



AN ASSOCIATION DELIVERING SMART CHOICES TO SMART EMPLOYERS

SMART Newsletter July 2009

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**PUGET SOUND
AREA
SAFETY SUMMIT**

Wednesday
August 12th, 2009
9am-Noon

Aerospace
Machinists' Hall
9125 15th PI S.
Seattle, WA 98108

Topic:
Ladder and Scaffold
Safety

PSASS
Steering Committee

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT -

Vendor Fair, SMART Anniversary – September 9, 2009

Vendors: Take advantage of a great opportunity for FREE publicity, networking, and marketing!

This year, the Annual Vendor Fair will team up with the SMART Association's 17-Year Anniversary and Safety Summit Awards! Mark your calendars for the 2009 Annual Vendor Fair to be held on Wednesday, September 9, from 9:00am to Noon, at the Aerospace Machinists Hall. This event is FREE to vendors and attendees and showcases a wide variety of safety products and services valuable to all industries. It is the best vendor fair of its kind in King County! Space is filling up quickly, so please [click here](#) for an application if you would like to reserve a booth. All applications must be received no later than August 19.

Vendor Fair Prizes

Best In Show

The Best In Show Contest is for vendors. Attendees will be scoring booths for quality, clarity, customer service, and product and services information. The companies that win or receive honorable mention will be featured as a Vendor Fair highlight in the October issue of the SMART Newsletter.

Passport Contest

Attendees have the opportunity to win the Vendor Fair's Passport Prize. Upon arrival, attendees will be given a Passport with all of the vendor names. They must visit each vendor booth and have their Passport stamped in order to be entered in a drawing for a prize. Vendors may have an activity like a quiz or a game that encourages attendee participation before giving a stamp. Many

Wed, August 12, 2009
6:30am
Emerald Green
Restaurant
13100 48th Ave South
Tukwila, WA 98168

Training Calendar

July

Thu, 07/09
CPR/First Aid
Certification: Lacey

Tue, 07/14
Violence in the Workplace

Wed, 07/15
Flagger's Certification:
Lacey

Thu, 07/16
Crane Rigging: Lacey

Thu, 07/16
Lead/Asbestos Awareness

Fri, 07/17
Crane Site Supervisor / Lift
Director: Lacey

Mon, 07/20
OSHA 30-Hour

Thu, 07/23
Safety Orientation for New
Hires

Tue, 07/28
CPR/First Aid Certification

Wed, 07/29
Excavation, Trenching, and
Confined Space: Lacey

August

Tue, 08/04
Heat-Related Illness Rule
"Train the Trainer"

Tue, 08/04

vendors will also be providing giveaways and prizes.

Vendors interested in obtaining a booth at the Vendor Fair should contact [Anne Laughlin](#) or call (206) 812-3824 or complete the online request by click on this link [VENDOR FAIR APP](#). We hope to see you there!

SMART Updates

Congratulations to Amazon.com, Advantage Retro Group

The SMART Association congratulates Amazon.com for achieving the best safety performance in the Advantage Retro Group in 2009!

Amazon.com ranked in the top quarter of 1 percent out of nearly 18,000 companies in the retail industry in Washington State. An accomplishment of this magnitude, particularly for such a large business with diverse services and high demands, is exceptional.

Headquartered in Seattle, Washington, Amazon.com employs thousands of individuals in Washington State, and more than 20,000 worldwide. Founded in 1994 as a books retailer, today Amazon ships millions of products including books, electronics, toys, movies and Kindles to tens of millions of customers worldwide.

Congratulations to A Team and Dream Team, Lowest Loss Ratio Awards

Recipients of the Lowest Loss Ratio award were recognized at last month's A Team and Dream Team meetings. The awards were given to the Dream Team and A Team retro group members with the lowest "loss ratio" for the most recently completed retro plan year (the 2005 plan year, 7/1/05-6/30/06).

Dream Team recipients were: TC Professional Services (0.003 Loss Ratio); RAFN Company (0.016 Loss Ratio); and Washington Group International (0.034 Loss Ratio).

A Team Winners in 10-Way Tie

The following A Team retro group participants received Lowest Loss Ratio awards for having achieved a Loss Ratio of 0.000 – meaning ZERO injuries during the 2005 plan year! The A Team winners are: (10-way tie for first, all with a Loss Ratio of 0.000!)

- Kassel Construction
- American Mechanical Corporation
- Lloyd A. Lynch General Contractors
- Arndt Company, Inc.
- Delhur Industries, Inc.
- Scholten Roofing, Inc.

[Personal Protective
Equipment - Train the
Trainer](#)

[Tue, 08/04
CPR/First Aid
Certification: Lacey](#)

[Wed, 08/05
Fall Protection](#)

[Thu, 08/06
Back Care and Safe Lifting
Methods](#)

[Tue, 08/11
Defensive Driving](#)

[Thu, 08/13
OSHA 10-Hour: Lacey](#)

[Thu, 08/13
Crane Rigging](#)

[Tue, 08/18
CPR/First Aid Certification](#)

[Thu, 08/20
Scaffold/Ladder - Train the
Trainer: Lacey](#)

[Wed, 08/26
Accident Response and
Investigation](#)

- Insulation Contractors, Inc.
- Ram Construction General Contractors
- Farrell McKenna Construction
- Port Orchard Sand & Gravel Company

Congratulations to these construction companies on their commitment to workplace safety!

[Click here](#) to see our photo gallery from these events!

Winners of 100 Best Companies to Work For 2009 – Congratulations SMART Members!

Please join us as we congratulate the following SMART retro group participants for winning Seattle Business Monthly's 100 Best Companies to Work For 2009 award!

