

February 15, 2008

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**You Might Be a Safety Geek If...
Part 2
By Alan D. Quilley CRSP**

During the writing of our last newsletter I created a list "You might be a Safety Geek If..." Well I had so many strange and wonderful things that safety geeks do, I had to split the list...here's the second in the series...

In addition, I've added "reader" ideas to the list. Thanks to all of those who responded and asked to use the first list. Feel free to forward this list also (just please give me author credit).

Remember that Safety Geeks come in all shapes and sizes but we all have some common and often annoying traits. Perhaps you'll see yourself in some of these. I know I did.

You might be a Safety Geek if...

- You make your children put on a reflective traffic vest and "spot you" when you back-up your car
- You have a card in your wallet that lists the emergency phone numbers of several government agencies
- Your favorite pair of "dress shoes" has steel toes
- You know EXACTLY how many band-aid strips need to be in every class of first aid kit required by the government
- You have developed a permanent case of "hat hair" caused by wearing your hard hat too much
- Your hard drive has a folder named "Darwin Awards"
- You've actually told your children not to run with scissors
- You know that if you can get an injured worker back to work on the same day that they are injured, you don't have to count their broken arm on your "serious injury" statistical reports
- You keep an equipment bag full of safety gear in the trunk of your car
- Your YouTube favorites list is filled with vehicle crashes and people falling off of things video clips
- You know how many donuts/muffins to bring to each one of your company safety committee meetings
- After it snows, you carefully brush off ALL the snow from your car before you drive away even off the ROOF

- You start to feel guilty if you don't drive with your hands at the 10 and 2 o'clock positions on the steering wheel
- Your neighbors don't borrow your power tools because you won't lend them without doing a complete hazard assessment and holding a pre-job meeting
- You own FIVE different ladders so that you'll always have the "right tool for the job"
- You wear safety glasses, a face shield AND fire retardant clothing when you BBQ.
- You have read the "Caution Before Using" section of your Laptop Computer Owner's Manual
- You actually know how to hook up a Laptop computer to a LCD projector and GET IT TO WORK
- When you stop someone who is doing something hazardous, you know exactly what to say to them when they tell you that they have "Been doing this for over 30 years!"
- You have a binder full of Material Safety Data Sheets for your household cleaning chemicals and you've held a special WHMIS training course for your family
- You have several pictures on your hard drive of workers in third world countries doing really silly and unsafe things
- You can explain the 1:10:30:600 ratio in considerable detail
- You have a "real" story to tell about a worker who supposedly hurt their back at work but was seen lifting cement sidewalk blocks at home on the weekend
- The last line of your email signature ends with the clever safety slogan
- You at least once in your career have told a manager that he could go to jail for a safety violation
- You ensure everyday that you are clean shaven even though you will NEVER have to put on a self contained breathing apparatus
- All of your neckties are of the "clip-on" variety
- You know for a fact that indirect costs of incidents are from 1 to 50 times higher than the direct costs experienced, even though you've never really calculated them for yourself
- Your coat pocket is filled with pens with safety slogans on them. Extra points if you carry those pens in a pocket protector with a safety supply company logo on it
- You KNOW exactly where the guard for your table saw is
- Your office bookcase has more than a dozen safety supply catalogues in it
- You believe giving safety awards to workers who haven't had an injury is not just rewarding good "duckers"
- The "Don't Use as a Step" warning on your step ladder actually works on you
- You watch people downhill skiing and just shake your head in disbelief
- You actually know where you keep your copy of the company emergency manual
- You feel badly if someone from your company sees you talking on the cell phone while you're driving
- You know precisely how many days your company has worked since the last disabling injury

- You actually understand these jokes, and will forward them to all your Safety Geek friends

And here are those added by our readers of Part 1...thanks again for the geeky behaviours!

You might be a Safety Geek if...

- Your Mom, friends and relatives call you to ask for home safety inspections or whether they can run an extension cord outside safely
- You check emergency exits when you enter a new building
- You have a collection of safety videos as a part of your home DVD collection
- Every time you check into a hotel, you look for the emergency exits, check the sprinklers and locate the fire alarm pull station
- You actually DO listen to the preflight safety information whenever you fly
- You can't watch a single movie or TV show without making noises about how "that's just not safe" (and your significant other has learned that "No, I just can't ignore it")
- You go to a big box warehouse store and inspect their racking system while your partner is locating the product
- You point out that if there was a guard on the chainsaw in the horror flick then his leg would still be attached
- You straighten out floor mats in the store so no one trips over it.
- You can forward this to more than 10 contacts in your address book who will think this is funny!

Well that's it for now, I'm sure we're all busy creating even more strange behaviours for yourselves in our attempt to help get people to be safer and healthier...It's a good thing to do even if it is a bit ODD so keep up the good work my fellow Safety Geeks!

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NAOSH Week

If you are planning an event to celebrate NAOSH week, why not spice it up with a presentation from Al or Joe? We still have a few openings that week. Contact us at either info@safetyresults.ca, or Al at 710- 0276.

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Manage People "The Way You Like To Be Managed" by Alan D. Quilley CRSP

Every so often people should take the time for a bit of self reflection. It is good for the soul. Apparently so is chicken soup if you're to read the latest book reviews. If you're in the position of being a leader in an organization, it's a wise idea to reflect on what kind of leader you are and what kind of leader you could become. Here's a simple yet powerful exercise that will help you think about enhancing your supervisory coaching skills.

