, we can also continue to learn and grow in our lives, our jobs, and our safety.



Learning how to ensure our safety is an ongoing process which we continue to develop and refine as we learn from our own experiences and from the experiences of those we work with and rely upon. Sharing information and ideas about safety is the most effective way to make sure everyone goes home safely at the end of the day. Many of the things that we learn at work can also be taken home to share with our families and those whom we spend time with.

The VOLTS process is a tool that encourages and helps with the sharing of safety concepts and concerns. For example, during the month of July, there were 700 safety observations conducted and submitted, with 8094 safety behaviors recorded. Of those behaviors, 7954 were noted as safe while 140

were listed as being at risk. This equates to over 700 safety discussions and points out many safe behaviors that we can learn from and also 140 instances where we could be at risk for minor or major injuries.



The most noted at-risk behaviors during July's observations were risks for hearing damage, respiratory compromise, and fall potential. Hearing risk was most common in the Boiler and Water Treatment areas; respiratory risk potential was most common in the Coal Yard and Boiler areas; and fall hazards were most often noted in the Pulverizer/Bottom Ash areas. Hopefully, the results of these



observations can be used to learn where to focus our safety efforts.

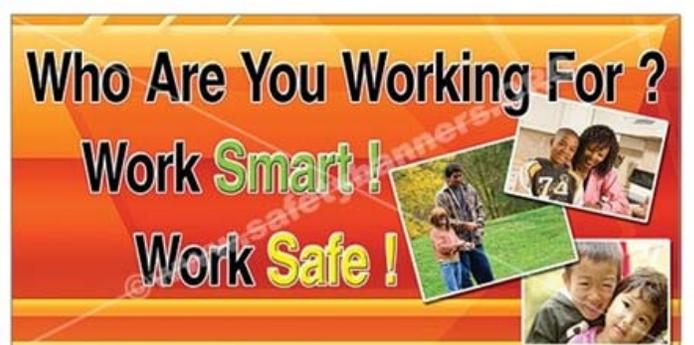
With the passing of each year, we continue to become more professional and proficient at our jobs. As we become more competent in our job duties, we should continue to become more professional and competent in our individual and group safety efforts as well. Just as we learn through experience to prepare for the task at hand by selecting the right equipment and using the correct procedures, we can and should also prepare for safety by selecting and making a habit of using the correct procedures and protective equipment. We can take ownership of our safety when we share our observations, ideas, and concerns with each other and then take the necessary steps to correct and/or improve safety conditions.

We all take pride in our work and in doing the job right. We should have the same pride and the same or greater degree of commitment in making sure the job is done as safely as possible. Take the initiative to follow-up on safety concerns. Be proactive toward safety

improvements by making sure that work orders are written and that supervisors and coworkers are aware of any hazards which may be present or any precautions that need to be taken. If something needs to be fixed, fix it! Stop work if needed and take the time to make sure that jobs are performed as professionally and as safely as possible. One second of inattention or neglect to a safety hazard could be all it takes to change someone's life forever. Most accidents can be avoided by planning ahead and taking appropriate steps to ensure that the job is performed as safely as possible.



Whether you participate in the VOLTS process or not, you can and should be a safety leader among your peers. Make a point of bringing attention to and discussing safety issues in crew meetings and be willing to offer suggestions for improvement. Safety is magnified when everyone contributes. The potential of a group effort toward safety is enormous and benefits not only us, but those who love and depend upon us as well. Let's keep learning, sharing, and going home safely every day.



Thanks for all you do!