

VOLTS Newsletter

VALUING OUR LIVES THROUGH SAFETY

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Merry Christmas!

Can you believe it's that time of year again already! Our thoughts, hearts, and hopes turn to peace on earth and goodwill toward men (and how we're going to pay all the bills). Christmas is a time of giving. We often wonder what is the best gift we can give to those closest to us. The best gift we can give to our families and loved ones is our safety and our ability to be there for them. Likewise, the best gift we can give our coworkers is looking out for one another by recognizing and mitigating safety hazards that may be present in the workplace and by sharing safety concerns and exchanging ideas. We can also help them and our families by setting an example of safety through our behaviors and by our vigilance toward safety. Let's continue to offer those gifts to our friends and family by doing everything we can to ensure their safety and ours as well.

One way to help us recognize at-risk conditions is to be aware of those things that have caused

injuries to IPSC employees in the past. One of the most important steps in setting up the VOLTS program and in developing the observation sheet, that we use during VOLTS observations, was to identify those critical behaviors that were responsible for employees being injured. The VOLTS Steering Committee studied accident reports for the four years previous to beginning the observation program and developed a list of definitions that correlated with past accidents and injuries.



During a recent visit with representatives of DEKRA (formerly BST), they expressed the importance of becoming familiar with these definitions. They were aware that these definitions were shared

with everyone during VOLTS observer training, but sensed that most employees had forgotten about them. The DEKRA representatives stressed the importance of revisiting the definitions. With this recommendation, the definitions of the critical behaviors from the VOLTS Data Sheet will be presented in the VOLTS Newsletter monthly starting with the first category of body positioning.

HOLIDAY SAFETY FOR YOU, YOUR FAMILY, AND YOUR HOME

1.0	<i>Body Positioning</i>	
1.1	<i>Line of Fire</i>	Does the person place all parts of their body so that they will not be pinned, crushed, struck, sprayed, or trapped by energy releases of any kind?
1.2	<i>Pinch Point</i>	Does the person keep body parts from area between moving or stationary parts that are closing or may close together? (Primarily fingers in tight clearances)
1.3	<i>Eyes on Path</i>	Does the person look in the direction they are moving, walking, cycling, or operating mobile equipment? Is the person's vision obstructed when in motion? Does the person clear obstructions out of the way, move, or walk around them? Is the person looking for hazards in the path below, above, and to the sides?
1.4	<i>Eyes and Hands on Task</i>	Does the person keep their eyes on the work being performed? Does the person have an unobstructed view of the work? Does the person avoid putting their body/body parts into blind areas? Does the person ignore distractions while doing the task?
1.5	<i>Ascending/Descending</i>	Does the person use structures designed for changing elevations? Does the person walk up and down stairs one step at a time using handrails? When ascending/descending steep stairs and ladders, does the person face stairs/ladders and maintain three-points of contact?

These definitions can help us to recognize our behaviors, whether safe or at-risk, and assist us in being safer when engaged in these activities. Please study these definitions and apply them when working in these situations.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season and a Very Merry Christmas!

Thanks for all you do!

Don't Forget the Kids!

You can donate to Sub for Santa by redeeming your EAO gift certificate at the front desk, donating cash, donating through payroll deduction, or by donating an unwrapped gift of your choice.

IPSC Staff has again generously agreed to donate \$1 to the local area Sub for Santa program for each observation submitted between November 1 and Christmas. You can give the gift of safety to your families and coworkers and help make this Christmastime special to those kids in the area who need it most.

