

**NEW Manufacturing Alliance
SAFETY TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2025 | 8:30 AM | via MS Teams**

ATTENDEES: Rodney Biadasz-Nueske's Meats, Jenny Brown-Services Plus, Corey Evenson-Eck Industries, Ann Franz-NEWMA, Jody Graetz-Graetz Mfg., Stephanie Haines-Cherry Optical Lab, Mark Heindel-CMD Corp., Nick Heyrman-Winona Foods, Josh Iserloth-N.E.W. Plastics, Dan Jansen-Precision Paper Converters, Buckley Kain-Cruisers Boat, Alison Kostreva-Graetz Mfg., Stephanie Lee-USI, Gary Leick-EMT International, Erica Malzahn-BayCare Orthopedics, Vicente Marchan-Horseshoe Beverage Co., Corey Mullard-Miller Electric, Peter Nickel-Keynecta, Aaron Olson-SPVG, Mike Parins-Keynecta, Cord Semotink-Sargento, Debbie Thompson-NEWMA

SAFETY VIDEO UPDATE

Participating companies are ErgoFactor, Fosber America, Graetz Mfg., Keynecta, Marion Body Works, and Martor. Participants will meet in September to review their scripts. Filming will take place in October. The finalized video will debut in December.

BUMP CAPS

Sargento is looking at rolling out bump caps for their employees. Their procurement department provided Cord with three styles of caps to try. One of the caps is worn under a ball cap. Cord requested any feedback from Safety Task Force members who are using bump caps at their company. Members can contact Cord Semotink if they would like to share any additional information.

N.E.W. Plastics uses bump caps in all their facilities. The caps have drastically reduced injuries, per Josh Iserloth. There are considerations such as whether a plant is warm or manufacturers food, as well as sanitation and communication pieces. Bump caps need to be rolled out properly. Give employees the reasoning *why*. Provide options. Mark Heindel, of CMD Corp., shared that their preferred caps are the ones that can be inserted inside a ball cap.

Aaron Olson met with Cord after today's meeting and stated SPVG uses the following hard hat at their facility. These hard hats are one of the lightest on the market. They allow the user to add adapters so face shields can be used with them, etc. Fastenal provides the following items.



BEST SAFETY TIPS

Members shared some of their best safety tips.

- Be truthful when laying out a program if you know something is lacking or not complete. Being truthful helps get buy-in.
- Implement behavioral audits – a way to be open about things that are not safe. This helps employees know they can mention concerns, allowing them to be open and not intimidated to speak up.
- Talk about the *whys* of safety. Explain any new rules and how they will keep them safe. Employees need to know you care about them as people and don't want them to get injured.

- Block out time to meet with employees on the floor. Do walkthroughs to get a pulse of the plant.
- Give credit when credit is due. Acknowledge and thank employees.
- Get employees involved in safety issues. Their buy-in is needed to get change.
- When telling people what to do, give them the *why*.
- Take the time to inspect equipment and the work area before starting a job.
- Have employees facilitate monthly safety talks.

OPEN FORUM

PPC has implemented a cell phone policy, with progressive discipline for any violations. Dan Jansen asked for feedback from Safety Task Force members that have a company cell phone policy and its enforcement. Members are asked to contact Dan with any additional feedback.

Sargento employees must leave their cell phone in their lunch box or locker. They can check their phone during breaks. Phones can be used during work time if an employee has an emergency situation. These situations need to be communicated to the supervisor. Samuel Pressure Vessel Group welders / fabricators sometimes use phones to accomplish work tasks; otherwise, they can use their phones during breaks and lunches. Winona Foods employees are made aware of cell phone policies and can keep their phone in their pocket. If they have something happening that requires they excuse themselves to use their cell phone, they need to communicate that to their supervisor ahead of time. Company tablets are used for team calls.

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

- **September 18 to November 13** – Data Analytics Training – This marks the 12th cohort with over 600 members having already taken this highly rated training. – [REGISTER](#) for this free training.
- **September 30** - Virtual Lunch & Learn – Work Release – presented by Sergeant Joseph Bonnin, of Sanger B. Powers Correctional Center – Noon to 1:00 PM – [REGISTER](#) for this free event.
- **October Plant Tours** – NEWMA will sponsor student bussing for manufacturer plant tours.
- **October 2** – Kickoff to Manufacturing Month & Live Podcast at Schreiber Foods, 8:30 to 10:00 AM
- **October 28** – ACP Partnerships Meeting – at the Resch Expo – 3:00 PM
- **October 28** – Excellence Awards Dinner / Program - at the Resch Expo – [PURCHASE TICKETS](#)
- **October 29** – Manufacturing First Expo / Conference & Student Event – at the Resch Expo
- **November 5** – Internship Draft Day – at Lambeau Field
- **December 17** – Quarterly Full Membership Meeting – at FVTC

NEXT MEETING

The next Safety Task Force meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2025, 8:30 a.m., via MS Teams. Contact Ann with any desired topics or presenters.