

Q~EST Newsletter

September 2010



Front Page Employee News

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information in relation to company Safety, Training, Quality and Environmental news.

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Ray's View

As we move away from the Summer Holiday period we reach the end of our audit season. It is a fact that in today's culture of health, safety, environmental and quality, we must expect an increase in audit and verification processes. To be allowed onto tender lists we have to prove that we meet the stringent requirements now in place to be included to offer tenders for projects.

In this difficult period it is vital for our future workload that we price as much work as we possibly can in order that we can maintain our workload and your futures. Therefore, please ensure that you and your sites meet all the procedures and policies as laid down by the Company in order that we will satisfy any auditors or verifiers that visit our sites or premises.

I would like to thank all of you who have been involved in this process over the past six months, the results received have far exceeded the minimum requirements, a sign that the staff of this company really do care.

*Regards
Ray Walker*



Recently Awarded Contracts

Frimley Park Oil Interceptors	Cheriton Waste Depot Ringway
Frimley Park Hospital Value: £68,786	Value: £100,000
Site Manager Kevin Peters	Site Manager Brian Porter

University Road
The University of Kent
Value: £417,341
Contracts Manager Martin Watts

St Georges, Cobham
BUPA Care Homes (BNH) Ltd
Value: £285,337
Contracts Manager Alan Leigh

Car Parks Tranche 3
South West Trains
Value: £280,340
Site Agent Andy New

Lympne House
Value: £175,000
Demolition Manager & Site Agent Paul Kingsbury & Chris Arnott

Wymans Way, Fakenham
North Norfolk District Council
Value: £79,359
Contracts Manager Darryl Harvey

West Hampstead Platform 1
Network Rail
Value: £775,000
Contracts Manager Danny Marshall

CIRAS
the rail industry's confidential reporting system

For those of you who work on the railway CIRAS is an alternative way to report safety concerns that you feel unable to report through company safety channels. It is a completely independent and confidential way to report safety concerns without fear of recrimination. You can now contact CIRAS from anywhere in the UK by calling Freephone 0800 4101 101, writing to Freepost CIRAS or texting 07507 285887 (standard text rates apply)

Health & Safety Policy

It is the policy of the Company to ensure that its undertakings comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and other statutes and regulations and are accomplished in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of its employees and all other persons likely to be affected.

All staff have the right to stop work if they consider their health and safety is at risk. This right can be exercised without fear of disciplinary action.

This policy will be reviewed annually, when circumstances indicate a change is needed or when legislation is introduced that necessitates change. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the Managing Director, assisted by the Safety Officer and other members of his management team.

It is our policy to prevent injury and ill health whilst striving for continual improvement in health & safety performance and to operate a safety management system compliant with BS OHSAS 18001. This policy will be achieved by:-

- 01 All personnel exercising reasonable care for their own safety and the safety of others.
- 02 Effective communications by all managerial and supervisory personnel with all employees, sub-contractors and others.
- 03 Ensuring all staff are suitably trained and competent for their work activity and that it is supervised and managed.
- 04 Ensuring the availability of adequate and suitable Health & Safety information.
- 05 Regular site inspections and reports to the managers / directors concerning the health, safety and welfare standards on sites.
- 06 The Company Directors considering the reports and ensuring that where necessary appropriate action is determined and acted upon.
- 07 Using appropriate controls to minimise the risks arising from our works.
- 08 The provision and use of suitable and maintained equipment.
- 09 Consult with employees on proposed changes to health and safety matters.
- 10 Ensuring adequate resources are available to implement this policy.



Specific objectives and targets are set and monitored during Management Review Meetings. These are made known to all employees, who are encouraged to promote health and safety awareness and strive for continual improvement. We also encourage our clients, suppliers and subcontractors to support us in achieving the successful implementation of this policy. Work carried out on behalf of Network Rail on their infrastructure will be in accordance with their Group and Company Standards.



