



April 7, 2014

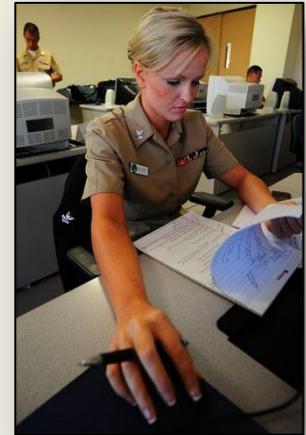
2,200 Safety Professionals Attend Virtual PDC

Last month the Naval Safety and Environmental Training Center successfully executed the 22nd Joint Safety & Occupational Health Professional Development Conference. At this five-day conference, more than 120 presentations were delivered by more than 150 geographically-dispersed speakers. The presentations and meetings were specifically chosen to equip the workforce with the latest skills, tools and strategies to inculcate safety within their organizations and to provide continuing education units to maintain professional certifications.

The conference was attended by 2,202 globally-based civilian and active-duty safety and occupational health professionals, a 47 percent increase from last year. The event was executed exclusively in a virtual environment using DCO Cloud, a commercial version of Defense Connect Online (DCO). Attendee feedback revealed excellent/good approvals for the online format (85 percent), the content (95 percent), and the speakers (95 percent).

The virtual conference also yielded substantial savings. Over \$2.2 million was avoided in travel expenses and more than 22,000 hours of productivity returned by avoiding travel days.

More than 30 presentation recordings have been posted on the conference website https://pdc2014.adobeconnect.com/schedule/event/event_info.html for those who were unable to attend. Questions about the conference can be directed to CDR Greg Cook at gregory.w.cook@navy.mil or 757-445-8778 X 313.



Name	Size
DASH (Safety) Talking Points.ppt	409 KB
Sabert_891210048.pptx	488 KB
A Sea Change Cordee Shattuck Brief.pdf	2 MB

Fall Protection Issues

The Naval Safety Center has noticed a negative trend in fall protection equipment during surveys, finding large numbers of unapproved fall protection safety lanyards in the fleet. Our surveyor typically inspects five random harnesses and lanyards in detail, and he approximates that four out of five are not approved for fleet use. The issue is particularly striking on ship types which have the harnesses in multiple work centers. The majority of the hits are coming from ship Air and Deck Departments and not from Combat Systems.

Work center leadership fleet-wide is generally unaware of the NAVSEA message released in December of 2011 that gives the current list of authorized fall protection.

We have also noted an increase in the amount of equipment that is not within PMS standards. The most egregious case occurred on a ship that had a climber safety rail installed upside down, rendering it essentially ineffective. The intent is not to guide a Sailor's fall to the deck, but to stop his or her fall altogether.

The good news is that no one has been recently killed or injured due to these discrepancies. The bad news is it is only a matter of time before that happens unless we take a round turn to ensure our ships are carrying and using only the appropriate NAVSEA-approved fall protection gear onboard. ISICs should monitor the situation to be certain that our Sailors have the right gear and that it is being maintained properly for the moment when it is truly needed to save a life.



Admiral's Comments: Fleet Safety Campaign Update

Progress continues in the effort to save lives and resources by operationalizing safety and implementing safety management systems across the fleet. The campaign plan draft has been updated to reflect the way warfighters tackle challenges. It's now organized according to DOTMLPF(P) objectives we can all embrace.

Nonetheless, there will be growing pains as we improve our culture. Change always brings a certain amount of stress, even when the change is undeniably for the better. That's why it's important that we are consistent when we communicate the need for this change.

Here are some points I ask you to consider and communicate:

- Safety is not a stand-alone program. It is a part of everything we do.
- Every year, preventable mishaps cost millions of dollars and take the lives of too many Sailors.
- Roughly 80 percent of all mishaps are caused by human factors such as fatigue, complacency, inattention, and other potentially unsafe behaviors.
- Fleet-wide safety management systems will standardize and align best practices among the warfighting communities.
- We all play a role in shaping attitudes and changing safety culture.
- If you see something unsafe, speak up.
- Risk management doesn't slow down the mission, it makes mission success possible.

Thank you for your help as we continue to refine this life-saving campaign.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth J. Norton".

RDML Kenneth "K.J." Norton
Commander, Naval Safety Center

