



## Safety is not a four-letter word

A sound safety program is one of the greatest assets in a company's arsenal of effective worker protection and financial management. Yet many, if not most, companies give little, if any, attention to establishing or maintaining safety programs and practices. Safety education is one of the most important steps an employer can take toward reducing safety risks and controlling costs.

How effective is the safety program at your company? Do your employers know you are serious about safety in all aspects of your operation? Or, is the attitude of your employees "ah, the ole man may give lip service to safety but he really isn't serious about it." You can be sure that if management doesn't create an emphasis on safety in all your company's activities, none will exist. You can also be sure that somewhere in the future a needless accident, that could have been prevented, will cost your company serious money.

David Scribner and his Education Committee have organized an outstanding group of educational opportunities for the 25th Anniversary annual conference next February in Tucson, Arizona. Two of the six presentations are about safety. One session, "Your Company and FMCSR Compliance, Plus Establishing a Fleet Safety Program" presented by St Paul Travelers Risk Control Specialists, will help you learn how to reduce risk exposures, protect property and save lives. Structural mover companies' failure to comply with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations is a source of irritation, frustration, lost productivity and needless fines. The sad truth is all four are easily preventable.

The second session on safety is "Maintaining Proper Clearances from Energized Overhead Power Lines." Mistakenly making contact with energized overhead power lines is a constant concern and deadly aspect of a structural mover's scope of work. Maintaining safe clearances is an easy prevention. This topic will cover the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) requirements for maintaining safe clearances from energized overhead power lines. These two sessions alone, if applied by your company upon return from the conference, have the potential to make your company a safer place to work and possibly save you tens of thousands of dollars in future accident prevention.

As former president David Scribner is known to say, "It is a proven fact. Those companies whose personnel attend the educational sessions at the annual conferences are the more successful companies." Additionally, association directors have created an Industry Guidelines Task Group to develop voluntary standards for the structural moving industry. Safety practices, in all likelihood, will constitute an important segment. Statistics have proven over and over that good safety habits on the job saves lives, time and money. If your company does not now have an effective safety program operating daily, isn't it time you and your company start reaping the benefits of a safety program that will save you time, money and, hopefully, the lives of you and your employees?

Plan now to attend the 25th Anniversary annual conference in Tucson, Arizona February 14-18, 2007 at The Hotel Arizona to learn from not only these two sessions on safety, but also four other program benefits. For more information see pages 6 & 7.

N. Eugene Brymer

