



LAGNIAPPE

MONTHLY EMPLOYEE NEWS



Control of Hazards and PPE By: Jeremy Olivier, Lofton Safety Services

I would like to take a little time to discuss the basic reasoning behind wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the workplace. It is important for everyone to understand why PPE is used and why it is important to use it correctly.

When Safety Professionals identify hazards in the workplace, they follow a prescribed course of action to control them, thus mitigating the risks they pose to employees. First, they determine if any identified hazards can be totally removed or eliminated. Elimination of hazards in the workplace is the most effective way to protect employees from them. Examples of this may be removing unnecessary chemicals or possibly relocating the work to a safer location.

When elimination of hazards is not an option, the next best approach is substitution. A great example of substitution would be using a tool specifically designed for an operation instead of a more generic tool that might be awkward or prone to slip. Using milder chemicals, when possible, reduces employee exposure to more hazardous ones.

Where substitution is not possible, engineering controls come into play. Examples of these might include redesigning the equipment or installing safety features such as guards, auto-shutoff devices, or safety interlocks. Engineering controls are third in preference for protection from hazards.

In cases where Engineering controls still cannot fully remove them, the next preferable way to control hazards is through administrative controls. Administrative controls take the form of things such as formal training and standard operating procedures for equipment.

They can also be warning signs placed throughout facilities and upon equipment at the location of the hazard.

When all the above have been exhausted, the last thing that can be done is to issue personal protective equipment to the employees at risk (See, I told you I'd get around to PPE!) Almost everyone who has worked has utilized some form of PPE. Earplugs in loud environments, gloves for handling materials, or maybe steel-toed safety shoes where foot hazards exist.

So, I went through that lengthy explanation to illustrate the five levels for control of hazards in the workplace, and to also show that in the hierarchy of it all, PPE is on the very bottom. That's right, PPE is the last line of defense against hazards in the workplace! If PPE is specified for a particular job or environment, it is because all the preferential methods, or a combination of them, were not effective in fully eliminating the hazard that exists. If you are asked to wear PPE on a job site, you should now understand why it is so important to wear the prescribed PPE, wear it in the manner intended, and ensure that it is in satisfactory condition. All these are necessary for it to function as designed and protect you from the possibility of injury. If you are ever in doubt as to whether PPE is needed, or what PPE is needed, ask someone before continuing with the work. Also, if you are asked to wear PPE and do not understand how to wear it properly, stop and ask someone. Without it, there is no barrier between yourself and the hazard.

April 2024

April 1
April Fools Day



April 15
Tax Day

April 22
Passover
Earth Day

April 24
Administrative
Professionals Day

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Lafayette's Little Local Hero - Alex

On March 22, 2024, this small hero may have saved his own life and the lives of his wonderful parents. Tiffany and Matt Wood are the proud parents of this amazing hero. Alex is known for his unusual sleep schedules which we all hear about at Lofton of Lafayette. He's normally up at 2:30 or 3:00 in the morning and ready to start his day. This morning was one of those "normal" days for Alex, until he could not connect to Wi-Fi on his pad. He immediately went to his mom, who shortly discovered that half of the lights in the house weren't working. After further investigation, Matt and Tiffany discovered that lightning had struck the house in two places and the attic was on fire. Our second hero, Matt, was able to manage the fire with Tiffany's handy dandy fire extinguisher until the Fire Department arrived. There is damage to their home, but it could have been so much worse. This beautiful family is alive and well thanks to our little hero waking up his true support team. Family is Everything and we Love this Family!



Lofton History Hits Home

Julie East, Corp. Marketing

Many of you are aware of my profound love for history. Just like you, I've been enjoying Glenda Lofton's articles in the monthly Lagniappe newsletter for the last 18 years. Her stories about her family in Winn Parish beautifully capture a historical essence that evoke a sense of a bygone era. So I was honored when asked to write this month's article.

Last month, I had a delightful surprise when history intertwined with my life. My son's company has a project in Dodson, LA, and will be living in that area. Initially, all I knew about Dodson was that it was in North Louisiana somewhere near Ruston. Intrigued, I did a Google search and pinpointed Dodson on the map and to my amazement, what do I see...Winnfield, Louisiana. "Winnfield! I know

that name! Glenda Lofton writes about Winnfield in her newsletter!" I zoom out to explore the area and see Gaars Mill. "Gaars Mill!! OMG...Yes! Hazel Gaar! This is where Glenda's family is from!"

My husband and I traveled with my son to Dodson last month. We explored the area, driving through vast stretches of pine trees, and visiting the neighboring cities, Winnfield and Jonesboro. I felt like a kid going on a history field trip! A long set of train tracks traverses Dodson throughout Winn Parish. I envisioned historic coal-powered trains loaded with local produce, timber, and cotton from the Parish being transported to cities across the United States. I imagined a young Glenda on her Grandpa Warner's farm, tending to chickens and picking butterbeans. The charm of growing up in this serene environment is evident - endless trees, nature, wildlife, fishing, hunting, and farming - embodying the simplicity of small-town life.

entrance door and a handful of people scattered around, it was a stark contrast to the busy, crowded stores in the city. As we roamed the aisles (trying our best not to be the loud out-of-towners), I stumbled across something special - a Winnfield Monopoly game. Yes, this small town of Winnfield has its own version of Monopoly. I couldn't resist getting it for Glenda.



Glenda Lofton shows off her Winnfield-Opoly game.



Like a kid on a field trip, I had to have my picture taken. History & Lofton Geek!



Our visit to Walmart in Winnfield was a unique experience. The store was so quiet - it felt like being in a church. With just one

Bart shared a photo of Glenda when she received it. I think she appreciated it! I feel incredibly fortunate to be part of a remarkable company whose family graciously shares their wisdom, heritage, faith, and dedication with everyone. As Tommy Lofton says, "Relationships are built...one on one." But in this case, I would have to re-write this statement for Glenda: "Relationships are built one article at a time." I couldn't be happier knowing this game will bring as much joy to Glenda and the Lofton family as I have found working for this incredible family.

Lofton Crew Gets Moving!

Our Lofton Lifestyle crew started 2024 on the right foot - literally. This year, we started participating in local races, where we encourage team building and focus on individual health journeys. Whether you walk or run, you earn 250-500 Vitality points and \$250-\$500 Vitality bucks. Don't forget to take your picture as proof to submit activity in your app!



Randi Marshall and Amy Duffy at the Jordan Gautreau 5k at Healing Place Church.



Angelle Hollier and friend at the Zydeco Marathon in Lafayette, LA.



Rae Milano and Amy Duffy hit the Louisiana Marathon 5k.