



LAGNIAPPE

MONTHLY EMPLOYEE NEWS



Accident Reporting By: Jeremy Olivier, Lofton Safety Services

Whether at home or work, we are exposed to some level of risk. Though Lofton and our clients perform rigorous hazard assessments of each workplace, it is impossible to identify every risk in a dynamic work environment. Unfortunately, unidentified risks can sometimes lead to incidents. Incidents can include illnesses, injuries, property damage, or near misses. When any incident occurs, it is extremely important to report it to Lofton as soon as possible. Lofton's safety department will use information about the incident to help identify and eliminate any unforeseen risks that may have contributed. Following any incident, the sooner information about it is collected, the more accurate it is. And the more accurate the data, the better we can identify those risks and implement a plan to minimize or eliminate them. The following are more reasons why immediate reporting is important for each type of incident.



Lofton has a 24/7 Emergency Answering Service

Incidents involving injury or illness. A timely report will allow an affected employee to receive medical attention as soon as possible, if necessary. Delayed reporting can result in increased severity of any injury or illness as well as longer required recovery times.

Incidents involving property damage. Often, these incidents can involve property that belongs to several different individuals or companies. Gathering all the information about the incident will ensure that any party affected is compensated with minimal delay.

Non-work related (NWR) Incidents. If you suffer an injury or illness outside of work it is still important to make the report to Lofton as soon as possible. Each NWR report is analyzed to ensure that there will be no increased risks while at work to the employee, or others, due to effects of the incident. Early reports will give more time to determine whether the employee is free to return unrestricted, if accommodation is needed for restrictions, or to find a temporary replacement if the employee cannot immediately return.

Near miss incidents. These are incidents which did not cause an injury or property damage but had potential to do so. Here is an easy way to identify if a situation you are involved in (or witness) is a near miss. If you can apply either of the phrases, "That was close!", or "That could have been bad if.....", then it was a near miss incident. While it is preferable to have no incident reports at all, near miss incidents are undoubtedly the best ones to get. No injury or property damage has occurred, but they let the Safety Department know that something is deficient which, if left unattended, may eventually lead to something more severe. Unlike all other reports, they are proactive. They can be analyzed and used to implement change before any actual injury or damage can occur, not after.

If any of the above incidents occur, Lofton needs to be notified immediately. Do not assume that someone will make the report on your behalf. Call your local office and make the report as soon as possible. If it is after hours or on a weekend, an Answering Service is employed to take the call and they will transfer you to the appropriate person to receive the report. Continue to call in until you reach a Lofton representative to make the report.

In closing, I would like to emphasize that it is not the purpose of incident reports to find fault in employees or to justify disciplinary action against them. The purpose of every report is to find faults in equipment, facilities, processes, and procedures so that they can be minimized or eliminated. This allows Lofton to continue to focus on putting people to work and ensuring they go home safely to their loved ones each day.

July 2024

July 4
Independence Day



Lofton offices will be **CLOSED** on Thursday, 4th in observance of Independence Day

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.





In God We Trust

By: Glenda Lofton, Ph.D.

The Fourth of July is a great time for reflecting on our national heritage and what we are passing on to our children and grandchildren. For me it is a time for remembering, reflecting, and renewing my commitment to God and country. In light of current events in our country— inflation, crime, illegal immigration, the national debt, and the wars in Ukraine and Israel, this takes on increased meaning.

Last month, Louisiana passed a bill into law requiring the display of the Ten Commandments in every classroom in public schools and colleges throughout the state. As might be expected, the new law has sparked much debate. No matter where you side with this question or your own religious background, the Ten Commandments represent basic moral and ethical standards we should all try and live by. Our country was founded on Judeo-Christian principles just like the Ten Commandments, and so this new state law has added another layer to my reflection on our national heritage.

A strong foundation of faith is exactly what this country was founded on. The opening paragraph of the Declaration of Independence mentions the "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God," and continues to the second paragraph that we have been taught since grade school, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with cer-

tain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Prayer has also been a strong foundation in America. The first National Day of Prayer was declared by the Continental Congress in 1775 based on a motion by Benjamin Franklin, "I therefore beg leave to move - That henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessing on our deliberations, be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business; and that one or more of the clergy of this



city be requested to officiate in that service." This National Day of Prayer is an annual day of observance held on the first Thursday of May, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation." The President of the United States is required by law to sign a proclamation each year, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.

Faith has played such an important role in our government that the inscription "In God We Trust" was first minted on coins during the Civil War. In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill into law that required the inscription, "In God We Trust," to appear on all paper and coin currency. When the resolution was first introduced in

the House by Representative Charles E. Bennett of Florida, he stated, "Nothing can be more certain than that our country was founded in a spiritual atmosphere and with a firm trust in God," further adding that "While the sentiment of trust in God is universal and timeless, these particular four words 'In God We Trust' are indigenous to our country."

Throughout our history, the faith of the American people has been captured so beautifully in our music. One etched in my memory is God Bless America, composed by Irving Berlin and first sung by Kate Smith in 1938. Irving Berlin gives credit for the title to his mother who often stated "God Bless America" for giving us a home when we fled from Russia. The lyrics have been inserted into the Congressional Record and are still relevant for the world today:

*God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above*

*From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home*

*God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above*

*From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home*

*From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home
God bless America, my home sweet home!*

Open Enrollment

Open enrollment will be held next month. Please make sure your contact information on file is current in order to receive notifications regarding open enrollment communications and dates.

Remember, this is the only time you will be able to enroll, add, drop or change coverage.

Vitality Wellness Reminder

There are only six months left to earn the wellness incentive for the 2024/2025 plan year. You must achieve silver status by December 31, 2024 to earn the incentive for the new plan year.

If you need additional information, please contact the Benefits Department at 225-924-0200 or benefits@Lofton.jobs.

You've Been Caught!

During a routine patrol, Officer **Troy Burton**, Lofton Little Rock, discovered \$260 on the ground. He had previously seen a man sitting in that area around the same time. The man had left and was walking in downtown Little Rock. Troy had two other officers confirm the amount, then sealed it in an envelope and stored it in the Lofton Office.

About three weeks later, Troy spotted the man near the same building and recognized him. He approached the man and returned the money. Despite the man offering a reward, Officer Troy declined. He was thrilled not only to have found the money but also to have safely returned it.

Kudos to Officer Troy for being recognized with "You've Been Caught" for ensuring the safety of our client and demonstrating both compassion and integrity. A big thank you for your dedication!



The Dunlap Broadside

The Declaration of Independence is one of our most treasured documents in our American history. Did you know that the document had to be printed and distributed throughout the colonies?

Once the members of the 2nd Continental Congress signed the official document, an approved draft was sent to a local printer named John Dunlap. The declaration copies, known as the "Dunlap Broadside," were printed with John Hancock's name printed at the bottom. It is estimated that around 200 copies were made - enough to be distributed among the new states and troops. The document was ordered to be read aloud and posted throughout public areas.

That is why the Declaration has the words, "IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776" at its top, because that is the day the approved version was signed in Philadelphia. Today, 25 known copies of the Dunlap Broadside remain including one on display at the National Archives.