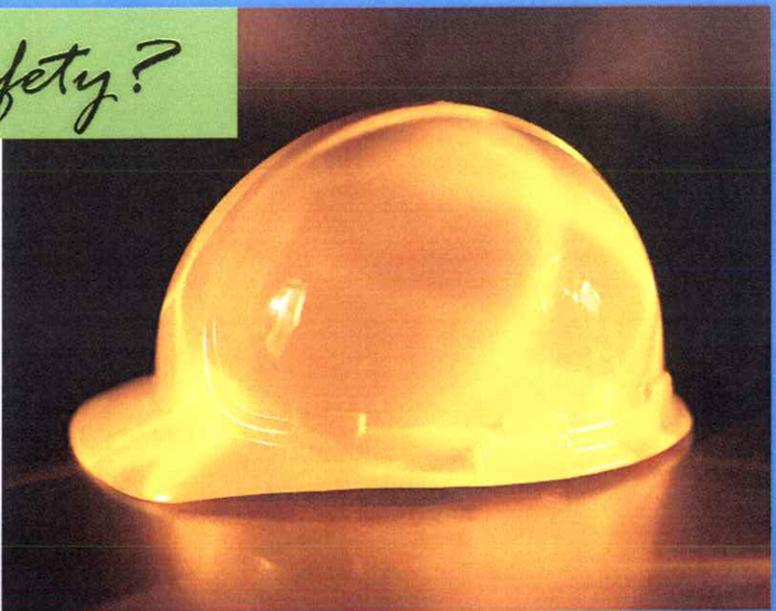


Committed to Safety?

Is your company safety culture influenced from the top down?

Tell us about it!

Your company could become the . . .



2012 Leadership that 'Gets It'!

Company Williams County

BWC Policy Number: 38600001-0

Local Senior Leadership Contact/Title Lewis Hilkert, President

Williams County Commissioners; wcc@wnsco.org

Submitted By: Robin Kemp

Please define "Examples of the Leadership Influence on Safety" within your organization: *(include any, or all, of the following topics)*

- Description of the "safety culture" in your organization
- Safety Evaluation Metrics (measurable safety results)
- Regularly scheduled safety discussion groups
- Incident investigation procedures
- Safety Indicators on Management Performance Appraisals
- If applicable, is safety a highlight in your annual report . . . core values . . . mission statement . . . business plan . . . strategic vision . . . etc.
- Is safety communicated beyond the workplace in your everyday life
- Give a prime example of all levels of management "embracing safety"

**Submit by
March 23,
2012**

Winner to be
announced at the
April Awards
Banquet

**Grand
Prize
\$1000**



Return to: Sandie Markley-Dick,
Black Swamp Safety Council
22600 St. Rt. 34
Archbold, OH 43502
Fx: 419.267.5588

or via email to sandie.dick@northweststate.edu

WILLIAMS COUNTY, OHIO
COMMITTED TO SAFETY

Williams County, Ohio recognizes that safety is an important and necessary issue for the employees of the county.

The Williams County Commissioners wholly support the efforts of its employees in its efforts to promote health and safety. The Commissioners encourage their department heads, elected officials and their staff to participate in training, seminars and workshops that cover many safety topics. The employees can then, in turn, pass that knowledge on to other county employees in an effort to promote and encourage overall safety in the workplace. Without leaders dedicated to the health and safety of their employees, none of the efforts of various committees and employees would be fruitful.

A Health and Safety Committee has been established by the Commissioners which is comprised of employees of many, if not all, of the departments in the county. The members of this committee are dedicated to doing everything in their power to ensure the safety of the employees of the county. Meetings are held monthly and topics of discussion include: safety trainings, an overview of accidents/incidents that occurred during the prior month, a review of BWC claims, etc. Recently, the committee updated its Safety Manual. A representative of the Bureau of Workers' Compensation came in to review the policies and direct the committee in utilizing polices that best serve the safety needs of the county employees. The Safety Manual includes the County's Mission Statement as it relates to safety and health. That Mission Statement is as follows:

“The Safety Committee shall promote occupational safety and health in all areas of the county for the benefit of all county employees and visitors. Our purpose shall be accomplished by reviewing, evaluating and promoting awareness on pertinent health and safety policies and practices. We are dedicated to providing safety and health education and training to all county employees.”

The committee is also dedicated to preserving the health and well being of the county employees. The Commissioners and the committee members are of the firm belief that health and wellness play an enormous part in safety within the county. Statistics have shown that employees who are healthier have a lower rate of accidents and injuries. The committee holds an annual health fair for county employees with the full approval and cooperation of the Commissioners. The county also has implemented an annual wellness challenge and encourages all county employees to participate.

The county has in place a Loss Control Coordinator (LCC) who oversees the safety of the county employees and tracks the number of incidents/accidents and BWC claims on a monthly basis. All accidents or incidents are reported to the LCC, whether they are “near misses”, first aid only, or result in BWC claims. The accident/incident reports include a statement by the employee involved, any witness statements, how the injury, if any, was treated, contributing factors, and most importantly, how the incident/injury can be avoided in the future. This allows

the LCC to track the number of occurrences, how many BWC claims are filed, whether the accidents/incidents were avoidable and very importantly, to gain an understanding of how the accidents/injuries may have been avoided. The LCC can, in turn, pass this information on to the Safety Committee who may then recommend specific training sessions for the employees in an effort to cut down on the number of incidents/injuries.

The Health and Safety Committee believes that by encouraging safety and providing trainings, the end result will be a decrease in the number of accidents/incidents/injuries. A review of the accident/incident report information for the years 2009 to 2011 shows a downward trend in the number of incidents/accidents for each year. The year 2012 has started out great with only 5 accidents/incidents reported to date. The average number of accidents/incidents reported for the same time period for 2009-2011 is 16.3.

The Health and Safety Committee has established a page on the county website which includes a copy of the Safety Manual, topics relating to weather safety, and other safety matters, meeting agendas, minutes, question of the month, and other related topics. This information is not only helpful in the workplace, but also includes information that can be passed on to other individuals outside of their employment environment.

The Commissioners firmly believe that by encouraging participation in the Health and Safety Committee and providing a variety of safety training for their employees, not only do the employees benefit, but the community and families benefit as well when information and training provided is passed on outside of the workplace.