

# Nuts & Bolts

September 8, 2011

## Company News Brief:

> Congratulations to Anna Ball who was elected to the La Crosse Builders Exchange Board last week. Chris Towle is a retiring Board Member.

> FHI on the radio!!! If you tune into WIZM in the morning you might hear a few spots we're running featuring a few of our employees. You can also listen to each audio clip on our website: <http://www.fowlerhammer.com/News/FowlerandHammerontheRadio.aspx>

> Please do not use 411 on company cell phones, there are charges that incur, please call the office with any questions.

> **Attention:** We are looking for the return of two Metabo Die Grinders and a MK Table Top Brick Saw. Please drop them off at the yard or contact the office.

## ... > SAFETY FIRST: Chris' Subject Look for Mobile Equipment Blind Spots

Fifteen (15) work-related fatalities have occurred since 2001 while a vehicle was backing up. Construction activities accounted for 9 of these fatalities; dump trucks were involved in 5 fatalities. Other vehicle types include an airport tug, a farm tractor, a cement mixer, a forklift, a fuel truck, a utility bucket truck, a road grader, a window delivery truck, and a semi-truck. A blind spot is the area around a vehicle or piece of construction equipment that is not visible to operators, either by direct line-of sight or indirectly by use of internal and external mirrors. Use spotters wearing reflective vests when the driver has an obstructed view; the truck contains extended components (such as a crane): or when someone or something could enter the driver's backing path.

### IN ORDER TO PREVENT SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE

- Install aftermarket presence detectors on vehicles. Systems include cameras, additional mirrors, ultrasonic sensing and radar.
- Develop Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for backing vehicles.
- Develop Driver backing vehicle training. Training should include: driver stopping vehicle if he/she cannot see the Spotter, performing a walk-around to determine obstacles/hazards and site/vehicle clearances, sounding horn prior to backing, and demonstrating backing competency.
- Develop Spotter backing vehicle training. Training should include: signals to be used and agreed upon with driver, maintaining eye contact and a safe distance from backing vehicle on the driver's side, and demonstrating spotter competency.
- Learn vehicle's blind spots. Consult NIOSH Highway Work Zone Safety, Construction Vehicle List (See NIOSH web reference). If vehicle not listed, estimate vehicle blind zone: Sit in driver's seat, have another person walk away from vehicle until driver can see his/her feet, measure distance. For side and rear, repeat process using use side/rear view mirrors. Area within measured distance is blind zone.
- Develop an Internal Traffic Control Plan (ITCP) to reduce vehicle backing in work zones and to establish truck lanes and pedestrian walk paths.
- Ensure Worker Visibility. Specify appropriate class of high-visibility vests/clothing. (See ANSI ISEA 107-2010 web reference)

## Upcoming Bids

We were the successful bidder on the Xcel Energy French Island 2011 Guard House Project.



## > LEED Facts

1. Provides accreditation to building industry professionals (architects, engineers, designers, contractors, etc.) who attain appropriate levels of experience in the areas of "green building".
2. Since 2000, a total of 2,164 projects representing over 300,000,000 square feet of building space have been registered under the LEED system for certification.
3. 20,900 building industry professionals have achieved LEED accreditation from the USGBC.
4. To obtain LEED certification, the USGBC takes the following into account:
  - a. Sustainable sites
  - b. Water efficiency
  - c. Energy and atmosphere
  - d. Materials and resources
  - e. Indoor environmental quality



# > Project Updates



**Pics from top:**  
 1. Impressive view of workers at the GL Critical Care Tower project.  
 3. Ironworkers at the GL Critical Care Tower Project.  
 5. Victor Czajka and Joe Johnson at GL Critical Care Tower.

2. Glen Bass laying block at GL Critical Care Tower.  
 4. Steel beams going up at the GL Critical Care Tower, a tricky location.  
 6. Quinten Eichman laying block at the GL Critical Care Tower.



## Pet of the Week



Meet Sofia! She's a sweet and beautiful 3-4 year old black medium haired spayed cat. For more information about adopting Sofia please visit: [www.coulee humane.com](http://www.coulee humane.com)



## > Did you know?

- ✓ During the time of Peter the Great, any Russian man who wore a beard was required to pay a special tax.
- ✓ Eighteen ounces of an average cola drink contain as much caffeine as a cup of coffee.



## Safety Score Card:

**1000 Hours:**  
 Ron Becwar  
 Rick Wilhelm

**2000 Hours:**  
 Eric Carraux  
 Victor Czajka  
 Steve Roberts



Your **CURRENT** Safety Team members:

Chris Towle  
 Rick Wilhelm  
 DuWayne Knobloch  
 Eddy Kuster  
 Dan Haney  
 Brent Johnson  
 Heath Hoscheit

If you have any ideas on interesting safety topics to feature in future newsletters please email them to: [ctowle@fowlerhammer.com](mailto:ctowle@fowlerhammer.com) or drop off at the office.