

# THE TURNING POINT

Volume 9 Issue 1

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## **The Vision of the Turning Point**

This newsletter is to inform you of recent changes and trends regarding health and safety. The Turning Point is a monthly newsletter covering topics from various industries and sectors. The Turning Point will respond to your inquiries and inform you of current services and updates regarding Raising the Standard Consulting USA Inc. (RTSC).

### **ALLOW US TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES**

Raising The Standard Consulting Inc. is an Occupational Safety, Health & Environmental consulting firm. We have been servicing clients in Canada for the past 18 years and have recently expanded our service to the U.S.

RTS Consulting Inc. has made its mark in the professional field of environment, health and safety through the utilization of advanced problem-solving methods and personalized consulting. RTS Consulting Inc. will "raise the standard" of environment, health & safety (EH&S) in your organization through the development, implementation and monitoring of state-of-the-art, team-based policies, programs and training modules.

RTS Consulting Inc. specializes in working with both non-unionized & unionized shops' issues related to occupational health and safety, Workers compensation/return-to-work programs and environmental management. RTS Consulting Inc. is qualified through accredited designations to provide Health and Safety services in Canada, the U.S. and internationally.

### **Our Mission**

RTS Consulting Inc. will raise the standard of EH&S in your organization through the development of new and innovative strategies and programs driven by your individual needs. RTS Consulting Inc. focuses on client-driven services through the use of proven systematic problem-solving methods to develop performance-based solutions.

Stanford R. Brown, B.Sc., SET, CRSP, CSP, CHSC, and his associates have a proven record of excellence in providing cost-effective solutions in a spectrum of environment, health and safety issues. They have attained excellence in various industries including amusement parks, the food industry, retail product distribution, construction, dry chemical, mining, steel manufacturing, health care and the education sector.

## **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR UPDATES**

U.S. Department of Labor's OSHA fines El Paso, Texas, construction contractor \$106,200 for alleged workplace safety violations

**EL PASO, Texas** -- The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is proposing \$106,200 in penalties against El Paso-based Best Plastering Contractors for allegedly exposing employees to potential fall hazards.

OSHA issued the citations alleging four willful and three serious violations following an investigation that began July 11, 2008, when agency inspectors witnessed employees working on a scaffold without using fall protection equipment at the company's worksite on Patriot Point Drive in El Paso.

"The fines reflect the company's failure to follow OSHA requirements and their indifference toward providing their employees with a safe workplace environment," said Dean McDaniel, OSHA's regional administrator in Dallas. "It is fortunate that no one was seriously injured."

The willful citations are for failing to fully plank working levels of the scaffold; to set up the scaffold on adequate foundation; to supply workers with a ladder or other safe access to the scaffold working levels; and to provide guardrails for employees working on upper levels of the scaffold. A willful violation is one committed with plain indifference to or intentional disregard for employee safety and health.

Serious violations included failing to provide training for employees who used portland cement, a chemical which can cause skin burns; to properly brace the scaffold; and to repair or replace damaged scaffold components. A serious violation exists when there is a substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result and the employer knew or should have known of the hazard.



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**EMERGENCY PLANNING FOR SWINE FLU  
(INFLUENZA A H1N1 VIRUS)  
ARE YOU PREPARED?**

Public health experts are advising that the H1N1 flu that emerged in April is poised to hit with a vengeance much earlier than the regular seasonal flu.

The World Health Organization (WHO) maintains a Global Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and Response (ERP) System to which they have identified our current state as a level 6 – indicating we are in a state of global pandemic. It is advised to pay close attention to what public health officials are saying and take it seriously – if they recommend social distancing we must do that in order to get the virus under control.

**What does this mean for you?**

Without a plan in place, you may jeopardize the ability for your business to continue operations or even to exist at all. Your organization could be faced with very high absenteeism rates during a pandemic influenza.

**Do you have the capacity to maintain service delivery during that time?**

Response plans are necessary to ensure business continuity is maintained during a pandemic influenza. For this reason, your business should be planning ahead to ensure you have the capacity to maintain service delivery during that time.

Amid reports of H1N1 virus outbreaks at summer camps and the prospect things could get worse this fall, more companies are being warned they need to prepare for a possible pandemic. “Even though the summer months are not usually hospitable to the influenza virus, H1N1 continues to spread quickly. Those organizations that don't already have a plan need to recognize just how serious the pandemic is expected to be and start preparing both their staff and their businesses” said Trefor Munn-Venn, Director, National Security and Public Safety.

RTS Consulting Inc. has been a leader in providing environmental infection prevention and control. During the SARS outbreak RTS provided respiratory fit testing (qualitative and quantitative) and respirator protection programs to several hospitals and industries. Pandemic Planning and Corporate Contingency Planning along with training of your staff to ensure they are prepared and your business is prepared for the second wave of the pandemic that is inevitable, is high on our priority list – why not make it high on yours. Ensure that you will be in business tomorrow by planning your strategies on what to do when up to half your workforce or more are off work due to the virus – how will you survive!

Don't get caught unprepared – call today to discuss how we can assist you in preparing your “**Pandemic Contingency Plan**” and “**Training your Staff**” and to **order our Pandemic Planning Toolkit!** Take action today before it is too late!

