SAFE TEA TIME

Safety Rocket

by ***Ir. Shum Keng Yan***

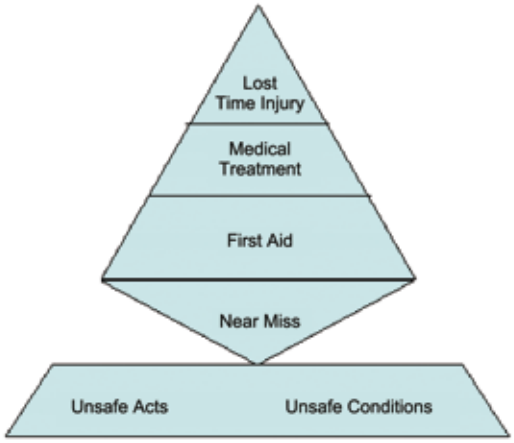
REMEMBER our Safety Triangle and Safety Kite? This is how it looks when you combine them. The Triangle and the Kite.

My personal point of view is that safety professionals sometimes devote far too much time and resources towards gathering data on near misses in the hope of getting the perfect triangle. What they should be doing is gathering data on HIGH OUTCOME near misses and not the "almost tripped while walking out the lobby" near misses (RED ZONE).

Thus we can save valuable time and focus on something more proactive. They are below near misses. These can be called unsafe conditions (substandard conditions) and unsafe acts (substandard acts).

The tools we commonly use are usually Workplace Inspections (for unsafe conditions) and Behavioural Observations for (unsafe acts). That is why inspections are important, they are proactive!! That is also why if you see an unsafe act you need to stop it immediately and communicate with the person on what should be the standard you expect. It is also far easier and faster to get meaningful data (and action) at this level.

In an increasingly tight manpower scenario, we need to focus our energy towards predictive EHS (pro-activeness). Spend time on where we can bring in value to the business. I am not advocating dropping near miss reporting but rather to strike a balance and create value. There is no added value in having a perfect triangle when there maybe more unforeseen risks waiting below. Thus I present to you the Safety Rocket:



If you have an idea on how to improve predicting adverse safety incidents in a simple practical way (no textbook stuff please), I would like to share it with the readers next time. I am also looking for guest columnists if you are interested. As usual I can be contacted at: kengyan.shum@gmail.com. ■

Too often SeeNear Managers can articulate so well on the hindsight. We need more business insightful Managers.

Circulating in cyberspace ...

"Meta"-physics ...

Q: What will happen if earth rotates 30 times faster?

A: Men will get their salary everyday and women will bleed to death.