



The Porcelain Press

NSWC Indian Head Division
Safety Department Newsletter

15th InSTALLment

Distributed to a Restroom near you

July 2008/August 2008

When it comes to Safety, is 99.9 % effort good enough?

We hear this sage advice all the time:
"Follow the safety procedures all the time."
"Always focus on the task at hand."
Or, as my first-grade teacher used to say, "Take your time, and do it fine."

Still, you have to wonder whether a 100-percent safety effort is really worthwhile. The following information provides a perspective worth considering.

Many people say they can live with 98 percent or 99 percent safety performance. I thought you might like to see what happens if some things run only at 99.9 percent performance.

A recent study found that if certain things were performed correctly only 99.9 percent of the time, we would have to accept that:

- * 16,000 pieces of mail would be lost by the U.S. Postal Service every hour.
- * 22,000 checks would be deducted from the wrong bank accounts every hour.
- * 50 newborn babies would be dropped at birth by doctors every day.
- * 20,000 incorrect drug prescriptions would be dispensed every year.
- * Every person would miss 32,000 heartbeats every year.

It also occurs to me that, if I devoted 99.9 percent performance to this column, I might leave off the....

SAFETY - JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles and arrange the circled letters to form a surprise answer as suggested in the cartoon. Correctly solve the Safety-Jumble puzzle and email the solution to raymond.geckle@navy.mil by 29 August. Ten correct entries will be randomly selected from all correct submissions to receive a safety award.

PHIASM							
○							
GENRDA							
	○						
RHDZAA							
				○			
RUJOYEN							
○		○					○

Answer here: ○○ - ○○○○



Ask the Safety Wiz

Send your questions to the Safety Wizard at
raymond.geckle@navy.mil

Dear Wiz: Is it OK to wear a hard hat backwards? - *Hard Headed*

Dear Hard Head: Employees working in areas where there is a possible danger of head injury from impact, or from flying objects, or from electrical shock and [electrical] burns, shall be protected by hard hats.

Hard hats shall meet the specifications contained in American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Z89.1-1969, Safety Requirements for Industrial Head Protection. ANSI only tests and certifies hard hats to be worn with the **bill forward**; hard hats worn with the bill to the rear would not be considered reliable protection.

Dear Wiz: Are you the same Wiz that I went to high school with in Glendale, California? If you are, I was the blonde cheerleader who had a huge crush on you but you didn't know it. - *Lydia*

Dear Too-Lydia-Too-Late: The Wiz did not attend high school in Glendale but still your message has sent me into a safety coma.



"Sorry, your mind isn't on safety. You'll have to go out and come in again."