

Project Summary

Safety Culture Success: Bi-lingual Private Industry

Client:

Future Foam Inc.

Contact:

Mr. Marc Vitale, General
Manager

Project Manager:

Mr. Gordy Koch, CHCM,
Senior Safety & Health
Specialist

Regulatory Status:

Safety assessment, custom-
ized written program devel-
opment, site-specific train-
ing, and ongoing technical
support

Project Features

- Safety Assessment of Middleton, WI facilities
- Monthly visits to conduct periodic walkthroughs, training, and various specialty requests
- First Aid training and certification according to the American Heart Association
- Working with a multi-lingual workforce
- Worked with local OSHA office to reduce potential exposures to hazardous chemicals
- Orientation and new employee training initiatives
- Safe rail car unloading practices
- Development of an Electronic Safety Management System

**Alpha Terra Science
Safety Division**

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Introduction and Value to Client

Future Foam Inc. manufacture flexible polyurethane foam and carpet cushion. They employ about 100 workers with many being of the Hispanic descent. The City of Middleton, WI is home to two plants. We met with Marc Vitale, General Manager, in May of 2003 to discuss the safety and health services available from Alpha Terra Science. The Middleton facilities had a strong desire to improve their track record with injuries, which was having a negative impact on the worker's compensation rates. Marc was committed to turning the safety culture around. He put his trust in Gordy Koch, Alpha Terra Senior Safety & Health Specialist. Working together, Marc and Gordy have changed the attitudes and work habit of the employees completely around.

Synopsis

Marc was interested in establishing a benchmark from which to develop a meaningful strategy for success. As a result, a facility-wide safety assessment was performed defining priorities and making recommendations for improvements in both the physical aspect of the facilities and also the written safety program.

Customized written programs were developed as the result of findings during the assessment. Training was performed in both English and Spanish. The Spanish portion was translated by an in-house interpreter. Air monitoring was also performed as part of the recommendations in the assessment.

While Gordy visits Future Foam Inc. on a monthly basis to continue work on programs, training, and inspections, Mark has made a commitment to invest in proper PPE and safety equipment for confined space entry, fall protection, and AED's.

The results of this relationship have been noticed by other Future Foam Inc. plants in other states. Gordy has completed safety assessments at High Point, NC and Council Bluffs, IA facilities.

This relationship is a result of two professionals committed to building a successful safety culture through a passion for safety. We are in our sixth year of partnering with Future Foam Inc. and establishing an **Electronic Safety Management System** for them.