

# STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

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## Safety First

### Exposing the Safety Mishaps: WTCA Operation Safety Certification by Kelli Gabel

*The importance of implementing proper safety procedures and offering a healthy work environment is sometimes overlooked. Create greater safety awareness in your plant with WTCA's new safety program.*

After a company conducted its first test of a sophisticated alarm system 21 years after the system was initially installed, they heard "Jingle Bells" and "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer," rather than alarm bells.

Yes, that's right, Christmas music. Stories like this bring a rare sense of humor to the topic of safety. In most instances, safety mishaps are very grave and potentially life-threatening if not taken seriously.

The importance of implementing proper safety procedures and offering a healthy work environment is sometimes overlooked. For that reason, WTCA is in the process of creating a safety program that we have currently entitled, "Operation Safety Certification." This program can be used in a plant that currently offers a safety program and would like to enhance their procedures, as well as a plant that wants to implement an entirely new safety program.

This new program, designed specifically for the structural building components industry through the hard work of the WTCA Management Committee, will launch in early October. Plant management and personnel will have access to online multi-media training modules that will aid in the development, implementation and maintenance of a comprehensive in-house program. Management topics at this time include: Safety System Analysis, Management Leadership and Employee Participation, Ergonomics, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Recordkeeping and Personal Protective Equipment.

Employee training modules will assist management in training plant personnel with proper safety procedures. Topics at this time include: Ergonomics, Forklift Safety, Hazardous Communication (HAZCOM), Recordkeeping, Emergency Preparedness, Lockout/Tagout, Hand Tool Safety, Saw Safety, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Violence in the Workplace, Confined Safety, Truss Roller Press, Vertical Press and Finish Roller Safety.

The final phase of the program will include safety program maintenance. Once all four phases are complete, each plant will have the option of becoming WTCA safety certified. Once certified, each plant will have to meet certain criteria which must be met on a continual basis and reviewed annually.

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