

FIA Safety, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee Newsletter

May / June 2011

Attention Environmental Affairs

In this age of consolidation of jobs, more and more of our Safety Committee members have gradually grown into working with environmental/EPA issues, as a standard part of their everyday jobs. At the same time, the Committee has seen an increase in environmental/EPA questions being sent in, via s&h@forging.org, a Forging Safety Question/Answer service that the Safety & Health Committee has offered for years. Expecting this trend to continue, the Committee is expanding its mission statement, and scope of interest, to include environmental affairs issues, as well as safety.

If you are involved with environmental issues or safety at your facility, and would like to network with other forgers that are experiencing the same questions and issues as yourself, consider participating on the newly named FIA Safety, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee. For additional information, please contact George Layne at: glayne@forging.org. **You don't have to go-it-alone!**

Lesson Learned

The following "Lesson Learned" was submitted by a Safety Committee member.

"An employee sustained a serious injury while operating a crane. The employee had just completed loading a part in a saw using a ½", two legged, chain. The employee did not place the hooks at the end of the chain legs back up on master link before moving the crane. The

master link is the big oblong that attaches the chain set to the crane hook. As the employee moved the crane, one of the dangling legs momentarily snagged on a portion of the saw, stretched tight, released, and slingshotted towards the employee. The crane hook struck the employee in the face causing several facial fractures.

The employee required surgery to repair the broken bones and is currently recovering at home. A full recovery is expected and it is anticipated that within a month he will be back at the plant performing light duty.

In addition to encouraging our fellow companies to ensure that their employees never move a crane with a chain set attached that does not have the chain legs secured, I wanted to let everybody know that the doctors informed us that **had the employee not been wearing a hard hat and safety glasses, it is likely that the employee would not have survived.** The brim of the hard hat and the safety glasses helped deflect the force of the impact around his face. Yes, there were still fractures, but those pieces of safety equipment saved his life. Some FIA member companies do not require personnel to wear hardhats and I just wanted to make sure everyone has an appreciation for what hardhats can do and maybe by reading this, some companies will reconsider that policy. It only takes a fraction of a second of inattention to forever change someone's life and dramatically impact their family. We've improved our safety practices because of this event and we hope that other member companies will benefit from our lesson learned."

- *Attention Environmental Affairs*
- *Lessons Learned*
- *AWARENESS ALERT Swivel Hoist Ring*

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- *Congratulations to FIA Safety Award Winners*
- *Remember the Safety Star Program*

AWARENESS ALERT Swivel Hoist Ring (SHR) Safety

Swivel Hoist Rings were a topic of discussion at one of our plant luncheons. However, there are some additional safety issues that need to be addressed based on some recent occurrences in the shop.

1) Bolt Length



The **minimum** length of the shaft extending below the bottom of the bushing flange **must** be a minimum of 1.5 times the diameter of the bolt. For example: the minimum length of the shaft extending below the flange on a $\frac{1}{2}$ " SHR is $\frac{3}{4}$ " ($1.5 \times \frac{1}{2}" = \frac{3}{4}"$).

In the photo above, the SHR on the left has the correct minimum length bolt in it. The SHR on the right, someone switched out the bolt and used a below minimum length bolt. Without having the minimum of 1.5 times the diameter of the bolt in length of threads engaged in the lift point, a hoist ring cannot lift its rated capacity and the SHR can potentially fail and drop the load.

2) Depth of lift point and use of spacers/ washers



Do not make assumptions on how much a SHR with fewer than the required number of threads engaged can lift.

The use of spacers is **prohibited** with SHRs per the ASME B30.26 code. The base of the SHR must be fully engaged with the load and the SHR must be tightened with the proper torque.

Per Crosby (SHR Manufacturer), the recommended depth of the hole a SHR is being put into is nominal shaft length plus an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the bolt diameter. This prevents the SHR bolt from bottoming out before the SHR is fully engaged.

For example, on a $\frac{1}{2}$ " SHR, the bolt will extend $\frac{3}{4}$ " below the bushing flange. Add in another $\frac{1}{4}$ " (half the bolt diameter) to prevent bottoming out and the minimum depth of the hole the SHR should be put into is 1".

Actions:

- Always check the length of the bolt below the flange to ensure the proper bolt is in the SHR.
- Ensure that the depth of the lift point hole is sufficient. Do not use spacers.
- Torque the SHR properly.
- Contact Jason Jefko or John McGillivray to determine an alternative lifting plan if you are facing a lift that you believe requires a SHR to be modified with a shorter than minimum required length bolt, or use a spacer. Do not use an SHR improperly.

Bills Filed to Codify VPP

Companion bills in the U.S. Senate and House were welcomed by VPPPA Executive Director R. Davis Layne.

Two bills that would codify OSHA's Voluntary Protection Programs were filed April 13. Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., ranking member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

Committee, introduced the Voluntary Protection Program Act (S.807) with Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., who chairs the Senate Small Business Committee. Rep. Tom Petri, R-Wis., senior Republican on the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training, and Rep. Gene Green, D-Texas, introduced the companion bill, H.R.1511.

The bills are meant to ensure VPP continues to be funded when federal budgets are being squeezed and reduced. Advocates say VPP has improved safety and health at more than 2,500 U.S. work sites with about 1 million employees, saving the government more than \$59 million and the private sector more than \$300 million, according to [VPPPA](#).

