

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

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## APPLYING PROVEN SAFETY PRACTICES AT HOME

e can all learn from the safety success that has been achieved in the heavy construction industry.

Through safety programming delivered through the MHCA for over 30 years, injuries have been reduced by more than 50% in the heavy construction industry.

Today, 75% of the heavy construction workforce works for companies certified under the nationally recognized COR<sup>™</sup> safety program. MHCA's WORKSAFELY<sup>™</sup> team and industry have worked hard to get to the point where safety isn't a new topic and is at the forefront of our employers' and workers' minds.

But it is important to keep in mind that injuries often happen off the job and at home. We have put so much focus on workplace safety, but we must remember to focus on safety off the job. Many of the safety practices that have been developed in our industry can also apply to common tasks at home.

There are several benefits of focusing on safety off the job. Consistency is one of them. If you want your workers to wear eye protection it is key to educate them on the real reasons why they would want to use this personal protective equipment (PPE). When people understand the benefits of wearing PPE, they are more likely to do so at home, too.

One of the most important reasons to encourage your workers to work safely at home is that the workers' loved ones and children will also learn to use the equipment also. If a child sees mom using hearing protection when they are mowing the lawn, it will become only natural for them to use the personal protective

he equipment also.

WORKSAFELY recently had the opportunity to interview a couple of our Safety Leader Award winners about the importance of our workers bringing safety home.

"If people are only doing safe activities because they have to or because you are paying them and they are willing to comply with rules and regulations, then you haven't given them enough reasons which benefit them," says Marc Rodrigue, of Accurate HD, 2017 WORKSAFELY Safety Leader Award winner.

Jeff Love of Borland Construction is this year's winner.

"Another benefit of reminding your workers to remember off the job safety is it sends the point that your company really cares about them," Love says. "When I talk with my colleagues about the importance of safety even after they leave the jobsite I want them to understand that they are important to our company and to me."

If you build up the safety culture in the workplace, it gets workers to think about safety and assess for hazards all the time, he adds.

"Whether you are driving, boating, doing yard work or shopping, once you are trained to recognize and think about hazards prior to performing a task, you learn that habit and will continuously use it. Safety doesn't stop when the shift ends!"

Love is always discussing safety at home with his children and ensures they all wear safety glasses and hearing protection when cutting the grass, or wearing gloves when using hand tools.

Talking about safety is the best way to educate those around you and in turn they may educate others.

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-Jeff Love of Borland Construction

## Building Relationships Through Infrastructure

