



Publisher's Message

Safety First!

by Libby Maurer

Make safety a priority in 2008!

This issue of *SBC* captures the essence of what WTCA is all about—helping our members protect their businesses from negative risks and helping them grow through providing professional education and development. Here are just some of the highlights you'll find in our annual Personnel & Safety issue.

People in executive or management roles have gotten there because they've demonstrated the ability to lead (among other valuable skills). But can you pick out the qualities that define a good leader? This month's **Safety Scene** (page 14) offers up tips for choosing your next safety leader.

Many of us have gotten used to change in the last year, and depending on your point of view, those changes have been positive or negative. As you'll read on page 24, the company described in the narrative is having a rough time adjusting to internal changes caused by external forces. With the help of WTCA's new Professional Leadership Academy (PLA), this hypothetical company turned itself around. Perhaps the PLA can help your team, too.

You may think your safety liability stops when the delivery driver rolls back in the yard intact. But Kent Pagel says "not so" on page 28, a mistake far too many component manufacturers make. Where's the liability, you ask? At the jobsite—even if you or your employees aren't on it! Failing to send adequate product warnings and erection guidelines with every job puts you at risk, plain and simple, says Pagel. Check out his article to find out why supplying a JOBSITE PACKAGE is your best bet for managing risks stemming from the jobsite.

Green building" is everywhere—the news, in Congress, and possibly even on your desk in the form of a bid for a project calling for your product to comply with a green building standard. Whether the movement is just a fad is yet unknown, but for the time being, we should remain confident that structural building components—from steel to wood to wood composites—are green. In the coming year, *SBC* will bring you the straight facts about all aspects of green building so you can make an educated decision on if and when to get involved. On page 34, check out the first in a series about what you should know about certified lumber.

In last year's Personnel and Safety issue we covered the concept of inviting OSHA into a truss plant. This year, we talked to one North Carolina manufacturer about a similar experience participating in a voluntary NC Department of Labor health and safety inspection program. The experience saved TruLine Truss a whopping \$40,000 in fines and citations—not to mention qualifying them for an inspection deferral program. See how you could enroll in this type of program in your state on page 38.

And finally, a topic that we're shocked to find has never been covered in *SBC*: hearing conservation programs! Turn to page 42 to read all about when you should have a documented program, how often to screen employees, and much more information related to preserving the hearing of employees.

Some things can't be controlled, but safety isn't one of them! We hope 2008 is safe and productive for your business. Always remember: Safety First! *SBC*

at a glance

- Find out what qualities to look for in a good safety leader in **Safety Scene**.
- Understand your jobsite liability and what to do to minimize it from Kent Pagel on page 28.
- The story of how one manufacturer saved themselves nearly \$40,000 in fines and citations by inviting OSHA into its facility.



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