Safety Strategies and Annual Awards

Northwest Construction Consumer Council

22 September 1999  Seattle, Washington

THE “DEADLY THIRTEEN”

MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS OF CONSTRUCTION SAFETY

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Outline

- Background
- Myths and Realities
- Recommendations

...It is always best to start at the beginning.

Glinda, The Good Witch of the North in “The Wizard of Oz”
What is a Myth?

- A commonly held belief
- Thought to represent reality
- A kernel of truth lies at its core
- A shortcut to thinking
- A guide to action

Key Focus

Problem Definition:
You must start with diagnosis
Why Worry About Myths?

- At best, you get a gap between expectations and results
- Usually, you get all kinds of undesirable problems
- Worst case, you wind up with a disaster

Results of Misguided Efforts

- An Exercise in accelerated error
  - not easily halted or corrected
- Insidious damage from poorly conceived solutions
  - the ‘fix’ is worse than the problem
- Cascading failure
  - each problem drains resources away from new initiatives, starving them and leading to failure with them as well
GIGO: Garbage In, Garbage Out

Intelligent planning and problem solving starts with, and depends upon, a valid perception of reality

Alia Tentanda Via Est
SAFETY IS ACHIEVABLE, ZERO ACCIDENTS IS NOT

Reality: Zero Accidents is an achievable goal, Safety is not
MYTH # 2

SAFETY IS A “THING” OR AN ACTIVITY

Reality: Safety is a result. It is what you get if things are done right.
MYTH # 3

SAFETY IS BEST DEALT WITH SEPARATELY

Reality: Separation severs the connection with the system
MYTH #4

OSHA COMPLIANCE GENERATES SAFETY

Reality: OSHA compliance gives you compliance with OSHA
MYTH # 5

THOSE WHO DO NOT INCLUDE SAFETY HAVE THE LOW BIDS

Reality: Safer contractors have lower costs of production and the lowest evaluated bids
MYTH # 6

JUST SETTING UP A SAFETY PROGRAM SOLVES THE PROBLEM

Reality: A program is not a system, it is only part of one
MYTH # 7

AUDITING AND INSPECTIONS DELIVERS SAFETY

Reality: Inspection only tells you the defect rate of your process
OSHA STATISTICS MEASURE SAFETY PERFORMANCE

Reality: Statistics measure non-safety, the rates of failure
MYTH # 9

Incentive programs produce lasting results

Reality: Incentives are toxic, long term, as they become entitlements.
MYTH # 10

DISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS ARE THE KEY TO ENFORCEMENT

Reality: Individual ethics are the key, discipline is a support
MYTH # 11

THE SOLUTION LIES IN FINDING SOME NEW TECHNOLOGICAL “FIX”

Reality: Accident prevention is a major social system issue
CONSTRUCTION IS TOO COMPLEX AND DYNAMIC, WE DON’T KNOW WHAT TO DO

Reality: Zero accidents, and we know how to do it
THE SAFETY PROFESSION IS REALLY INTERESTED IN SOLVING THE PROBLEM

Reality: The safety profession is deeply problem co-dependent; no problem, no profession.
Respice Finem; Venienti Occurri to Morbo

If you don’t run the job right, it doesn’t matter how much noise you make about safety-- it won’t be the result
PRE-EMPTION

Mishap prevention through Intelligent Intervention

Primary Emphasis

- Focus on organization and structure
- Process
- Majority of activities are pre-construction
  - a construction project is like a rocket: the trajectory is set at launch

Objective: A coherent strategy
Risk Management System

- Designed to reduce or prevent unacceptable risks
  - mission of resilience: giving the business the capacity to resist and survive shocks and other disturbing events
- Includes multiple processes and programs
  - programs have finite boundaries
  - processes are open-ended, a sequence of activities that continually cycles
- Must be integrated to function together

SAFETY IS NOT:

A SEPARATE PROJECT ISSUE,

IT IS AN INSEPARABLE PART OF THE PROCESS OF RUNNING A GOOD PROJECT,

IT IS AN END, THE RESULT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE JOBSITE
It’s Your Choice

Pay Attention

or

Pay The Price

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