**THE SCARY WORLD WE LIVE IN – OSHA  
CITATIONS ONLY CONFIRM FATAL CONDITIONS**

*Taken from OSHA.com July Newsletter*

When a company receives an OSHA citation after an accident or a death, it's not exactly welcome news. It's nice to be made aware of the cause of the situation, but it certainly isn't great to hear that the accident could have been prevented if OSHA guidelines were followed. Recently, a business in Nebraska was fined \$7,000 for an accident that killed a 24-year-old employee back in March of this year. The store, a Menards chain located in Scottsbluff, had violated safety standards to a fatal point and the problems have been remedied since the incident occurred.

What kind of world do we live in where someone has to die before unsafe conditions are taken care of and fixed to create a safe environment for all? Of course, the stack of garden bundles that fell on the employee was not actually an intended safety violation, but more a matter of gravity and unplanned accidents. No criminal penalties are being sought, but the stack was leaning as seen by OSHA compliance representative that visited the site to investigate. They assessed the maximum penalty, and simply left it at that.

Having unsafe working conditions can be dangerous, but when something like an aisle stack is to blame for the death of a worker, it's hard to wonder where you are safe and where you aren't. This news comes from the Chicago Tribune, and is just one of many unsettling stories of compliance violations and workplace deaths that you can find by simply typing 'OSHA' into the Google news search engine. OSHA compliance is critical for a company to remain in proper order, but is more critical to the safety and protection of the employees that work within a company.

Even though the problems at this particular situation have been taken care of, how long will it take for the victim's family to get over the fact that he could have avoided the accident if things were done properly, or checked upon before becoming an issue? What will they think of the store, and the OSHA compliance guidelines that could have saved their loved one's life? It's a hard situation to be in, because sometimes accidents just happen. However, with proper OSHA training and compliance and a little common sense, most of them can be avoided. This is just one example that proves that if you're ever in an unsafe situation, you need to make sure that you do something about it no matter how insignificant it seems.



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## 10 and 30 HOUR TRAINING COURSE

Stanford Brown founder of Raising the Standard Consulting USA Inc. is an authorized trainer of the 10 and 30 hour construction industry outreach courses.

### **AN ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE**

**Emphasis:** The classes are designed to be presented to workers. They emphasize hazard identification, avoidance, control and prevention, not OSHA standards and regulatory codes. The presentations are tailored to the needs and understanding of the audience. Each class is evaluated to determine the best methods of training before the class begins.

**Site-Specific Training:** We believe that the most rewarding classes for students are the ones they can relate to because the trainer uses examples, pictures, and scenarios that come from the student's work place, industry or community.

**Homogenous Class:** The ideal class to teach is one where students have similar positions and needs. We endeavor to conduct separate training classes for supervisors, managers, and workers as much as possible unless a combined session would assist the students in fostering a culture of teamwork. We also try to separate workers into like groups, for example, office personnel, machine operators, and maintenance staff when possible.

**Training Purpose:** We explain up front, that the training isn't a bureaucratic exercise. We emphasize that it may save a life and help them continue to provide for their family. We explain that safety and health add value to the company, the workplace and their life.

**Use Objectives:** At the beginning of each session we describe the skills and abilities the students should have or exhibit for each topic and relate the objectives to the students' work, whenever possible.

**Presentation Assortment:** Students learn in different manners, and get tired of one training style. Therefore we use different trainers, computer presentations, videos, case studies, exercises and graphics to make the course interesting and enjoyable. By doing this we employ the three levels of training techniques - presentation (presenting the material in a variety of ways), discussion (getting the students involved in the learning), and performance (students practice the material they learned).

**Testing:** We use quizzes and tests to ensure the student understands key objectives. We also provide students feedback on incorrect answers in an open discussion format.

**Evaluations:** Students will have the opportunity to evaluate our classes. This feedback will help us determine whether

the course is accomplishing its goals and provide input we can use to improve the training.

For specific details of each course, please visit our web-site at [www.rtsconsulting.com](http://www.rtsconsulting.com)

### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently seeking intermediate and senior consultants for the State of Hawaii. We require a formal education in the field of occupational health and safety with a good knowledge of the Occupational Safety & Health Administration Act. We also require skill in program development and conducting public training sessions. We also require 3-5 years' experience working in the occupational health and safety field. If interested, please forward your resume.

### WEB BASED TRAINING

Raise the safety, health, and productivity of your employees to the top of your agenda and provide training solutions that deliver real results. We provide web-based training programs for the convenience of your organization. Please visit <http://rtsconsulting.360training.com> to register.

#### **∴ Healthcare Education**

- [Health Care](#)

#### **∴ Technical, Industrial & Safety Skills**

- [Canada Safety](#)
- [OSHA - Construction](#)
- [OSHA - General Industry](#)
- [OSHA 10/30 Hour Outreach Training](#)
- [OSHA - Hazardous Waste Training](#)

#### **∴ Public Safety**

- [Human Resources](#)

### CHARACTER & INTEGRITY

Is character and integrity seen as a core value in your organization? We offer specialized training in the importance of integrity among both executive and workers. Character and integrity is addressed regarding the workplace, marriage, and finances, in our training modules.

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