

# SAFETY PARTNER NEWS

## Promoting the culture of safety



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### Workplace Safety Engagement

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Keeping the workplace engaged in safety is a balancing act, assuring everyone is kept safe but not overdoing the emphasis so all anyone hears are hollow phrases such as “be safe” or that often heard German word, “Eisenmeindentask” (eyes and mind on task).

We need to constantly emphasize safety to our work force while keeping it fresh. Actual events are great learning experiences for those directly involved, but the challenge to the leadership is to get that same type of learning experience to those not directly involved without them having to actually incur the incident. In other words, we need to “learn from others’ mistakes since there is not enough time to learn them all ourselves.”

To keep the learning experience fresh, we need to review incidents within all our workgroups, not just the crews impacted, giving everyone the opportunity to learn so we do not duplicate the event. We also need to research similar work scopes and industries to identify events that could be applicable. Even seemingly diverse work disciplines have common ties such as vague turnovers or misinterpretations of instructions.

A review of industry alerts and newsletters for potential issues provides a very good source. The OSHA website and other associated websites provide industry events and learning experiences to keep your local learning events fresh and pertinent to assure continuing *Workplace Safety Engagement*.

### Seasonal Safety Tips: Walking on Ice

National Safety Council

- 1 Wear boots or shoes without smooth soles.
- 2 Avoid the temptation to run.
- 3 Keep your hands out of your pockets.
- 4 Take short, shuffling steps and walk flat-footed.



## Safety Spotlight

More than 300 of Ameren’s contractors met at the Contractor First Line Safety Seminar (CFLSS), December 9 and 11, to share safety experiences and practices. Attendees heard from Stephanie Dollschnieder, President and CEO of UpSwing Performance Improvement, regarding attitude and influence as people leaders, as she led them through a back-to-back paired activity regarding listening and providing feedback (pictured left).

Attendees concluded the day with round table discussions regarding Good Catch/Near Miss reporting — using real experiences to further the discussion around safety and preventing life-changing events.

## Don't Drop the Ball

Drew Boland  
Collins & Hermann

We have many opportunities to improve our safety performance, but the question is: Are we really taking advantage of these opportunities? Let's look at specific examples.

### Taking care of our surroundings (Housekeeping):

The standard must be consistent across the board because, at the end of the day, if one area has an unacceptable standard of housekeeping, then the entire organization has an unacceptable standard of housekeeping. Good job planning means planning to execute a task as safely and as efficiently as possible. There are many examples of good job planning within our organization, but there are also some examples of poor job planning.

There is a great opportunity here to ensure that all jobs are planned with safety in mind. This means at the outset that we ensure:

- Workers are prepared (safety orientation, medical, special training, PPE)
- Risk assessment is done (analyze job, determine hazards, determine risks, implement controls)
- Tools and equipment are ready (cleaned, inspected, calibrated, etc.)
- Work area is inspected, etc.

Safety is not an after-the-fact thing and should not be treated in that manner. When we wait until the job is about to start, or has started, before basic things are done, it means we place very little value on safety and this would be contrary to our stated organizational values.

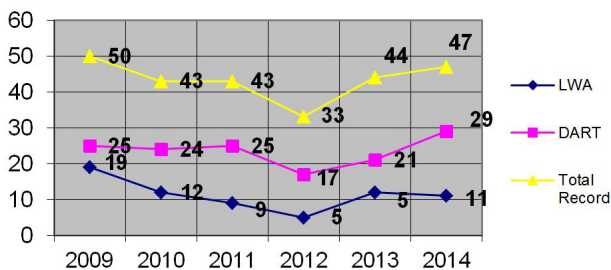
### Using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Are we wearing PPE in all areas where it is required, even though a hazard may not be evident or perceived?
- Are we wearing our PPE while we do our jobs when no supervisor or person of authority is present?
- Are we using the correct PPE for the task?

The fact is the answer to these questions is not always "yes." As adults, we are not reminded on a regular basis to do basic things. In fact, we often dislike it when we are. So why do we constantly act in a manner that contradicts this attitude?

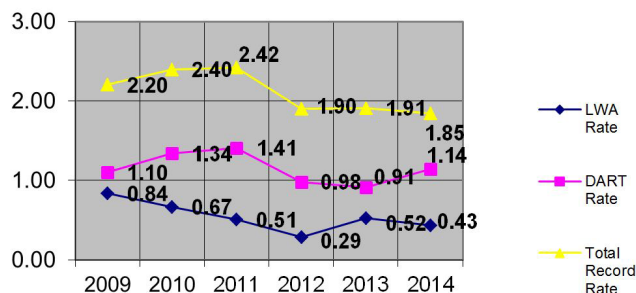
Take advantage of this opportunity! Improve the behavior so that we can bring our safety performance to a new level!

### 2014 Overall Ameren Contractor Injury Trend



### Contractor Safety Stats Through Dec. 2014

#### 2014 Overall Ameren Contractor Injury Rate Trend



### Good Catch!

A crew working in Vienna, IL was given a job to change out only the arrestor on a URD terminal pole. The crew arrived on the jobsite and, upon conducting a job briefing and inspection of the work to be performed, noted that the porcelain cut-out was cracked.

The crew then changed the scope of their work to include changing out the cracked porcelain cut-out along with the arrestor. In the process of changing the cracked porcelain cut-out, the cut-out broke. The crew eliminated the possibility of an unplanned outage by checking adjacent equipment, recognizing the potential hazards, and planning their work to control potential hazards when they occurred.

Good catch!

*When you gamble with safety, you bet your life.*  
~Author Unknown

We are interested in hearing what topics you would like to see in the newsletter. We would also appreciate any comments/feedback you have about the newsletter. Please contact us by email or our website.