Two Sides of the Same Leadership Coin

Take a piece of paper draw a line down the center. On the top of the left column write "the best" on the right side column at the top write "the worst"

Start to think about the best leaders you've experienced. It could be a teacher, a coach a supervisor, a relative, even a co-worker. If you've been lucky in your life you've had more than one leader that has inspired you and that you loved to work with. Now list their attributes, the things you admired about them. Write down the things they did that inspired you to give them your best. For example the best leaders I've had in my life had some of these qualities and did these types of things:

The Best

- Listened to my ideas
- Took the time to coach me through new experiences
- Let me be self managing of my time
- Inspired me to solve problems and asked me to propose solutions
- Set standards and held me accountable
- Said "Thank you" for a job well done
- Very knowledgeable
- Honest and direct with their communication

I've been doing this exercise with large groups of folks over the past two years and probably not surprisingly, most folks come up with the same list. It seems that the types of supervisors most folks like to work for have universal qualities and attributes. Almost all of us appreciate good communicators who are honest and knowledgeable. Leaders who don't over direct our work and show appreciation for a job well done end up on most people's list.

Now on the right side of the page list the attributes and actions of the worst supervisors, teachers, coaches and leaders you had. For example:

The Worst

- Too authoritarian
- Didn't listen to my ideas
- Wasn't available when I needed them
- Kept critical information to themselves
- Didn't engage me in the decisions
- Yelled a great deal
- Didn't respect me
- Told me to "just do it don't ask questions"

Again, not surprisingly large groups of people have demonstrated that almost universally we don't like being led by the same types of people. Overly directive, uncaring, poor listeners are never folks we want to spend our days with.

Manage Safety like the Best We've Had

I believe the importance of this exercise is to open a discussion about how we manage OH&S in our workplaces. Far too often good companies have a tendency to manage health and safety issues more like the worst list than the best list.

Company rules imposed from head office and orientations that proudly state "compliance is a condition of employment and if you break the rules we'll fire you" do little to fit the model of the best coaching and leadership we can provide. Unfortunately this is all too common in workplaces today. We clearly can be more successful if we lead our safety efforts like we like to be led. Now I'm not suggesting that rules don't need to be established, in fact a culture of safety demands that we have standards and we consistently meet those standards. If we're to be really successful in making our places of work safe and healthy we need to lead the effort like the best we can be not the worst. Safety efforts "done TOO people" don't work any better than leaders who lead by being autocratic and bullies.

Now ask yourself how are you managing safety? Are you acting like the best you've ever experienced or the worst? It's not too late to change if you're unhappy with your answer.

Alan D. Quilley CRSP is the author of The Emperor Has No Hard Hat -Achieving REAL Safety Results and the President of Safety Results Ltd. a Sherwood Park Alberta OH&S Consulting Company. You can reach him at: aquilley@safetyresults.ca

Schedule of CRSP Prep courses for 2008 in Calgary and Edmonton!

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Edmonton May 23-May 25, 2008 and October 24 - October 28, 2008

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Winter/Spring Courses with Safety Results!

Red Deer

March 11, 2008	Lunch & Learn	ISM - Integrated Safety Management-Fundamentals
March 12, 2008	Full Day Workshop	ISM - Integrated Safety Management
March 13, 2008	Full Day Workshop	Incident Investigation

Edmonton

April 9, 2008	Full Day Workshop	Hazard Assessment and Control
April 10, 2008	Full Day Workshop	Behaviour Based Safety

Calgary

April 16, 2008	Full Day Workshop	Alberta OH&S Legislation
April 17, 2008	Full Day Workshop	Behaviour Based Safety

Click on highlighted courses above to be directed to the workshop descriptions.

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Where's AI?

April 14, 2008 Red Deer, AB
[PSAC Spring Conference 2008](#)
Incident Investigation - Determining Causation

April 22, 2008 Toronto, ON
[Health and Safety Canada 2008 I.A.P.A. Conference](#)
The Emperor Has No Hard Hat: Achieving REAL Workplace Safety Results

May 6, 2008 Vancouver, BC
[2008 Western Conference on Safety](#)
The Emperor Has No Hard Hat - Building an Effective Safety Culture

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Employer Alert: High Pressure Sales Tactics Providing Misleading Information About Workplace Training

Employment, Immigration and Industry, Workplace Health and Safety has recently received reports and complaints about aggressive, high-pressure sales tactics by commercial providers of workplace safety training for the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS). When contacted, employers are given the impression that the caller is someone who represents the government and that the training is required/endorsed by Workplace Health and Safety.

In Alberta, workplace health and safety legislation is governed by the *Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act*, Regulation and Code. Part 29 of the OHS Code addresses WHMIS training requirements. An employer must ensure that a worker who works with a controlled product or performs work involving the manufacture of a controlled product receives WHMIS training. Controlled products are chemicals that fit in one or more of six hazard classes defined by the federal *Hazardous Products Act*.

Workplace Health and Safety is not affiliated with commercial training providers. **There is no requirement for an employer to use a commercial training provider or materials created by a commercial company to conduct WHMIS training.** In fact, an employer may develop their own materials and conduct the training in-house. Further, an employer will not necessarily meet the WHMIS training requirements in the OHS Code by only using the generic training courses provided by commercial providers. The training must include site specific information about the products and health and safety procedures used at the work site.

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