



# Moran Safety Brief

## Best-in-Class Thoughts:

*"Success will not lower its standard to us. We must raise our standard to success."*

**– Rev. Randall R. McBride, Jr.**

*"Success is a journey, not a destination."*

**– Ralph Arbitelle**

*"A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him."*

**– David Brinkley**

## A Note from Leanne

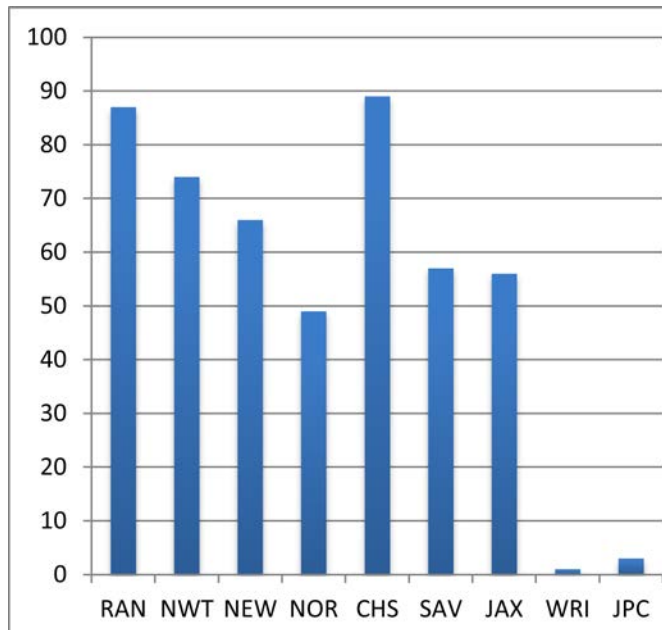
Best-in-Class is not for everyone; the standards by which we choose to operate can be time-consuming, inconvenient and at times, can even seem excessive. I've been told many times that the standards to which we hold our employees often far exceed the standards of both our clients and various regulatory agencies. As we strive to build a better, safer and more successful organization, I believe it's critical to operate with the highest set of standards and exceed our industries' expectations, as opposed to falling short of any one set of expectations, including those of our employees and their families. Best-in-Class is not for everyone, but for anyone who wants to work for the MER family of companies, it's the only set of standards with which we operate.



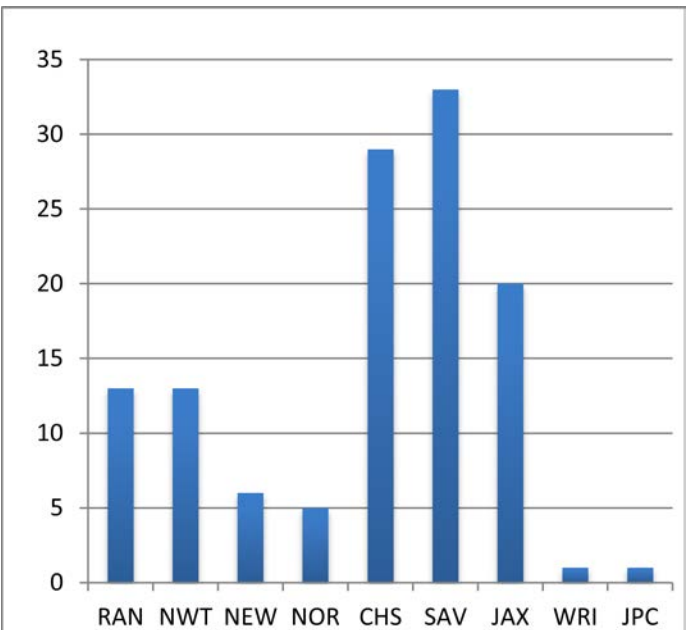
## 2012 – Safety Activity, YTD

In 2012, our goal is to focus on the quality of our Site Assessments and Good Catches and to ensure that the action of completing those documents adds value throughout the organization. Below is some basic data on our Site Assessments and Good Catches through 08/27/2012:

Site Assessments



Good Catches



**Nice Job Charleston!**

*The CHS team completed and submitted 23 Site Assessments this month!*

## Dangers of Cell Phones While Walking?

While most of us would never consider doing a puzzle or juggling while performing our jobs, we often don't give a second thought to sending and receiving text messages as we complete our daily tasks. Of the 3,000,000,000 texts sent each day, a large number of them are now being sent from and received in the workplace. Cell phones are powerful tools that allow us to have instant access to information and communication. When used appropriately, these devices can make our lives easier and more enjoyable, but when used at the wrong time and in the wrong manner, these same devices can get us into trouble at work and cause serious injury.



