

August 2019

Hello RETRO Members;

August is **Impaired Driving Month** - The National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration has dedicated this month to *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*, which also includes driving under any type of influence. Please review with your employees the importance of not driving, or working under, any type of influence, for the safety of themselves and others around them. Additional information can be found at; [National Highway Traffic Safety](#) and [Traffic Safety Marketing](#).

First topic is: **Back Safety** – Several factors can cause back pain including poor physical fitness, lack of flexibility, stress, bad posture, lack of rest, and participating in certain recreational activities. Any of these factors combined with poor lifting practices are sure to cause a harmful back injury. But the primary cause is not lifting with the proper technique.

[RS SafetyTV](#) has a couple of videos or if you like I can send you a good PowerPoint presentation on the subject. **SAFEME** Essentials has [Material Handling](#) and [Lifting lessons](#).

The second item is: **Near Misses** – Bob was in a hurry to get a product out of the stock room. Using a ladder that he could not quite position correctly, because there was another object in the way, he went up the ladder retrieving what he was looking for. As he was coming down the ladder he felt the ladder sliding to the right. He was able to correct his balance to stop the ladder from sliding any further and made it down to the ground safely. This is what most people refer to as “a close one” or what safety people call a “near miss”.

Scenarios like this happen in different ways, different places and often involve power equipment. The point is that it was close to becoming an accident and needs to be addressed so that it doesn't happen again. Encourage employees to report 'near misses' so that improvements can be made. Also have your employees take that little extra effort to perform their job properly because safety measures are in place for a reason, so that Bob can go home safe and not end up in a hospital or have a permanent impairment for life.

Take a closer look at near misses and evaluate them to make sure they don't become an accident!

Check out [RS Safety Library](#) for handouts and videos on this subject.

Final Item is: **Power Tools** - Your shop may use a variety of power tools ranging from air, hydraulic and electric. New employees should be given instruction on safe operation of the tools that are used in your operation. When operating a specific tool, employees are expected to use the proper protective equipment such as; eyewear, gloves, noise suppression as required for tool in use.

If you are introducing a new tool to your operation, make it be one of your safety meeting topics. Maybe have manufacture rep give the use and safety presentation and ask him to bring in the doughnuts for your crew!

Also look at the [Power Tools](#) lesson in **SAFEME**.

The [RS Safety Library](#) has some general power tool safety videos and handouts under the Auto Group section.

Think safe. Act safe. Be safe.

Rick Means

Safety Specialist

Retail Association Services

618 Quince SE Olympia, WA 98501

rmeans@waretailservices.com

360-943-9198 ext. 18