

## Safety News

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### Safety As a Way of Life



It becomes second nature to be aware of hazards for anyone who's been in the safety profession for any length of time. After time it becomes an awareness that you can't turn off, and this is how it should be. Ideally this awareness spreads throughout the organization through training, communication, and management demonstrating an absolute commitment to safety.

A few months ago I was visiting a friend and happened to look out the window at the house being built across the street. The owner was standing on a 2x4 that went out a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor framed window to the chimney where he was messing around with the flashing. He was bending over, yanking on something, not tied off and no one else was there. I wanted to run over there and ask if he was crazy, and I would have if I had thought there was any chance it would change his behavior.

Last week I came across the receptionist shoving letters into the mail machine with her wrist at an awkward angle. I had her stop and we talked for a minute about repetitive motion injuries and we came up with a better way to do what she was doing. She thought I was nuts but humored me anyway.

What I know for sure is that safety isn't something that can be turned off and on. The awareness doesn't go away just because you've left work for the day. I love to see people mowing the grass with their safety glasses on. It makes my day!

Certainly awareness of safe practices does not make one immune to accidents or injury, but fostering this type of continual awareness in all of our people is the first step towards an injury free environment. Actually believing it is possible to be injury free is step two.

## Six Columbia Chapter Members Serving on National Task Forces in 2009

The success of SMACNA as an association depends on the voluntary support and participation of its members in the development of industry standards, training, management programs, government affairs and other services.

The following is a list of members of the Columbia Chapter currently helping our industry through serving on SMACNA's national task forces, boards and committees in 2009.

### **Change Order Task Force**

Tom Goodhue - SMACNA Columbia Chapter

### **Webinar Task Force**

Steve Streimer – Streimer Sheet Metal

### **HVAC Systems Application Task Force - Chair**

Doug Ahlberg – Arctic Sheet Metal

### **Legislative Committee**

Carol Duncan – General Sheet Metal

### **NEMI/NEMIC Life Safety System Verification and Validation Task Force**

Jon Bloker – Streimer Sheet Metal

### **SFUA Article X Management Panel**

Tom Goodhue - SMACNA Columbia Chapter

### **SMACPAC Committee - Chair**

Carol Duncan - General Sheet Metal

### **SMACNA Testing & Research Institute Board of Directors - Chair**

Fred Streimer - Streimer Sheet Metal

### **Technical Resources Committee**

Doug Ahlberg – Arctic Sheet Metal