“Safety work is today recognized as an economic necessity. It is the study of the right way to do things.”

- Robert W. Campbell

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FEBRUARY 2020

GCSC Safety Connection
Providing Training Solutions to Industry

20TH ANNUAL CONTRACTOR’S SAFETY EXCELLENCE AWARDS BANQUET

JOIN US FOR OUR 20TH ANNUAL CONTRACTOR’S SAFETY EXCELLENCE AWARDS BANQUET!

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020
Edward A. Dufresne Community Center

Reception: 5:30-6:30pm
Dinner & Awards: 6:30-8:30pm
Nomination Deadline: Feb. 28, 2020
When performing work, it is important that an employee feels empowered and is knowledgeable that he/she has the authority to stop work if an unsafe hazard is evident that prohibits the employee from conducting a task. Stopping work is, at times, a sensitive power depending on the industry. There are employees that are fearful to use this power. The lack of confidence that employees have to exercise this right can escalate a situation and make a situation worse than it needs to be.

Clearly, many of the reasons why employees hesitate to exercise stop work authority revolve around fear of losing something. One recommendation to feel more confident about using stop work authority is to review all hazards associated with your job and position with your Human Resources manager and explain any grey areas that might exist.

Despite what many employers and groups express or claim, stop work authority is not just a privilege, it is a responsibility. Your job as a safe employee is to be the first set of eyes and voice while on the clock. At the end of the day, stopping work can keep you, your coworkers, and your company safe.

“But Sam, it’s not that simple. I tried stopping work and my boss yelled at me and threatened to fire me.”

Unfortunately, some managers care more about how quickly a job gets completed than the safety of their workers. Many of these managers feel threatened or fearful that if one of their employees stops work, the higher ups in that company may think the manager does not have control over their group. This is not the case though! Your choice and ability to identify a risk or potential hazard can save a lot of harm, if conducted correctly.

**Stop Work Abuse**

As mentioned earlier, stop work authority is a power that comes with great responsibility. Many employers and managers have fears that employees may tend to abuse this power to get out of work. Because of this, it is important that safety talks be conducted prior to beginning a job or task to make sure all parties are aware of the potential hazards. Abuse of stop work authority can lead to reprehension and loss of job security. Be honest, be safe, and if you see something, say it.

**How to Stop Work**

If you see a potential hazard, risk or unsafe action, your job is to contact your direct supervisor or safety representative immediately. Also, alert any co-workers or employees that are assigned to the specific task as well. At that point, the manager or safety representative will analyze the issue and take corrective actions in order to resolve the issue.

**Final Thoughts**

All things considered, stop work is a crucial responsibility that employees should feel comfortable exercising. If there is a potential safety hazard that could cause an accident, the issue should be made known. Knowing the steps for how to stop work and who to approach is the first step of using this responsibility to create a safer work environment. If you have issues or fear of using such authority, contact your supervisor directly and your Human Resources team to make you feel comfortable in the workplace.
SUPERVISORY TRAINING EDUCATION PROGRAM (STEP)
2 DAY INSTRUCTOR LED COURSE
MEMBERS $250.00   NON-MEMBERS $300.00

Course Offered for frontline and field supervisors. After completing this 2-day course, student will:
» Understand the value and philosophy of supervision, and leadership responsibilities
» Receive the knowledge and skill to be an effective communicator
» Learn the art of influencing and changing behaviors through coaching and discipline
» Understanding how conducting a thorough accident/incident, is an essential component of being an effective manager/supervisor
» Understand how to set expectations, and effectively manage safety

TRENCHING & EXCAVATION COMPETENT PERSON
5 HOUR INSTRUCTOR LED
MEMBERS $145.00   NON-MEMBERS $165.00

This 5-hour instructor led program is for supervisors looking to obtain the skills and knowledge needed to properly oversee Trenching & Excavation (T&E) Work.

