

## YUCK, WHAT'S THAT?

Contributed by Patrick VanDeneede

Before a recent safety meeting, I took a clean drum that we use for packing up hazardous material and sprayed it with some of that yellow Silly String™ type stuff (actually, it was Nick-Tivities™ Yellow Spit Smatter). Then, I placed the drum in the middle of the room. As people entered, everyone was careful not to touch the drum or the yellow crud stuck to the sides. I then proceeded to give a presentation on proper storage, labeling and shipping of hazardous waste drums. I showed pictures of drums I'd observed in the field covered with dirt and filth.



Then, I pointed out the drum in the middle of the room and asked someone to bring it to the front of the room. No one wanted to touch it. When I asked why, they said that they didn't know what the stuff all over the drum was and that they weren't going to touch it until they found out. I explained that is exactly how people feel when they come in contact with our waste drums covered with filth. The participants could definitely see the point.

I then went over techniques for keeping drums clean while shoveling into them, like cutting off the bottom of a trash bag and pulling it over the outside of the drum with a little tucked in around the top.

## FLOUR HANDS

Contributed by Jennifer Everett

Here's an idea to promote good hand washing: I first get the attendees' minds going with a question about the 10 most dangerous weapons. After we agree that our fingers and thumbs are our most dangerous weapons, I drive home the idea that proper hand washing is the most effective way to prevent the spread of disease. To do this, I have the last few people who arrive at the meeting come to the front and place their hands in a vat of flour.

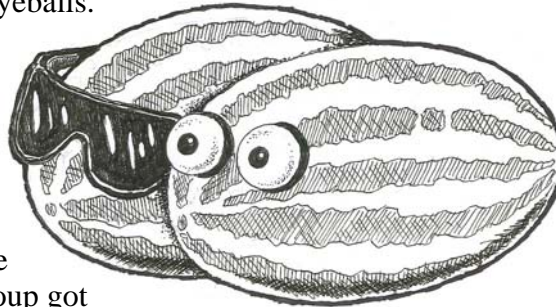
The audience then watches as the volunteers with floured hands go through a series of activities to simulate everyday workplace tasks, i.e., knocking on a door, opening a door, picking up the telephone, borrowing a pen from a co-worker, shaking hands, and finally, patting themselves on the back. After some laughs, I have the volunteers reveal their hands to everyone. Participants are often surprised to see that the volunteer's hands are relatively clean and everyone and everything else is coated in flour.

## **WATERMELON EYES**

Contributed by Mike Kubeck

I wanted something in my eye protection training that would show how fragile the eyeball is and the importance of wearing eye protection. I purchased two watermelons and two dozen raw eggs and sliced off the bottoms of the watermelons so they would sit up straight without rolling around. I then drew a face on each one. Where the eyes would be, I cut out holes, carefully fitted raw eggs (in the shells, of course) in the openings and painted the ends of the eggs to look like eyeballs.

One watermelon was fitted with a pair of safety glasses over the eyes (eggs) and one was not. Both watermelon faces were set on a podium and covered with paper bags.



After I introduced the topic, I removed the paper bags from the watermelons. The group got a very good laugh at my watermelon faces. With a wooden pointer in my hand, I said, “This is your eyes without safety glasses,” and I hit the watermelon face without the safety glasses in the “eye.” The eggs shattered and egg yolk and white dripped from the “eyeball.” I hit the other unprotected eye as well. Immediately, the group that had just been laughing became totally quiet. I then said, “This is your eyes with safety glasses” and hit the watermelon face wearing safety glasses in the eyes. Of course, the eyes did not break because they were protected with safety glasses! The group was still silent. I thanked them for their attention, and they quietly left the room. I think they got the message!

## **SAFETY MEETING EYE-DEA**

Contributed by Rafat Farooqi

We were having a lot of minor eye injuries in our plant, and posting signs wasn't doing much to change employee behavior with respect to wearing eye protection. At our next meeting, I showed some transparencies about eye hazards, types of eye protection and the pros and cons of each type. I displayed the parts of the eye and compared the cornea to a camera lens, the retina to the film in a camera and the image that develops in the brain to film processing.

