

The NEMROC Insider

The Internal Newsletter of North Eastern Michigan Rehabilitation and Opportunity Center, Inc.

Issue No. 19

August 2011

Upcoming Anniversaries

Nemroc thanks these employees for their years of service

Aug. 9 – Shane Phillips	1 Year
Aug. 10 – Mary Legue	5 Years
Aug. 11 – Logan Koenig	1 Year
Aug. 12 – Allan Straley	6 Years
Aug. 17 – Darrell Sommerfield	39 Years
Aug. 22 – Ralph DesOrmeau	34 Years

Quote of the Month

“The odds of going to the store for a loaf of bread and coming out with only a loaf of bread are three billion to one.”

~Erma Bombeck

Health and Safety

In this month's Health and Safety section we want to cover something that applies to only a segment of our employees, but is something that everyone should keep an eye out for to protect their safety. The topic is loose fitting clothing on machine operators. The MIOSHA Standard reads;

GENERAL INDUSTRY SAFETY STANDARDS

PART 27. WOODWORKING MACHINERY

R 408.12798 Clothing

Rule 2798. “...Loose flowing garments, sleeves, and neckties shall not be worn by operators of machines. Gloves should not be worn while operating machines.”

Not that many of us wear ties at NEMROC, but some people do like wearing loose fitting clothing. Even if this is fashionable it can also be a safety hazard, as a machine can grab the loose fitting clothing and pull a person into a piece of equipment. So make sure if you are feeding or operating a piece of equipment that shirt tails, sleeve and jewelry are tucked in, tied back or even better, left at home. Fashion is never worth life or limbs. Also take note of the glove warning. If you are putting something into a machine, you do not want a pair of gloves to get caught on the wood/product and pull you in with it.



Cell Phones and Texting

Cell phone and texting during work time is becoming a larger and larger problem at NEMROC. The general rule is that you should never be using your phone for personal reasons during your work time. The major reasons for this are that it is unsafe to be distracted from your job and what is going on around you, and if you are not paying attention to your work you are not paying attention to the quality of the product you are producing. It is acceptable to use phones before and after work, as well as during breaks and lunch. Where this policy gets a little confusing or may seem to be unfair is that there are some employees who need their phones for work related activities. For example, some of the office staff uses their phones to check work related emails, mobile equipment operators sometimes use them to coordinate between departments, and employees who work off site need their phone to stay in touch with the office. That being said, even these employees are only authorized to use their phones for work related activities, and they should not be driving mobile equipment or running a machine when they are using their phone. So only use your phone safely and when authorized to do so.

Upcoming Birthdays

Mike Stentoumis	August 18
Ryan O'Brien	August 19
Ron Monson	August 20

Monthly Calendar

NEMROC Equipment Fund Meeting	Aug 9th 11:30-12:00	Conference Room
Quality Improvement Meeting	Aug 16th 11:30-12:00	Conference Room
Safety Committee Meeting	Aug 23rd 11:30-12:00	Conference Room
NEMROC Board Meeting	Aug 25th	

Grants

NEMROC has recently applied for two grants. The first was through NISH and would allow for an expansion at the sawmill. The purpose of this grant is to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities throughout the nation. It is a very competitive grant, but if awarded it would allow us to hire a minimum of ten more employees. The second grant that was through a local organization would allow NEMROC to offer all our employees an Employee Assistants Program (EAP). An EAP offers employees and their families' free and confidential counseling and referral services to help them seek help with things like family/domestic issues, alcohol, substance abuse, and financial problems, and many other things that affect the wellbeing at home and work. We will keep our employees updated on the outcome of these grant opportunities.



Fixing Up the Classroom

Over the next month we will start to make repairs and upgrades to the Classroom/Conference Room. Because our local community believes in the mission of NEMROC, most of materials, time, and labor for this project have been donated. Much of the rest has been purchased through grants from agencies such as the Community Foundation of Northeastern Michigan. When the Classroom is closer to completion, we will publish a list of these community members so that we can all thank them for their support.

MIOSHA Visit

As most of you probably know NEMROC's Alpena Facilities had a visit from MIOSHA in the last month. We did get sighted for three violations (we should be getting the official citation within the next few weeks, and will post this in the main office for everyone to review at that time), but progress was noted over the last visit when we had six. Thank you for all your hard work at making sure everyone is safe, and as always, if you see a problem, make sure you say something so we can correct it.



NEMROC Goodbyes

July saw the departure of two long time NEMROC staff members. Brian Mandenberg the Milostan Center Supervisor and Chris Brenton our head sawyer both left for different jobs. Chris had worked for NEMROC for 19 years, and Brian for 22 years. We wish them the best of luck in their new ventures.

Lost Time

We are starting to rebuild our time without a Lost Time accident. As of July 29th we had a total of 11,928 consecutive work hours without a lost time accident. Please work safely and watch out for your coworkers.

NEMROC Sales Volume, Calendar Year to Date

Alpena Kiln	1,678,359 BF of Lumber
Hillman Kiln	242,990 BF of Lumber
Mill/Pallet Shop	27,246 Pallets 1,604,898 BF of Cutstock
Milostan Center	7133 Chair mats 25,977 Boxes 4,819,606 Pieces of Basswood
Comm. Living Services Supported Employment	8318 Units 28,621 Units