Through the effective use of 12 measureable objective topics and student activities we raise the level of learning beyond mere knowledge transfer. Additionally the student will be able to analyze and evaluate how that knowledge was applied and will be able to take that information and synthesize new ways to do it better next time.

HAND SIGNALS FOR MOBILE EQUIPMENT
30 MIN CBT
MEMBERS $25.00   NON-MEMBERS $35.00

This 30 minute computer based training will provide concepts and skills needed to assure that mobile equipment (other than cranes) is moved safely.

Upon completing this course, you will be able to:
» Define terms relating to movement of mobile equipment
» Explain why Spotters are needed to direct movements of mobile equipment
» Discuss common needs for spotters when moving mobile equipment
» Describe responsibilities of operators, spotters and other workers
» Identify hazards
» Describe ways to keep yourself safe when spotting
» Explain the importance of good communication
» Explain how to approach the operator
» Demonstrate the hand signals to be used for directing the movement of mobile equipment

GCSC can provide your company with customized photo ID Badges to meet your needs. Contact GCSC Customer Service at 504.469.7787 or email csr@mygcsc.com to begin the designing process.
GCSC 2019 Christmas Party!

GCSC hosted its annual Christmas Party at Arnaud’s in New Orleans on Saturday, December 7th, 2019.

Thank you to all of our employees and board members for another year of hard work!
“Having Gerald on board has been a great addition to our Team. He inspires everyone with his work ethic. Gerald’s patience and calm demeanor is appreciated by Management and his Co-workers.”
- Shelly Guilbeau
GCSC Executive Director

“Since day one Gerald has constantly exceeded my expectations. He’s kind, patient and enthusiastic, with a genuine interest in resolving issues. I look forward to seeing all the great things he’ll accomplish in the years to come.”
- Dixi Dufrene
GCSC Director of Operations

**GCSC 2019 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

**GERALD WASHINGTON**

What do you believe makes a good employee?
Being committed, handling responsibilities in a mature manner.

As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?
A car salesman, I heard they were allowed to drive the cars….

What’s the best part of your job?
No two days are the same, every day is different.

What’s your favorite time of the year at Gulf Coast Safety Council and why?
Definitely the Christmas holidays, everyone is family-oriented so it feels like family.

What is your favorite thing to do away from work?
Enjoying time with my grandkids… acting like a kid.

What is your favorite Gulf Coast Safety Council memory?
Being awarded Employee of the Year for 2019. I was completely surprised and it was so memorable.
THANK YOU DAVID AND MIKE FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE ON GCSC’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

“I am deeply grateful to all of our leadership-- past, present, and future. Dixi and I would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to Dave and Mike for their very active participation on our Board of Directors for many years. I am sure I speak for all Board Members when I say Dave and Mike will be missed.”

– Shelly Guilbeau

GCSC also welcomes James Fish and Adam Kuehne to our 2020 Board of Directors.

2020 Board of Directors:

- Kathleen Loup  River Parish Contractors
- Gerald Flood  Shell Norco
- Mike Rooney  Triad
- Darrel King  Turner Industries Group
- Nate Bumstead  Marathon Garyville
- Roy Martin  Chevron Pascagoula
- Ritchie Hofmann  Valero St. Charles
- Frank Rusich  Clean As New
- Jeremy Miller  Repcon
- Ross Hotard  Insulations Inc.
- James Fish  Dow Chemical
- Adam Kuehne  Valero Meraux
GCSC Holiday/Closure Schedule

01-01-20 – New Year’s Day
01-20-20 – Martin Luther King, Jr.
02-25-20 – Mardi Gras
04-10-20 – Good Friday
04-30-20 – Awards Banquet *Closing at noon
05-25-20 – Memorial Day
07-03-20 – Independence Day
09-07-20 – Labor Day
10-02-20 – Golf Tournament *Closed
11-26-20 – Thanksgiving
11-27-20 – Thanksgiving
12-24-20 – Christmas Eve
12-25-20 – Christmas