

NEWMA Safety taskforce

January 16, 2024

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Minutes

Companies represented at today's meeting: Bassett Mechanical, Cherry Optical Mfg., CMD Corp, Crescent Electric, Cruisers Yachts, Diversified Woodcrafts, Eck Industries, Fabrication Excellence, Fosber America, Graetz Mfg., Hatco, Horseshoe Beverages, Kadant GranTek, LaForce, L.E. Jones, N.E.W. Plastics, Nicolet Plastics, Nueske Applewood Smoked Meats, Pieper Automation, Precision Paper Converters, Samuel Pressure Vessel Group, The Village Companies, Voith, VPI, Winona Foods, Acuity, ErgoSystems and Preempt Physical Therapy.

Topic 1: Introductions.

Mark Callow with Samuel Pressure Vessel Group welcomed everyone and shared that he along with Mike Winkler, his colleague at the company will co-chair the Safety taskforce.

Topic 2: Overview of the new collaboration.

The NEWMA Safety taskforce is a forum for individuals' responsible for safety are able to learn from one another and content experts. Future meetings will include a content expert, open forum to share/brainstorm a safety topic and possible plant tours at members companies.

Topic 3: Define our Charter, Mission, Vision and Values.

The taskforce reviewed the following charter, mission, vision and values and approved it:

The NEW Manufacturing Alliance's (NEWMA) Safety Taskforce: Empowering Excellence in Safety: Uniting Northeast Wisconsin's Manufacturing Community for a Safer Tomorrow"

Our vision for the NEWMA Safety Taskforce is to foster a collaborative environment where over 200 manufacturing companies come together with a shared commitment to prioritize and enhance safety standards across the region. Through collective expertise, innovation, and mutual support, we aim to establish a gold standard in safety practices, ensuring the well-being of our workforce and communities.

With a focus on proactive measures, continuous improvement, and knowledge sharing, our taskforce endeavors to create a culture of safety excellence. By leveraging the collective wisdom of industry leaders, implementing cutting-edge technologies, and facilitating comprehensive training programs, we aspire to eliminate workplace hazards, reduce accidents, and mitigate risks, thereby setting new benchmarks in safety performance.

Our goal is to become the cornerstone of safety innovation in the manufacturing sector, serving as a model for best practices not only within our region but also nationwide. We envision a future where every employee returns home safely, where companies thrive in a secure environment, and where our collective dedication to safety inspires others to join our cause.

Together, we are committed to championing a culture where safety is paramount, collaboration is key, and continuous improvement is the norm. Through our unified efforts, we will pave the way for a safer, healthier, and more prosperous Northeast Wisconsin.

Topic 4: Generate a list of preventative topics/activities that can be spotlighted at the next meeting.

- How to instill safety with new hires and temp staff
- How to get buy-in with leadership on safety
- Safety for power industrial vehicles
- Marijuana use that is now legal in other states
- Automation implementation and making it safe

- Safety uniformity for companies that have multiple locations
- Confine Space rescue safety
- Arc Flash audits and maintenance
- Laser welding safety
- Hearing protection
- Record keeping with the new 301A OSHA rule
- Topics for future meetings:
- Hard hats vs. helmets
- Preventable injuries, ie overextension,
- Ergonomics
- Behavioral based safety - helping employees understand the 'why'
- EMR – how to reduce insurance costs
- New technologies in safety
- OSHA new rules
- Helping employees understand why they are being watched

Topic 5: Do we have any VPP facilities participating with us?

No one identified their facility as being a VPP.

Topic 6: Open Forum.

A taskforce member asked for feedback on what companies are doing related to PPE related to shoes. They have had difficulty with temp staff having steel toed shoes. They have found offering slipcovers has been a good alternative for temp staff. The cost is significantly lower than providing steel toed shoes. There can be some safety hazards related to the shoes not fitting properly. Other companies offer a shoe allowance for their employees. A member shared that working with the staffing agency in confirming their employees have steel toed shoes is a possible solution.

Shoe inserts were discussed as well. Sara with Preempt Physical Therapy shared that there is not a significant improvement in purchasing high end inserts compared to the \$20-\$75 inserts. Another member shared that Fleet Feet offers inserts at approximately \$50.

Topic 7: Determine next meeting; location, day, and time.

The taskforce will meet once a month on the third Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 20th at NWTC.