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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- **100% Fall Protection for Transmission Tower Climbers, cover - pg. 2**
- **Welcome High Zone Safety as new Bronze Sponsor, pg. 2**
- **Safety in the Workplace: Be Rigorous, Not Ruthless, pg. 2-3**

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MANUFACTURER'S REPORT

100% Fall Protection for Transmission Tower Climbers

High Zone Safety's Vertical Climb System Makes It Simple

www.highzonesafety.com

No one expects their house to burn down. No one plans to have a car accident. Transmission tower climbers do not plan to fall while climbing. Yet we continue to buy home insurance and automobile collision insurance to protect those investments. Then why not invest in fall protection for transmission tower climbers.

One of the most dangerous jobs in the United States is tower climbing. With the anticipated rebuilding and expansion of the transmission grid and the addition of cell antennas to the current transmission towers, more climbing of towers will be required over the next decade. This means additional new climbers will be entering the work force. These inexperienced workers will put a strain on both training and compliance requirements. In addition their inexperience will certainly put them more at risk for injuries and falls.

In the past, fall protection on transmission towers meant that climbers needed to slowly go hand over hand with double legged lanyards. This method required the climbers to determine a location to hook the lanyard that was safe on complex structures, use the proper hook (not too big or small), anticipate fall clearances, and make sure that they did not climb higher than the lanyard equal to waist height. It is no wonder that it was hard to convince seasoned climbers that 100% Fall Protection would make them safer.

Now with the High Zone Safety Vertical Climb System, those issues are no longer a factor in providing fall protection for transmission tower climbers. Four design requirements were followed in developing the High Zone Safety Vertical Climb System to protect transmission tower climbers:

- Make it **as close to free climbing as possible**
- Make it **safe**
- Make it **easy to install**
- Make it **last**

continued on page 2



Continued from cover

This cable based system allows the climber to safely hook up their chest high cable grab on the ground then climb and descend fully protected. Should the climber slip or fall the cable grab immediately arrests and cushions their fall meeting and exceeding the OSHA and ANSI requirements.

Built to last the system is guaranteed for a minimum of 20 years. This is possible because the system was designed and tested to strict standards using long lasting materials.

Easy to install, the High Zone Safety Vertical Climb System comes in kits specific to the towers, uses minimal parts and attaches to the existing tower step bolts or angle iron.

For a demonstration of this 100% Fall Protection System, contact High Zone Safety at (952) 406-1787 or email us at info@highzonesafety.com.

We would like to welcome HighZone Safety LLC as a new Bronze Sponsor.

HighZone Safety's underlying philosophy is to work with clients to provide safe, quality solutions to difficult height access problems.

They recognize that the problems you are trying to solve are individual to you and there may not be an off-the shelf solution, but they take pride in working with your engineers and safety specialists to provide a safe and cost-effective solution.

By using their innovative design solutions and state of the art manufacturing processes and methods they ensure that optimum solutions are devised.

To discuss solutions to your height safety problems please check them out.

Safety in the Workplace: Be Rigorous, Not Ruthless

by Carl and Deb Potter

You may have read the book, *Good to Great*, by Jim Collins. In his book he explains how many companies thought being good is... well, "good enough." In these times of constant change and global competition, it is important to always look for improvement -- especially when it comes to safety. Who wants to settle for "good enough" safety? In most cases, good means the company is willing to settle for an injury. "Good enough" safety means setting safety goals based on lagging indicators. (An example is to reduce lost time injuries by 10 %.) Great safety means setting a rigorous goal of zero injuries. According to Collins, you want to be rigorous and not ruthless when growing your company. This same concept should also apply to safety in the workplace.

Is Your Safety Process Rigorous or Just Plain Ruthless?

A company that practices ruthless safety could be characterized as one that tends to punish employees by verbally beating them over the head with the safety manual for getting hurt on the job. Don't read this wrong...every company must have a disciplinary policy to get the attention of employees who don't understand the consequences of unsafe behavior. But to truly change behavior, frontline leaders must always clearly identify the behavior required to prevent injuries. After all, the goal is "Nobody Gets Hurt."

On the other hand, a company that uses rigorous safety could be characterized by having clearly defined behaviors that workers are held accountable for. These safe behaviors prevent known hazards from injuring them. If a worker continually proves that he

or she has no intention of behaving safely, then disciplinary action must be taken. Rigorous safety means that leadership has the best interest of the employee at heart.

5 Factors for Rigorous Safety Leadership

Leading employees to behave safely on the job is not an easy task. During our 15 years of experience of consulting with top executives on workplace safety, we have had many leaders tell us that if they had known leading employees to behave safely on the job was so hard to do, they might have turned down the position of supervisor, foreman, or lead. Yet, there is hope.

Leaders from the frontline can be effective by learning about dealing with these five human factors:

1. **Expectations:** Unspoken, unrecognized expectations in the workplace can lead to job frustration, substandard safety performance, decreased job safety commitment and even high turnover. Understand that most employees expect to have a workplace free of hazards. Workers have varying expectations when it comes to factors such as autonomy, work/life balance, career opportunities, stability, structure, and teamwork. The key is to learn what expectations the individuals in your organization have and then work with them to meet or, in some cases, adjust those expectations.

2. **Communication:** Being a superb safety communicator is difficult to accomplish. Think about the people to whom you communicate safety requirements on a daily basis. You will notice some are strong in certain communication skills, but weak in other skills. Learn everything you can about your communication style and how it affects others - what impact do you have? If you don't usually get a positive reaction from those around you, take a course in interpersonal skills.

3. **Innovation:** Change, whether anticipated or unanticipated, can be difficult. To innovate, grow, and improve a safety culture requires

individuals who are able to see the big picture. Accept that change is a part of life and learn to let go of the past and embrace and apply new techniques, technologies, and tools when appropriate.

4. **Organization:** Safety innovation cannot happen without teams of people dedicated to hitting the goal: A Zero-Injury Workplace. Leaders must be able to organize a team and motivate it towards the goal. Imagine everyone leading each other to the goal of a zero-injury workplace.

5. **Appreciation:** Great leaders accomplish great things. Great leaders appreciate the people who make things happen. Understanding how one reacts to certain situations as a leader is vital to being a successful leader.

Get Rigorous for a Bright Future

Becoming rigorous about safety is hard work, but it is rewarding. When a company and its leaders commit to improving their effectiveness with rigorous safety programs, employees are more motivated to behave safely so they can go home to their families every day without injury. After all, no matter what level you are in the company, the goal is "Nobody Gets Hurt." That's a goal everyone can live with.

Carl Potter, CSP, CMC and Deb Potter, PhD, CMC work with organizations that target a zero-injury workplace so everyone can go home to their families every day without injury. As advocates of a zero-injury workplace, they are speakers, authors, and consultants to industry.

For more information about their Simply Seamless Safety® Leadership Development Process, contact them at Potter and Associates International, Inc.: 800-259-6209 or www.SimplySeamlessSafety.com.