



DIRECTOR OF SAFETY SERVICES MESSAGE

Safety Roundtables - A Great Opportunity to Share Resources and Learning Experiences

Joe Whiteman, Director of Safety Services

If you have not heard ASCC has been holding monthly safety roundtable discussions every third Wednesday at 2:00 pm CDT via Zoom. Like the roundtables at ASCC in-person conferences, attendees discuss a pre-announced topic with a moderator who has a handful of questions to kick off the conversation.

These are not PowerPoint presentations or lectures. I merely plant a few seeds to get the discussion on its feet; the participants and contributors are the stars of the show. That is where the value and benefit come from these roundtables. Think about the accumulated experience that is part of a discussion. It may be a dedicated safety professional or a seasoned contractor who's worked his or her way through several titles – all sharing valuable experiences and insight.

I want to continue to encourage all previous and new participants to actively engage. Please share your thoughts, experiences, and insights on the topic; sharing your experiences may end up being a lifesaving bit of knowledge to another participant. That is how we collectively learn and grow.

Often, after the call, I am connecting members via email or phone to network further. I also use discussion points as a tool to be of better service for members or identify areas the Safety and Risk Management Council (SRMC) can use to develop new tools or resources.

Whether it be safety related, production, or quality, we are here to help our members. The monthly Safety Roundtable is another valuable tool for you to utilize, share, network, and learn. If you would like to join the monthly roundtable calls email me at jwhiteman@asconline.org.



THE LATEST

In-Person Professional Development on the Horizon

Joe Whiteman, Director of Safety Services

With most states “opening” back up and a somewhat return to normal, I’m happy to see the opportunities that safety professionals have for development, training, and continuing education return to an in-person format. As much as I love the virtual platform, and have come to realize its value and advantages, there is something to be said about learning via face-to-face interaction with your peers.

Another aspect I look forward to is the motivation and reenergization I feel after attending a well-delivered professional development conference. There’s something about the learning

environment while amongst your peers that sparks a sense of drive within me. Another benefit is that they are an excellent way to accumulate continuing education units (CEUs) that safety professionals must accrue to meet recertification requirements. This can be done virtually as well, but I admit, motivation and time seem to drag compared to the in-person environment.

There are two conferences I am most looking forward to. First up the American Society of Safety Professionals "Safety 2021," September 13-16 in Austin, TX. This conference and exposition is spread over a week and guaranteed to have topics relevant to your needs and challenges. The second is the NSC Safety Congress and Expo in Orlando, FL, October 8-10, and again 11-13, held by the National Safety Council (NSC). What I look forward to most is the exhibit hall where vendors show off the latest and greatest in new technology and equipment.

Lastly, I would like to mention an opportunity to network and learn, coming November 12 in Houston, the ASCC/TCA Safety Summit. This is a new, one-day event to engage with peers, share new methods, breaking technologies, and solutions to challenges. I look forward to bumping elbows with familiar faces and finally putting faces to those black boxes we see on Zoom. Regardless of what route you choose for professional development, the benefit of these excellent learning opportunities goes beyond just you. It influences the company, the workers you represent and the industry as a whole to provide a safe and healthy work environment for all.



WHAT'S WORKING

Find It-Fix It ***Mark Hoffman, Rudolph Libbe, Inc.***

At Rudolph Libbe Inc., safety excellence is a core value, and our highly successful Find It-Fix It program is a key component of our safety approach. Find It-Fix It means every worker and subcontractor identifies, eliminates and/or reports unsafe conditions and behaviors immediately – before they lead to incidents.

Thousands of potential hazards, large and small, are eliminated each year on our jobsites and in our offices through Find It-Fix It, which leverages associates' experience, expertise and personal commitment.

All field and office workers, as well as subcontractor employees, are encouraged to participate in Find It-Fix It, one of the ways workers demonstrate active engagement in achieving safety excellence.

Examples of Find It-Fix Its include:

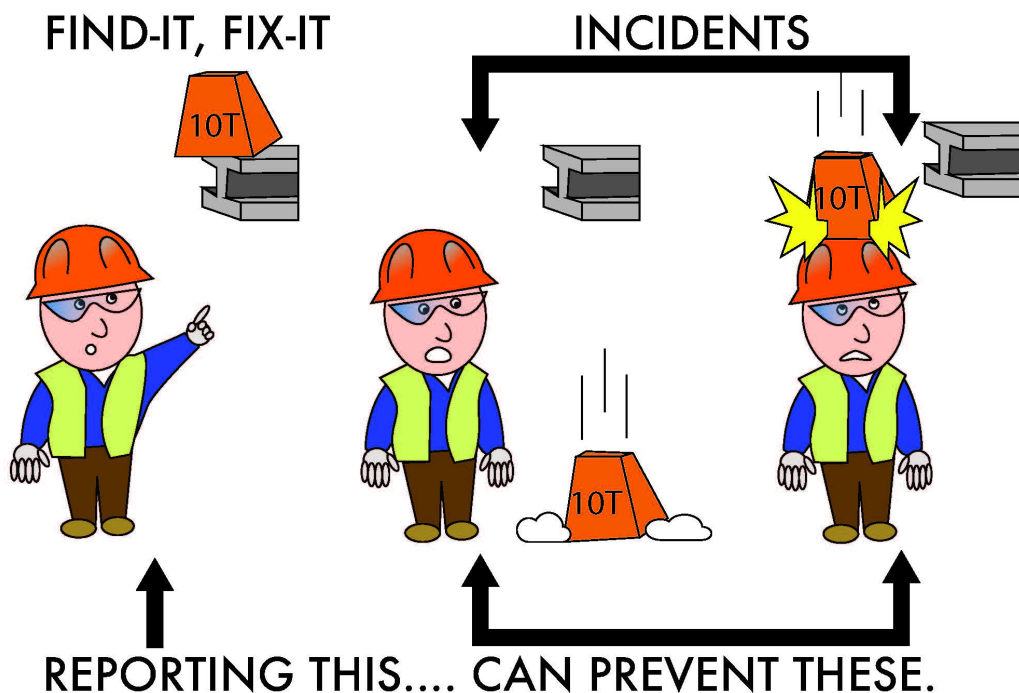
- Debris in walkway
- Damaged tools/equipment
- Unsecured ladder
- Discharged fire extinguisher
- Worker not wearing required PPE
- Worker performing a task in an unsafe manner
- Burned out light bulb
- Sticking door
- Warning light/backup alarm not working
- Improper material storage
- Ideas for improvement or a new tool

When workers identify or "find" a hazard, they are expected to eliminate the hazard immediately themselves; if possible, by stopping work and removing/protecting the hazardous condition. If the hazard is an unsafe behavior, they are encouraged to stop work, talk to their colleagues, and help find a safer way to perform the task. If the workers cannot correct a hazard themselves they must report the hazard to their supervisor immediately.

Achieving safety excellence is a 24/7/365 initiative. Workers also complete Find It-Fix Its for hazards identified outside of work, such as attaching corner guards to protect small children from sharp table edges, or telling a neighbor to call 811 before starting to dig in his yard.

Workers document the Find It-Fix It on the company safety app or submit a completed Find It-Fix It form to their supervisor, listing the hazards found and how they eliminated or “fixed” them. The findings are reviewed by Rudolph Libbe Inc.’s Safety Committee and safety department to identify opportunities for improvement, and include a monthly published summary. Monthly and annual “best finds” are selected by a group of field and office workers for recognition. A worker’s first submission each month is recognized with a gift card.

“Find It-Fix Its are key to achieving safety excellence,” says Mark Hoffman, health and safety director of Rudolph Libbe Inc. “When we have 500 Find It-Fix Its submitted, we didn’t necessarily prevent 500 incidents – but we did eliminate the potential for 500 incidents to occur. When we eliminate a hazard, it’s very difficult for an incident to occur.”



SAFETY RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT

Effective Pre-Task Planning - JHAs

Aron Csont, Barton Malow

Council Director, Safety & Risk Management Council

ASCC and the Safety and Risk Management Council (SRMC) are committed to making the concrete construction industry safer. To be the safest contractors, we need to start with Pre-Task Planning. Why is effective Pre-task Planning more than a safety tool? SAFE WORK and PRODUCTION are in a reciprocal relationship. You need both to be SUCCESSFUL!! Planned work is safe work in most cases because:

- Hazards are looked at, planned for, and controlled.
- Proper installation sequences are planned and scheduled.
- Coordination between conflicting scopes of work can be settled before multiple crews try to work (unsafely) in the same area.

- Proper equipment is on hand or rented.
- Tasks are given to workers trained and best suited for the assignment.
- Sometimes the plan needs to be changed to accommodate the lack of equipment or trained personnel. This is the curveball we struggle with day after day.
Example: Your foreman asks you to complete a task you don't have the tools for. You have two choices, complete the task unsafely with the wrong tools, or, let the foreman know so the proper tool can be procured. Which worker are you?
- Unplanned work leads to the ultimate failure, being caught with your pants down. Being behind the 8 ball leads to corner-cutting and step-skipping; the root cause for many incidents!

