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www.esafetyline.com/eei

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MANUFACTURER'S REPORT



Develop a "Wellness Culture"

submitted by Karen Seal, Vice President,
Professional Health Services, Inc.

The way we think about health care has undergone a subtle shift over the past decade or so, from an emphasis on treating illnesses, to early detection, to a full-fledged focus on wellness.

Employers have taken note and made a shift, too — because they've found that when they promote a wellness culture in the workplace and develop wellness programs for their employees, they see several benefits:

- reduced absenteeism
- reduced presenteeism (when employees come to work rather than call in sick, but aren't all there)
- improved productivity
- improved employee loyalty
- improved teamwork within the company

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Wellness 101

What exactly goes into creating an effective workplace wellness program? Typically, the best programs begin with an analysis of your staff members' current health. Office workers will usually have different health concerns than factory workers or firefighters, for example.

An effective wellness program addresses trends and health risks among your staff (such as smoking, stress or a sedentary lifestyle) as well as individual concerns. Then, employees are educated about interventions and incentives to change unhealthy behaviors and build better habits.

Culture shift

Now for the tough part: Really making an impact on your employees' health — and seeing all the benefits of a wellness program — takes more than just a few anti-smoking or pro-exercise posters plastered in the break room. Moving from a “sickness culture” to a “wellness culture” in your workplace might include incentives such as:

- an “attendance bonus” for employees who minimize their sick days
- reimbursement for successful completion of smoking-cessation programs or weight-loss programs that employees undertake on their own
- corporate memberships at health clubs that allow all employees to work out regularly

And, of course, all of these approaches work well in conjunction with onsite wellness programs that target your team's specific health concerns — from heart health to stress management to ergonomics.

Wellness: We're all in it together

A big part of the shift to a wellness culture is recognizing — and having employees recognize — that their wellness is their own responsibility and fostering a proactive approach to health.

But there are also major incentives for employers to take a bigger part in helping their staff stay fit, healthy and out of the doctor's office. Finding the right partner to help you design fitness, health and other wellness programs that won't fizzle out after a few weeks is key when it comes to creating a corporate wellness culture that's actually sustainable.

PHS is here to help

Like an exercise buddy who wakes you every morning at 5:00 a.m., PHS helps you and your employees stay on track with initial health screenings and targeted wellness programs that work!

www.phsmobile.com

Important Dates to Remember



Fall 2010

Occupational Safety & Health Committee Conference

September 26-29, 2010

**Rosen Plaza Hotel
9700 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32819-8114**

Decrease Eye Injuries with SVS Vision

submitted by SVS Vision

According to the Prevent Blindness organization, there are nearly 700,000 work related eye injuries each year and 90% of those could be prevented with the use of OSHA approved safety eyewear.

SVS Vision is dedicated to reducing those injuries and can take the hassle out of administering and supplying your Company with an OSHA approved Safety Eyewear program. SVS provides:

A cost effective safety eyewear administration and fulfillment program.

- Our Member Services team tracks and verifies your employee eligibility, provides authorization, and completes billing, saving you time and paperwork.
- Our in-house lab manufactures OSHA approved safety eyewear meeting and exceeding ANSI standards. Because we own our manufacturing lab and service hundreds of businesses, we are able to control costs and offer the most cost effective safety program in the nation.
- Customizable, comprehensive safety eyewear solutions for your organization - whether you employ 5 or thousands, SVS can service your needs.
- The largest safety eyewear provider network in the nation is available to you. Centered around more than 50 SVS owned locations, our nationwide provider network can be customized for any group's needs.
- A dedicated service representative is assigned to service your group. Our representatives understand the "ins and outs" of your safety plan and member requirements and will work with you ensure great customer service.

SVS Vision is a veteran owned American company, providing administration and manufacturing of safety eyewear for over 35 years.

Contact Deb Malbin at 800-656-6135 or visit us on the web at www.svsvision.com.

Are regular eye exams important?

Yes! In addition to ensuring you see your best, here are some conditions regularly detected during a routine eye exam:

High Blood Pressure

30% of patients are diagnosed during a routine eye exam. Cataracts 40% of individuals between 52 and 64 are affected.

Glaucoma

3 million Americans over age 40 are affected.

Diabetic Retinopathy

7 million are affected in the US.

Macular Degeneration

The leading cause of blindness for Americans over age 60.

Did you know?

The working blood vessels of your own body can be directly viewed by your eye doctor during the eye exam. This allows early detection of diseases such as early diabetes and high blood pressure. Because an eye exam is painless and shameless, more people see their optometrist annually than those who have annual physicals. As a result, it is not at all uncommon for patients to have these diseases detected during their eye exam, and often before they have any symptoms whatsoever. Early detection and treatment can prevent blindness and other serious health issues as well as save on medical claims.

Thank You...

Dear Sponsors,

I wanted to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your support. I was impressed with the number of manufacturers who signed on for sponsorship prior to our Spring meeting in New Orleans. There was a record number of 13 manufacturers who stepped up to the plate. I am also pleased to see the content submitted for this issue of the Manufacturers Report as well as the other issues.

The information you share with the membership through your participation in the conference, articles in Manufacturers Reports and the eSafetyLine website is of great value. It demonstrates a loyalty toward helping EEI promote safe workplaces. The partnership contributes to our mutual success.

Again, thank you all and I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting in Orlando, Florida in the Fall.

Best regards,

Charles J. Kelly, SPHR, CUSA
Director, Industry Human Resource Issues
Edison Electric Institute

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