



# SAFETY NEWS

A Publication of the ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mike Beebe, Governor

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James L. Salkeld, Director



*(l to r) Pat Burge, Director of Health and Safety with the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission, and Director of Labor James L. Salkeld present a One Million Work Hours Safety Award to the employees of CertainTeed in Little Rock.*

## CERTAIN TEED IN LITTLE ROCK EARNS ONE MILLION WORK HOURS SAFETY AWARD

Employees of Certain Teed, a division of Saint Gobain, in Little Rock, Arkansas were presented a One Million Work Hours Safety Award at a ceremony at the plant on September 12. Certain Teed is a manufacturer of building materials.

Approximately 64 employees accumulated 1,000,000 work hours without a lost day away from work due to a work related injury or illness between June 9, 2001 and July 26, 2007. The company has had a safety program and a safety committee made up of about 11 members in operation for over ten years.

The Arkansas Department of Labor, the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission and the Arkansas Insurance Department are proud to present safety awards to Arkansas companies who excel in occupational safety and health. For information on how your company can become eligible, contact Ann Sanders at the Arkansas Department of Labor, 501-682-4329, or e-mail [ann.sanders@arkansas.gov](mailto:ann.sanders@arkansas.gov).

## ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR OSHA SPEAKS IN LITTLE ROCK

Edwin G. Foulke, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA was in Little Rock on September 5 and spoke to a luncheon crowd of over 200 at Alltel Arena.

Foulke was named for the position by President Bush and approved by the Senate approximately two years ago. As Assistant Secretary, he administers a staff of 2,200 safety and health professionals and support personnel.

Foulke spoke of the fact that OSHA began in 1971 and since that time has helped to cut workplace fatalities by more than 60 percent, and occupational injury and illness rates by 40 percent. At the same time, U.S. employment has increased from 56 million employees at 3.5 million worksites to more than 135 million employees at 8.9 million sites. He also stated that while this sounds great on paper, one fatality is one too many.

He spoke of our need to improve the U.S. standing in the global economy. And one way companies can do this is by having a comprehensive safety and health program. Statistics have shown that these companies have a lost time injury and illness rate that is *Contd. on page 3 – See Foulke*

SHARP  
Safety & Health  
Achievement  
Recognition  
Program  
ASSOCIATION



AR VPPA

# SUCCESS

Working Together for Safety



*(l to r) Johnny Nolan, El Dorado Arkansas Laminating Plant Manager; David Chadwick, General Manager Sawmill Operations; Stephen Murphy, Plant Manager Urbana Arkansas Sawmill; Chester New, General Manager Engineered Wood Products; Aubra Anthony Jr., President and CEO; Clark Thomas, ADOL OSHA Program Administrator; Parish Lawing, Plant Manager Atlanta Texas Sawmill; Lynda Anthony, VP Human Resources/Environmental, Health and Safety; Robert Garland, General Manager Chip Mill Operations; John Benjamin, Former Deputy Director of Labor; Keith New, Plant Superintendent El Dorado Arkansas Laminating Plant; Kelly Olivier, Environmental, Health and Safety Coordinator.*

## ANTHONY FOREST PRODUCTS NOW 100% SHARP

*by Kelly Olivier, Safety Director  
El Dorado and Urbana, Arkansas*

**A**nthony Forest Products Company (Corporate Headquarters in El Dorado, Arkansas) currently has six Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) work sites located in four states, Arkansas, Louisiana, Georgia and Texas. The company's SHARP sites include: a pine lumber producing mill in Urbana, AR; an engineered wood laminating plant in El Dorado, AR; a wood chip mill in Plain Dealing, LA; a wood chip mill in Troup, TX; a pine lumber producing mill in Atlanta, TX and an engineered wood laminating plant in Washington, GA. The company's six SHARP sites employ between 10 and 100 workers per work site, with approximately 450 employed company-wide.

The company has participated in the SHARP program since 1998. Prior to becoming SHARP our Worker's Compensation Experience Modifier Rate (EMR) rate was almost 1.0. The EMR began to decline after the initiation of a formal safety program in the early 1990s and after the SHARP partnership with OSHA On-site Consultation, the EMR rate continued to drop to its current level of 0.63!

As stated above, we instituted a safety and health program prior to becoming involved in the onsite consultation program and the SHARP program. We wanted to do more and needed some input and assistance with our current programs. We heard about the OSHA consultation program and what they were doing to assist small business. We decided to set up a meeting with them and have the consultants come into our worksites, look at our programs and give feedback. After gaining feedback and assistance we decided to get involved in SHARP and applied for certification into the program. We

decided to take our safety program to another level and go above and beyond, so we developed our own in-house safety training computer based CD utilizing our employees at the plant locations to focus on the areas we were concerned about (i.e.; lockout/tagout, forklift operation, walking working surfaces and machine guarding). This was done, in part, to address our diversified culture, especially in Arkansas where we have a 60% Hispanic workforce. We also developed a comprehensive safety award program to encourage our workforce to identify unsafe conditions and think about safety on the job constantly.

The main part of our program, to make it all work, was developing and building relationships with our workforce by bringing our employees, management and safety together. The two most important aspects of the program are building relationships and respect, because everyone wants to be involved and respected from the bottom to the top. Management getting out into the plants, speaking with the workforce and addressing the issues and concerns they had was key. Once we became SHARP certified at all our locations it opened up a world of assistance through partnering with other SHARP companies who were dealing with the same issues. By sharing information and resources we have been able to reduce incidents and costs.