**To Report Near Misses -
You could help to prevent
an accident from happening!**

Safety Action Group

Listed below are the Safety committee members - these represent the workforce and are there to put forward any of your safety concerns or ideas for improvement

Chris Gadd ☎ 07867-552109 Lee Walker ☎ 07710-077735 Luke Kingsbury ☎ 07867-535284 Norman Hollamby ☎ 07860-543046 Paul McLean ☎ 07710-077736 Chris Arnott ☎ 07710-077741 Mick Tyrell ☎ 07710-077729 Jake Sparron ☎ 07733-127226

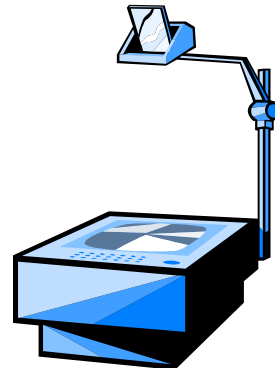
Training

We are planning to run the following courses:-

Abrasive Wheels	27th September 2010
Streetworks Units 002/010 (Training and Assessment)	29th & 30th September 2010
PTS Initial	11th & 12th October 2010
PASMA (Verney Junction)	13th October 2010
PTS Refresher	13th October 2010
Streetworks Unit 002/010 (Training and Assessment)	20th & 21st October 2010

If you would like to book any spaces please contact your Supervisor or myself.

Regards
Ann Hayes



SECURITY

SECURITY

During times of recession crime tends to rise and we all need to be more vigilant. Here are a few tips to help fight crime.

Plant/site

- Always keep the office, mess and tool store locked even when out on-site working.
- Small tools like drills etc... are practically likely to be stolen, even when in use (put down to get a screw etc...).
- Larger plant must have the keys removed when not in use and security chain and locks used at night, if possible have the plant removed by the hire company every night, if working near a secure area ask if equipment can be stored overnight there.

VEHICLES

- Always lock your vehicle doors and make sure the windows are closed when leaving your vehicle unattended - even if just for a short time such as paying for fuel.
- Remove articles of value from sight.
- And above all else **ALWAYS** remove the keys from any unattended vehicle.

OFFICE

- Remove handbags and wallets from sight and never leave unattended.
- Never leave entrance or fire doors open into an unattended room.
- Make sure your window is closed before going home.
- Mobile phones, laptops, Ipods etc... are high value items to thieves.
- Never leave cold callers/visitors alone in the building most thieves are opportunistic and will enter a building under a ruse such as looking for work.
- Please tell someone if you spot someone unknown acting or looking suspicious around the premises, better to be safe than sorry!



Regards
Andy Pilcher

Walker Training

NVQ'S

Walker Training are now accredited by CAA (Construction Awards Alliance) to deliver NVQ Level 2 in Plant Operations and NVQ Level 2 Slinger Signaller/Loader Securer. The qualification will enable experienced operators to prove their competency so that they can obtain the qualification. The NVQ is a requirement for plant operators who require the blue CPCS competence card.



CONSTRUCTION SKILLS HEALTH & SAFETY TEST

We are just going through the final stages to enable us to offer the Construction Skills Health & Safety Test. It is our intention that we will be able to offer tests from 01 October 2010. Test will be available from 07.00 am until 08.00 pm Monday to Friday and 08.00 am to 12.00 pm on Saturday's. We will also offer pre-test training if required.



Regards
Lisa Davison

ACCIDENTS & INCIDENTS - THE 'HIDDEN COSTS'

I expect that many of you are aware that there have been a number of incidents over the last few months, but do you know just how much those incidents have cost the company?

Whilst the details of each incident are often very different there is always one common factor, the cost to the company of resolving the problems that arise. Even an uncomplicated injury, such a cut finger or sprained ankle has a significant cost. Time and productivity are lost, not to mention the pain and discomfort suffered by the injured party.

Others will also be affected;

- It must be reported to the Site Agent and the Safety & Environmental Officer
- The injured person may need to go to hospital (normally involving taking another person away from productive work)
- The Safety & Environmental Officer must then record the accident, investigate what has occurred, prepare a report and put into place measures to prevent a recurrence
- Also it is often necessary to meet with the client to explain the situation



When you add up what all this costs it is not unusual to be looking at a figure in excess of **£1000** and that is for the simplest of incidents.

More serious incidents can involve work on site being suspended and much extended periods for investigation and reporting.

In such cases, costs can quickly reach **£10,000** or more. Furthermore, our competence as a contractor can be called into question, jeopardising the likelihood of securing future work from the client.

So please, for all our sakes, do your bit to keep these costs to an absolute minimum; listen to safety briefings, act responsibly, report any unsafe situations that you see and, most importantly.....

KEEP YOURSELF SAFE!

Regards
Chris Gadd



If there is anything you want to contribute to this quarterly newsletter please give the details to Sue Sharman - Either contact her by phone at Head Office Extn 249 or by email at sue.sharman@walker-construction.co.uk