Once that message was conveyed, I shut off the overhead projector and put up a slide of a beautiful beach scene with some people sunbathing. I then took a blank transparency, told the audience to imagine this to be the cornea, placed it over the scene slide and then switched on the projector. After a few wows and gasps from the audience, I took a small pin, slightly scratched the blank transparency and explained that this is what would happen if something sharp got in their eyes. This dramatization held my audience's attention until the end of the presentation. It seems the demonstration lived up to expectation, as the eye injury figures have dramatically decreased since then.

## LIVE DUMMIES

Contributed by Craig Tobin

Almost everyone has seen or heard Vince and Larry, the Crash Test Dummies, on public service commercials for years. How about bringing their famous message to “Buckle up!” to your workplace? This promotion can be fun, educational and pleasing to the palate.



### You will need:

- Crash Dummy costumes (Contact your state’s Department of Transportation to reserve the costumes. The suits are one-size-fits-all and are just like the ones seen on TV. Usually the only costs are dry cleaning and return shipping.)
- Life Savers™ candy and Dum Dum™ suckers

Get two enthusiastic people to don the costumes. They are gray jumpsuits with full helmet heads. Employees will go crazy trying to figure out who is in the costumes. Have the “dummies” circulate among the employees in the break room, hallways or parking lot, asking the following question, “Do you wear your seat belt?” If the response is “Yes,” the dummies give the person a Life Savers™. If the response is “No,” the dummies hand them a Dum Dum™ sucker and remind them to buckle up!

Performing these routines live can be a real hoot for your employees.



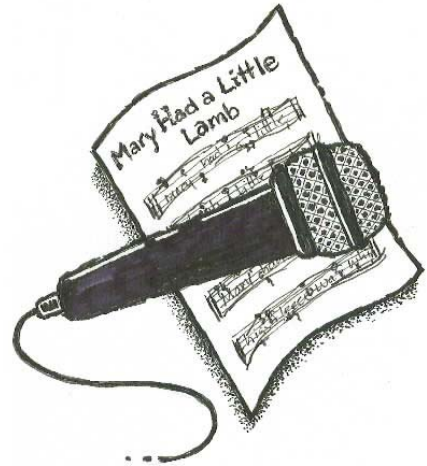
## SAFETY IDOL

Contributed by Jimmy Miller

At a recent safety meeting, we did a skit that was a spoof of *American Idol*. We called it “Safety Idol.” We had “singers” (I use that term loosely) who played the contestants. The performers had some really good safety lyrics and used tunes ranging from “Mary Had a Little Lamb” to an old Platters’ song.

We also had three people who played the judges – Simon, Paula and Randy. Their job was to determine who would pass to the final round where the audience chose the winner.

We filmed the skit and showed it to our three shifts. It was hilarious! It helped to drive home safety lessons, and the audience really enjoyed it.



## NAME ACRONYM

Contributed by Richard Fisher

I conduct weekly safety meetings and focus mostly on shop-related topics. Because topics are usually discussed over and over again, becoming a bit bland, I try to keep the meetings interesting. I go around the room and ask if anyone has noticed any safety issues in the shop. When I say the person’s name, I write down the first letter of his/her name and then move on to the next person (never in the same order). When I’ve gone all around the room, I read the letters out loud, and everyone writes them down. For example, I read:

**K** (Kyle)  
**C** (Chuck)  
**A** (Andy)  
**P** (Paul)  
**D** (Dave)

Then, using the letters, they try to come up with a safety related acronym, such as:

**K**eep  
**C**hisels  
**A**nd  
**P**unches  
**D**ressed

It’s a lot of fun to see what people come up with in a short amount of time, and we end up with catchy reminders that people can take back to the workplace.