SMART Advantage

MoneyTree, Inc.
Propel Insurance

SMART Dream Team

Hermanson Company, LLP
IMCO General Construction, Inc.
Jackson Dean Construction
University Mechanical Contractors, Inc.

The 100 Best Companies to Work For 2009 award was based on nearly 10,000 surveys of employees. The surveys asked employees to describe their work environments, focusing on qualities such as open communication, training and education, benefits, and opportunities for employee development. For the full story and for rankings, please click on the following link:

[Seattle Business Monthly's 100 Best Companies to Work For 2009](#)

Safety, Health & Welfare

Course Highlight: Excavation, Trenching, and Confined Space

Trench collapses cause dozens of fatalities and hundreds of injuries each year. OSHA requires that trenches be inspected daily and as conditions change, by a competent person prior to work entry to ensure elimination of excavation hazards. Procedures to assess trench hazards should be in place to help prevent worksite injuries.

On July 29, the SMART Association will offer Excavation, Trenching, and Confined Space at its Lacey Education Center. This course helps develop a competent person for your site and will cover trench hazard assessment, various protection systems, access and egress, slope requirements, soil types, and more. Please [click](#)

[here](#) to register.

August Summit to Highlight Ladder and Scaffold Safety

The Puget Sound Area Safety Summit will highlight ladder and scaffold safety in August. The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), in conjunction with the NAHB Research Center, has developed a 2 ½ -hour seminar for builders, trade contractors, supervisors and workers. This training program focuses on identifying scaffold and ladder hazards in residential construction, as well as, providing student attendees an understanding of the OSHA scaffold and ladder regulations and safe work practices to prevent fall-related injuries and deaths.

Special emphasis is placed on common fall hazards associated with using scaffolds and ladders, how to safely build, use, and dismantle scaffolds, proper scaffold fall protection including guardrails and personal fall arrest systems (PFAS), falling object protection, how to access scaffolds safely, competent person requirement, scaffold inspection, prevalence of job built scaffolds and their hazards, how to choose the right ladder, how to properly set-up and use extension and step ladders, how to secure ladders, and prevalence of job built ladders and their hazards. This training program was funded under a grant from the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

The target audience for this safety training seminar is small to medium size builders, remodelers, and trade contractors in the residential construction industry. The class is offered in English and Spanish.

SMART Scaffold/Ladder Training at Lacey Education Center

The SMART Association's regular Scaffold /Ladder Train the Trainer course will be offered August 20, 2009, 9am-12pm, at the SMART Education Center in Lacey. This course ensures that your company's supervisors and operators are up to date with the latest training on the following topics:

- Safe ladder placement and use
- Proper ladder set up
- Inspecting ladders for defects
- Safe erection and use of scaffolds
- General requirements for all scaffolds
- Scaffold capacity
- Criteria for supported scaffolds
- Mobile scaffold requirements

Each participant will receive a CD with a PowerPoint training presentation, ladder and scaffold inspection checklists and pictures

of common unsafe ladder/scaffold practices. Space is limited so please [register now](#) to receive comprehensive training tools that will help eliminate ladder/scaffold hazards!

OSHA Region X Summer Newsletter to Highlight SMART PPE

The summer edition of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Region X ESL and Hispanic Newsletter will feature information about the SMART Association's training, [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\), It's Personal!](#) This free, one-hour training was developed by SMART to address the challenge of communicating the proper use of PPE to a Spanish-speaking workforce in the construction industry. It emphasizes personal accountability and the message that safety is personal – it affects your family, your community, and your employer.

Please contact Anne Laughlin, SMART Administrator, to register for the next *Personal Protective Equipment, It's Personal!* training on August 4 at the SMART Education Center in Seattle. The training may also be provided free of charge at your worksite. All attendees receive PPE giveaways and each company will receive a disk version of the power point presentation that includes a bilingual voiceover. Each company will also receive a laminated copy of the presentation that can be used for tool box talks in the field. This training is well-attended so please do not hesitate to [register](#) or to [schedule](#) an on-site training for your workforce.

In Our Safety Community

This is How We Do Business

Tough economic times add risk to the construction industry. When the focus turns solely to production, safety can suffer.

At RAM Construction, a Bellingham-based company of about forty employees doing commercial, heavy civil, and site development, the motto is “Be Safe... Work Hard... Have Fun...”

RAM Construction was one of ten A-Team Retro Group employers that received Loss Ratio Awards for having zero injuries and accidents in the 2005 Plan Year. Owner and president, Mike Hammes, accepted the award at the A Team meeting last month.

“Safety is not just a three-ring binder sitting on a shelf,” Hammes told the group. “It is a commitment that runs deeper than just checking a box. Safety is a culture that starts at the top and everyone buys into it.”

Hammes worked as a professional firefighter for eight years. He has seen the ugly side of industrial accidents and is not timid about sharing his experience with his workforce. RAM Construction

employees know that neglecting safety leads to job termination.

Each year, company employees come off-line for as much as one week in order to take company-wide training. It is a fully paid work week. The company invests in expensive safety equipment, knowing the benefits of keeping a workforce safe.

“Owners have to buy into safety, they have to believe it and make it part of their corporate culture. You have to let your workforce know you don’t sacrifice safety at any time,” stated Hammes. “Your employees will know if you don’t buy into it 100 percent. They watch you make tough decisions and respect you when you follow through on your commitment to safety.”

Company leadership plays a critical role in maintaining a successful safety record. Workers appreciate an employer that stands behind a safety plan with the intent to send workers home safely at the end of the day. Please join us once more in congratulating RAM Construction and the other Loss Ratio Award recipients of the A Team Retro Group.

Mike Hammes accepts award on behalf of RAM Construction



For more information about the Puget Sound Area Safety Summit or about the contents of this newsletter, please contact [Anne Laughlin](#), SMART Administrator, or call 206.812.3824.