### Did you know?

*An Ohio State University study showed that more than 1,000 pedestrians visited emergency rooms in 2008 because they were distracted and tripped, fell, or ran into something while using a cell phone to talk or text.*

*A study conducted by the University of Birmingham found that students using cell phones took up to 20% longer to cross the street than children who were not using a cell phone;*

*Illinois was the first state to consider a ban on using a cell phone while crossing a street. Violators would have to pay \$25.00 fine if it had passed.*

**Dangerous even while walking on the street?** Doctors and safety experts are increasingly concerned about the risk associated with distraction while walking, which includes responding to or sending text messages, talking on cell phones, or using some type of mobile device with headphones to listen to music while walking. Preoccupied and distracted pedestrians have become common on busy city streets. This loss of situational awareness is similar to that of a distracted driver. The result can be injury or death. Pedestrians, much like drivers, have always multi-tasked by doing things such as snacking or reading on the move. Researchers are trying to determine what makes distracted walking with mobile devices so different from other types of multitasking. A study conducted at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington by Psychologist and Professor Ira Hyman and his students noted that talking on a cell phone takes a toll on cognition and awareness. The study showed that pedestrians using their cell phones often did not notice objects or people in their path. They also found a type of preoccupation called "inattention blindness," meaning that a person can be looking at an object but fail to register it or process what it is. Adam Gazzaley, a neuroscientist at the University of California, San Francisco explained that cell phone conversations tax auditory functions in the brain as well as visual functions. Using both functions simultaneously prompts the listener to create visual imagery related to the conversation in a way that overrides or obscures the processing of real images.

**How do we protect against distractions while walking?** An experiment was conducted in London's busy Brick Lane area which was identified as the top spot for London's 68,000 texting accidents in 2007. Lampposts and other obstructions were wrapped and padded to minimize injury to pedestrians who texted and talked on cell phones as they walked. Cameras were installed to capture pictures of people running into these obstructions and record incident frequency. The idea could be rolled out to other London texting hotspots if this trial is successful. However, this typically isn't a feasible solution in the workplace. Common sense and being aware of your surroundings is the answer. If you need to use your phone on the job:

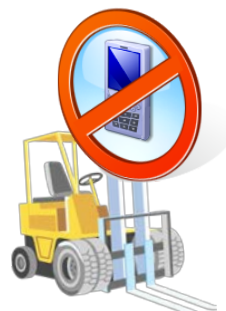
- Don't walk, talk and text.
- If you have to talk or text, move to the side of the walkway out of the way of others.
- Never walk in a vehicle or heavy equipment path/ street while using an electronic device.
- Do not walk with headphones in your ears.

<http://www.statefundca.com/safety/safetymeeting/SafetyMeetingArticle.aspx?ArticleID=577>

<http://www.compliance.gov/wp%16content/uploads/2010/06/Walking%16Hazards%16April%162010%16Fast%16Fact.pdf>

## Distracted Forklift Operator Seriously Injures Coworker

Forklift operator Ramon Jamison discusses what happened the day he was distracted by texting and struck a co-worker. "I usually keep my phone in my locker every morning, but my wife was having an ultrasound that morning and I wanted to know if we were having a little boy or a little girl, so I kept my phone with me," says Ramon. "I was moving stacks of pallets in the storage yard when I heard the message alert go off," he adds. Ramon says he was so excited to find out that he didn't even think about not checking his text. He looked down and had to focus on his phone for a moment to select and read the text. "That's when Ronnie suddenly walked in front of forklift and I didn't see him until I heard him shout," he continues. "The thought of anyone walking in front of my forklift was the furthest thing from my mind." What should have been one of the best days of his life ended up being one of the worst. Not only did Ramon lose his job for violating his company's rules on cell phone use, his actions caused the death of a friend and a co-worker.



<http://www.eri-safety.com/Documents/4724fs.pdf>

## National Immunization Awareness

Immunizations are NOT just for kids! Regardless of your age, we ALL need immunizations to keep us healthy. With time, immunity from childhood vaccines can fade and you may be at risk for new and different diseases. With adulthood comes responsibility, including the need to protect ourselves and our loved ones.

The specific immunizations you need as an adult are determined by factors such as your age, lifestyle, high-risk conditions, type and locations of travel, and previous immunizations. Throughout your adult life, you need immunizations to get and maintain protection against:

- Seasonal influenza (flu) (for all adults)
- Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough) (for all adults who have not previously received the Tdap vaccine)
- Shingles (for adults 60 years and older)
- Pneumococcal disease (for adults 65 years and older and adults with specific health conditions)
- Hepatitis B infection (for adults who have diabetes or are at risk for hepatitis B)

Other vaccinations you might need include those that protect against human papillomavirus (which can cause certain cancers), hepatitis A, chickenpox (varicella), and measles, mumps and rubella. Find out what immunizations you may need by taking this online quiz: <http://www2.cdc.gov/nip/adultimmsched/>.

## Did You Know? Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

*Alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes is about four times higher at night than during the day.*

*More than 30% of drivers involved in fatal crashes on weekends are alcohol-impaired.*

*43% of 2009 motorcycle riders who died in crashes had a BAC of .08 or above.*

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/StopImpairedDriving>



If you drink and drive, beware, law enforcement throughout the nation will be participating in the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign through September 3, 2012. The strong nationwide impaired driving crackdown will include high-visibility enforcement, high-profile events, and will be supported by national paid advertising, creating a comprehensive campaign to curb alcohol impaired driving in August and through the Labor Day holiday weekend (6 p.m. Sept. 3- 5:59 a.m. Sept. 7).