The most effective pre-task plan is one filled out by one person, with each person on the crew contributing to the conversation.

- If you know of a hazard missed by the person conducting the pre-task planning meeting, bring it up.
- Knowledge is POWER and the more we know, the safer the work in the field can be completed.
- You owe it to your fellow workers and their families.

Time is always against us, so completing the pre-task plan for the next day gives you the best chance to have the right tools, personnel, planning and coordination to safely complete your tasks. [Please visit the ASCC website for more information on the Job Hazard Analysis samples and templates.](#) If you do not find what you are looking for, please reach out to the SRMC and we will help you develop a specific task plan.



Tommy Ruttura, Ruttura & Sons Const. Co., Inc.

I had been trying to run the small family business in 1971 with four employees and about \$400,000 in revenues. I learned quickly I knew nothing much about the people or the contracting business; I was a sailor.

I thought how do I learn; I attended as many ACI, PCA, ASCC functions as I could. (I learned a lot at the World of Concrete, the technical side of the business, but more important the people side of the business.)

My brother Peter and I learned it would always be about the people; talent, talent, talent. I once heard John Calipari say that when asked how he won so much.

At a meeting I heard Peter Emmons talk about a bridge that had collapsed in Florida. I thought, he is going to explain why. But he didn't. He talked about how his firm had lost a life. His thoughts, his words struck a chord in me that morning, Peter and I had lost an employee with a head injury many years before. If, as Peter stated, their head protection had stayed on, they may have had a chance to be with us today. Peter Emmons and I don't agree on everything, but I know he is committed to our industry, but more to his people.

After attending a seminar at our Annual Conference by the Hard Hats to Helmets Task Group I was convinced. We returned home and began with ordering helmets with the face and eye protection. We didn't think about the cost, heck the government was paying half. You see if I can expense something to help our people, why give it to those in Washington to waste.

I've heard all kinds of reasons of why not. Some of us think there's pride in the mens' hard hats. Try telling that at a man's funeral to his children and wife. Or, "Don't tell me what to do, I'll make my own decisions." Okay, then do it your way for your people. The cost? Well the cost of one life can't have a price tag.

I'll roll it out slowly.

Leadership is vision, it's responsibility for those in your charge. While working on the flight deck for months, I was grateful that the Navy way back then saw to it that I wore a helmet with eye protection; it was the standard, it was expected. Did the Navy believe in me? You bet they did.

Your people will figure these things out, they will protect themselves from the sun with brims and bandanas to help the neck.

This helmet stuff it's really good stuff. You would wear one biking or skiing; why not at work?

Change isn't so hard, it's really worthwhile.



HOTLINE SPOTLIGHT

Question:

We will be performing work for a large client using a document vetting company that reviews a company's scope of work and ensures they have the proper written programs and safety policies in place. We are missing a few required policies. Does ASCC help with that?

Answer:

Yes, we can. First, I recommend you compare your scope to what the vetting company is requesting to ensure that in fact you will be performing the specific work requiring the safety documentation. If what they are asking for does not apply to your scope, there is typically an option for you to note that and provide information to opt out of having to fulfill that requirement. The ASCC Safety Manual is a great resource for members to use as their written safety program or, use individual chapters to augment an existing program. Simply pick and choose the chapters you need, review, and incorporate company-specific information, and be sure to communicate to your employees. If there is anything else beyond what the ASCC Safety Manual offers, please feel free to reach out to me at jwhiteman@ascconline.org.



EVENTS

ASCC Safety Roundtables

August 18, 3-4 pm CDT

Safety Training: Virtual, In House or Third Party - What Is Working For You?

September 15, 3-4 pm CDT

Mental Health: What Are You Doing For Your Employees?

October 20, 3-4 pm CDT

Medical Case Management

[Register](#)

Safety Summit

November 12, 2021

Houston, TX

[Agenda](#)

[Register](#)
[Sponsor](#)



BOOKSTORE

Concrete Finishing Training Program

Produced by the ASCC Education & Training Committee, this video provides finishers basic instruction in both hand and machine finishing slabs-on-ground and suspended slabs. Divided into chapters for easy start and stop: Safety, Concrete Properties, Types of Finishes, Finishing Processes, Equipment, Joints and Troubleshooting. Shot on working concrete job sites. [Purchase in our bookstore.](#)


Safety Products & Services



ASCC Safety & Insurance Hotline

 asconline.org

 srmchotline@asconline.org

 833-281-9602



American Society of Concrete Contractors
2025 S Brentwood Blvd, Ste. 105, St. Louis, MO
Phone: 314-962-0210