The company is now 100% integrated into the SHARP program and here, in Arkansas, we developed the first SHARP Association in the country. In conjunction with the Arkansas Labor Departments' OSHA consultation program, we hold small conferences around the state sharing resources and information with other businesses. We also developed an e-mail distribution list with other SHARP and Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) companies where we have been sharing information, networking and mentoring for several years.

As mentioned earlier, our **(Contd. on back page – See Anthony)**

# ARKANSAS' 2006 WORK-RELATED FATALITIES PROFILED

Arkansas had 78 workplace fatalities in 2006. These findings are from the National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries conducted by the Arkansas Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Transportation incidents led all other events for the thirteenth year in a row, with transportation accidents accounting for 47 of the 78 fatal occupational injuries.

Falls accounted for twelve deaths this year, as opposed to eight last year, and contact with objects and equipment accounted for eight deaths this year.

Men accounted for 76 of the 78 fatal occupational injuries, and the age group of 25 to 54 year olds accounted for 48 of the 78 fatally injured workers.

The occupations of transportation/material moving operations accounted for 26 of the 78 fatalities during 2006.

We read figures such as these and are usually so detached from the incidents that the magnitude of the loss of these 78 men and women fails to impact us. So let's look at some of the headlines in newspapers around our state just during the month of August:

- **Water-plant accident costs laborer his life**
- **LR store owner found shot to death after apparent robbery**
- **Police officer dies in motorcycle accident in Kirby**
- **Warren Logger killed in Star City**
- **Firefighter falls 40 feet to his death**
- **Man killed in logging accident near Ravenden**
- **Prisoner run over by machinery, dies**
- **Wreck claims lives of two area men**

That seems to personalize the loss fellow Arkansans are dealing with more than merely reading a number!

Then there are those headlines describing Arkansans who were injured on the job during the month of August:

- **Area logger injured when struck by falling tree**
- **Cave-in threatens city utility employees**
- **Cotter employee in fair condition**
- **LR police officer hurt in car wreck**
- **Ambulance crash injures crew member**
- **HSPD officer injured during arrest attempt**
- **Three hurt in mill fire at Waldo**
- **Officer bitten**
- **Over 40 emergency workers save one man's life**
- **Stuttgart Entergy serviceman sustains minor injuries**
- **Phone man injured in fall near Delight**
- **Black Rock pilot injured in crop dusting plane crash**
- **Wilmot man suffers injuries after tree falls on truck while in motion**
- **Firefighter falls, injured in fire**
- **Gas-line installers robbed, shot in LR**

- **Truck spills diesel on state highway, driver hurt**
- **Big-rig crash snarls U.S. 67-167 traffic, driver hurt**

All of these employees got up for work that day, had breakfast and left home thinking they'd be back that evening to continue their lives as usual. However, none of them continued their lives as usual, and some were not even able to continue their lives at all.

OSHA has been helping save lives, prevent injuries, and protect the safety and health of America's workforce for more than 30 years...free of charge. And they're here to help you!

To talk to a safety consultant here at the Arkansas Department of Labor, call Clark Thomas at 501-682-4522 or e-mail [thomas.clark@dol.gov](mailto:thomas.clark@dol.gov)

**FOULKE** – *Contd. from page 1*  
30% below others, thus reducing their workers' compensation and insurance rates, thus saving them money and thus keeping more jobs in America.

Foulke closed his comments by thanking everyone for their commitment to safety and health, which they were demonstrating by their involvement in SHARP, VPP, and other free compliance assistance programs offered through OSHA.

## SAFETY NEWS

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JAMES L. SALKELD, DIRECTOR

JEANETTE DONAHUE, EDITOR

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## **ANTHONY** (continued from page 2)

company has gone from a 1.0 EMR (Experience Modifier Rate) and almost a million dollar annual premium to a current EMR of 0.63! Our cost savings over the last five years is listed below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>% saved</b>	<b>insurance premium*</b>
2002-2003	6.50%	\$258,000
2003-2004	3.00%	\$298,000
2004-2005	6.00%	\$276,000
2005-2006	6.00%	\$292,000
2006-2007	5.00%	\$305,318

\*Our annual premium fluctuates due to employment numbers (a gain in our workforce).

For more information on SHARP or VPP, contact Clark Thomas at 501-682-4522 or e-mail [Thomas.Clark@dol.gov](mailto:Thomas.Clark@dol.gov).

## **SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES FOR WORKERS**

**I**n 2006, transportation incidents accounted for 47 of the 78 fatal occupational injuries in Arkansas, or 60 percent. The following are some safe driving tips from the U.S. Department of Labor OSHA.

### **Stay Safe**

- Use a seat belt at all times – driver and passenger(s).
- Be well-rested before driving.
- Avoid taking medications that make you drowsy.
- Set a realistic goal for the number of miles that you can drive safely each day.



- If you are impaired by alcohol or any drug, do not drive.  
**Stay Focused**
- Driving requires your full attention. Avoid distractions, such as adjusting the radio or other controls, eating or drinking, and talking on the phone.
- Continually search the roadway to be alert to situations requiring quick action.
- Stop about every two hours for a break. Get out of the vehicle to stretch, take a walk, and get refreshed.  
**Avoid Aggressive Driving**
- Keep your cool in traffic!
- Be patient and courteous to other drivers.
- Do not take other drivers' actions personally.
- Reduce your stress by planning your route ahead of time (bring the maps and directions), allowing plenty of travel time, and avoiding crowded roadways and busy driving times.