Law Enforcement will be aggressively looking for impaired drivers during the crackdown and will arrest anyone caught driving impaired.

It is illegal in all 50 States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to drive with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 grams per deciliter. Despite these laws, in 2010 more than 10,000 people died in crashes in which a driver or motorcycle rider was impaired.

On average there is one alcohol impaired driving-related fatality every 51 minutes across America. But this tragic loss of life can be reduced if we get impaired drivers off our roadways. Research has shown that high-visibility enforcement like the ‘Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over’ campaign reduces alcohol-impaired driving fatalities by as much as 20 percent. By joining this nationwide effort, we can make roadways safer for everyone throughout the Labor Day period.

During the Labor Day weekend in 2010, 147 people were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes involving drivers or motorcycle riders with BACs of .08 or higher. Of those fatalities, 80 percent occurred from 6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.

Among 18- to 34-year-old drivers killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes during the 2010 Labor Day weekend, 54 percent were alcohol-impaired.

Driving impaired is simply not worth the risk. Violators face jail time, loss of their driver licenses, and steep financial consequences such as higher insurance rates, attorney fees, court costs, lost time at work, and the potential loss of job. When family, friends and co-workers find out, violators also often face tremendous personal embarrassment. So don’t take the chance. Remember, law enforcement will be out in force and be watching, so ‘Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.’

[www.nhtsa.gov/drivesober](http://www.nhtsa.gov/drivesober)

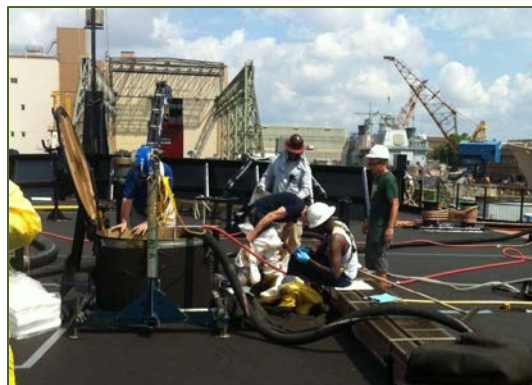


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## Safety Spotlight

Picture this: ten cargo tanks, three thousand (oil) barrels of an incredibly thick oily solid costing the petroleum industry millions to dispose of, and heat so extreme you can feel the physiological impact on your body immediately upon descending the 30' dreadfully slippery ladder into a tank. These are the conditions MER employees are facing while emptying and cleaning the cargo tanks onboard a Moran Towing barge for Hess in Philadelphia, PA. The consistency of the product inside the tanks is considerably denser than originally anticipated due to contamination of a plastic-like substance. After some trial and error to determine the best method of product removal, the team discovered that hydro-blasting effectively breaks up the material to vacuum it out. With the help of MER employees traveling in from all resource centers and the assistance of a



fellow environmental subcontractor, the job is currently running smoothly and on track for success hosting about 30 people onsite performing three separate blasting operations. The team remains diligent in their efforts to maintain a safe worksite through detailed planning, efficient housekeeping, and thorough communication. As the scope transforms and temperature rises, safety protocols are adjusted and implemented accordingly to provide the best conditions possible. Thank you to all the MER team members who volunteered to help out! Keep up the good work!



## Employee Development

MER is dedicated to providing a Best-In-Class Employee Development Program for our employees. To help facilitate efficient and effective training, MER HAZWOPER and Confined Space Rescue classes are conducted every six months with smaller class sizes enabling participation by all employees. During these classes employees are encouraged to share some of their team's professional highlight (PH) and opportunities for improvement (OFI) so we, as an organization, can learn from them and improve. Interestingly enough, the same PHs and OFIs were discussed in multiple locations in the recent classes.

### Professional Highlights (*What we do well*)

- Communication – Ability to share knowledge, ask questions, and discuss suggestions with fellow employees freely
- Teamwork – Demonstrated during training and in the field
- Leadership – Employees took the lead during training sessions to share their field experiences and knowledge
- Active Participation – Employees eagerly participated during the training sessions

### Opportunities for Improvement (*What areas need developed & how to improve*)

- Complacency during decontamination, equipment, and planning
  - Complete the daily tailgate thoroughly and properly review with the crew – it doesn't take very long but can make a huge difference during the work day.
  - Take time to properly decontaminate at the end of the day so that contaminants aren't brought home to your family or pets.
- Working with atmospheric monitors
  - Bump test and check the meters prior to leaving the shop; use the calibration station to help calibrate and bump test the meters.
  - Use auxiliary filters when using the meters to help protect the sensors over time.
- Pre-planning confined space rescues
  - Prior to entering any confined space review the emergency procedures with the crew, even if it is "just" an empty frac track or "just" another manhole.
  - Make sure to have the rescue gear set-up and ready to go, not just onsite.



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