

June 2020

Dear RETRO Members,

June is **National Safety Month** by the National Safety Council. Our June Safety packet offers a few focus topics to strengthen your safety culture. In addition, your organization needs to:

- Involve everyone in your organization in risk reduction efforts through hazard identification and reporting
- Spot hazards early through evaluating risk and removing or controlling hazards before they can do harm

Hazards left unnoticed will lead to a serious injury today or in the future



**Safety Meetings** –Why have safety meetings? They show that management is serious about safety, not just giving it lip service. They get employees involved in the safety process by increasing the number of eyes and brains engaged in safety. Employees develop a sense of "ownership" in the safety efforts. It also gives 'early warning' of unsafe conditions. **Lack of documented safety meetings is the number two item cited by L&I for 2019.**

Take 15 minutes and discuss the proper use of a tool, or a proper way to use a ladder, or any piece of equipment that your operation uses. Remember to log your topic and attendees in your safety binder, so if you are ever audited by L&I, you can show proof that you are actively promoting safety in the workplace. Another tool is [RS SafetyTV](#), which contains a variety of video topics to assist you with your safety meeting. You can also go to the [RS Safety Library](#) for a selection of various topics and presentation information.

We can't seem to say it enough, but having these meetings raise the employee's conscious level about the work they are performing and to take the time to do it correctly, because taking a shortcut can often lead to an accident. A safe shop is a more productive shop!

There may be another benefit, as we understand some insurance companies may offer discounts if you have regular safety meetings and can prove it with documentation. You should check with your insurance company.



**Distracted Driving** - Roadways are unpredictable and safe driving requires your full attention. For this reason, cell phone use or texting while driving is to be avoided and is illegal in the State of Washington. Accidents from these incidents cause time loss of employees, increased insurance rates, as well as a company vehicle being out of commission for a while. If you have company delivery drivers, you need to explain the dangers of cell phone use while driving and that you are taking action by implementing policies that would prohibit both hands-free and handheld devices to

prevent distractions while driving.

The National Safety Council recommends those policies apply to all company employees. Make calls before you leave the parking lot or rest stops, but not while you are on the road!

[RS SafetyTV](#) has some great videos that can be a part of your safety meeting. The [SAFEME app](#) has a module on Distracted Driving ([English](#) [Espanol](#)) that can be used as a great refresher course!



**Bench Grinders** - L&I inspections always seem to migrate towards the bench grinder. They go over it with a fine-toothed comb! Is the work rest to wheel clearance at 1/8 inch or less? Is the wheel edge trued and squared (dressed)? Are the guards in place? Is the spindle speed appropriate to the wheel speed? I would also suggest that PPE be on a hook close to the grinder. Click here for the full [L&I rule](#). There is a good video on [RS SafetyTV](#) on grinder wheel maintenance and safety that would be a good way to start off your safety meeting.

Thinking safety for you,

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