“The Voluntary Protection Programs have encouraged a culture of health and safety in the workplace that saved the government and private sector millions of dollars by avoiding injuries and illness,” said Enzi. “And in this economy, every little bit helps. As a former small business owner myself, I understand that maintaining a safe workplace is just as important as turning a profit.”

“The number one responsibility of any employer is providing a safe workplace for its employees,” Landrieu said. “The VPP is a great example of how the right public-private partnership can succeed in reducing accidents at work, but these partnerships are not a replacement for stricter mandatory workplace safety guidelines, especially in dangerous occupations.”

Green said VPP “is one of the few programs that has achieved unified support from both union and non-unionized labor, small and large businesses, and government. I am proud to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to codify this important safety program that saves money while protecting workers. In Texas alone, 327 work sites participate in this program that employ, in total, over 50,000 workers.”

VPPPA, the VPP Participants’ Association, Inc., is an association representing sites that are participating in VPP or pursuing VPP status. “On behalf of VPPPA, I’d like to thank Sens. Enzi and Landrieu and Reps. Petri and Green for introducing

this crucial legislation,” said VPPPA Executive Director R. Davis Layne. “VPP reduces injuries and illnesses, increases competitiveness and productivity, saves money for businesses and taxpayers and, more than anything, it saves lives. I’m confident that our members will reach out to President Obama and to their congressional representatives in support of the Senate and House bills.”

Congratulations to FIA 2010 Safety Award Winners

Plaque Winners

GROUP I (Up to 80 employees)

First Place:

- *King Forge and Machine Company*
- *Arro Forge, Inc.*
- *HHI Impact Forge Group –Precision Plant*
- *Brass Aluminum Forging Enterprises LLC*
- *The Council Tool Company, Inc.*

Second Place:

- *Schaefer Equipment – A Wabtec Company*

Third Place:

- *Solmet Technologies, Inc.*

Improvement:

- *Bula Forge and Machine, Inc.*

GROUP II (81 to 175 employees)

First Place:

- *Carolina Forge Co.*
- *A MFC Group Company*

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Second Place:

- *Trinity Forge, Inc.*

Third Place:

- *Aluminum Precision Products - Warner Avenue*

Improvement:

- *Vaughan & Bushnell Mfg. Co.*

GROUP III (176 to 325 employees)

First Place:

American Axle & Mfg., Inc. Colfor Manufacturing

Second Place:

BAE Systems, USCS – Anniston

Third Place:

Lehigh Heavy Forge Corp.

Improvement:

Aichi Forge USA, Inc.

GROUP IV (Over 326 employees)

First Place:

FRISA Forjados, S.A. De C.V. Santa Catarina

Second Place:

General Dynamics Ordnance & Tactical Systems

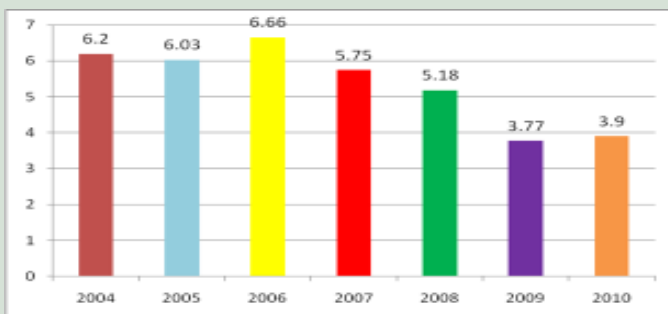
Third Place:

Wyman Gordon Forgings, Inc., Houston

Improvement:

Bonney Forge Corporation, Mt. Union

Dart Rate Trend



Safety Star Awards

Congratulations to the following select group of companies for demonstrating a focus on safety and promoting a culture of safety throughout their companies.

- ★ **Walter Metals - 593 Days**
- ★ **Ellwood Specialty Metals - 333 Days**
- ★ **McWilliams Forge Company a PCC Company - 300 Days**
- ★ **Ellwood Specialty Steel - 236 Days**
- ★ **LEISTRITZ-Advanced Turbine Components - 122 Days**
- ★ **Unisteel - 136 Days**
- ★ **McInnes Roled Rings - 102 Days**

Don't forget the "Safety Star Awards Program". When a company reports that they have gone 100, 200, or 300 days without a recordable incident, they will be recognized in the Newsletter, and receive a **Star Certificate** of recognition for their accomplishment.

- Gold** ★ = 300 Days without a recordable incident
- Silver** ★ = 200 Days without a recordable incident
- Bronze** ★ = 100 Days without a recordable incident

Safety, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee Needs YOU!

- **Build a network of industry colleagues!**
- **Learn new techniques to improve safety, production & efficiency!**
- **Be involved...Be informed!**
- **Achieve recognition within the Industry!**
- **Grow personally & professionally!**
- **Have a voice in FIA programs & activities!**

FIA's Standing and Steering Committees form the backbone of the Association's programs and activities.

Committee participation is not only a service to FIA members and the industry, but a valuable experience for you as well. Your participation on the Safety & Health Committee forms an excellent network and resource base to keep you abreast of current trends directly affecting your company.

For information on Committee participation, please contact:

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