



June 2018

Dear RETRO Members;

June is [National Safety Month](#) by the National Safety Council. Everyone in an organization can get actively involved in risk reduction efforts through hazard identification and reporting. A successful safety program depends on spotting hazards early, evaluating the risk and removing or controlling hazards before they can do harm. If left unnoticed, hazards that produce no injury today can lead to a serious injury in the future.

First topic is: **Distracted Driving** - Roadways are unpredictable and safe driving requires your full attention. For this reason, cell phone use or texting while driving should 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!

The National Safety Council also has a series of short videos that answer common questions about cell phone use and driving. I selected some that can be found on [RASI SAFETYTV](#). Washington L&I also has some information available [here](#). The [SAFEME app](#) has a module on Distracted Driving that can be used as a great refresher course!

The second item is: **Hazard Communications Review** - Some of you work with chemicals on a daily basis and with the change to a Globally Harmonized System (GHS/SDS), we thought it would also be a good time to review your current Hazard Communications Plan to reflect those changes, as well as reviewing to see if all the parts are still relevant to your operation. This plan should also be a subset of your Accident Prevention Plan. The RASI Safety Library has a [template](#) that you can work from. And you always have me here to help with that as well.

L&I states that it is OK to have an electronic versions of the safety data sheets, instead of binders, but they must be easily accessible to all employees in any format. Check with your suppliers to make sure you have the latest disc(s) on hand, which could act as a backup if your internet access gets interrupted.



Final item is: **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 [RASI 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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