



DLA's Corpus Christi distribution center recognized for excellence in safety

By Emily Blubaugh, DLA Distribution Public Affairs

DLA Distribution Corpus Christi, Texas, which prides itself on safety accountability touting its slogan "Safety is everyone's responsibility," has been recognized for its efforts by the Contractor Safety Council of the Coastal Bend, which presented the organization with a safety award in the category "Most Improved for Calendar Year 2009."

The only local entity recognized in the category, DLA Distribution Corpus Christi earned the award for their efforts in reducing its recordable incident rate. In calendar years 2007 and 2008, DLA Distribution Corpus Christi had a Total Recordable Incident Rate average of 6.5, which equates to 15 injuries over the two-year period. The organization's TRIR for CY2009 was .83, with only one injury sustained the entire year. The goal for 2010 is zero recordable injuries, a goal that the organization has met to date.

"Since joining the DLA Distribution Corpus Christi family a year ago, I've challenged everyone to apply risk management principles before performing any task within this organization and encouraged the reporting of near misses and accidents, not as a punitive measure but to improve best business practices and to prevent repetition. This award is a

testimony to the efforts of our workforce in fostering a safety conscious environment and culture within our organization," said DLA Distribution Corpus Christi commander United States Army Lt. Col. Bernard Warrington, Jr.

This attitude resonates throughout the organization, specifically through the implementation of 6S key operating principles which help to ensure a safe and efficient working environment. The 6S's include: Sort, Straighten, Scrub, Safety, Standardize, and Sustain.

"I firmly believe that the 6S's, considered key in our daily operations, make our working environment a safer one and our Recordable Injury Rates are proof that the process is working," said DLA Distribution Corpus Christi's safety officer David Howard.

To reinforce the emphasis on safety, the organization actively engages the workforce in safety awareness activities, which include monthly safety meetings and training, morning meetings, weekly safety topic and training conducted by supervisors, safety handouts, safety stand-down meetings, special guest speakers and visual queues. Additionally, citing a link between a healthy workforce and a safe workforce, Warrington has implemented an Annual Employee Wellness



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Day as well as a workforce-wide fitness challenge.

"It is the right of every employee to be provided a safe and healthy workplace. This is not just a leadership effort; it is a collective effort from all of us," said Warrington.

The Contractor Safety Council is a local training facility that helps various entities with various amounts and depths of safety training. Each year the CSC reviews award submissions from organizations containing: OSHA/MSHA injury and illness statistical data from the last three years of OSHA 300 logs; client/customer references; a written synopsis of the Safety Management Program; and on-site evaluations for entities selected "Excellent."

The selection panel is comprised of seasoned safety professionals from various backgrounds to include general industry, construction, refineries, mining and engineering firms.