



Walker Concrete: A Culture of Safety 24/7, 365 Days

At a busy Georgia jobsite, Walker Concrete's Larry Goodson observes drivers washing out their trucks and preparing to head back to the plant for another load. As Walker's safety coordinator, he continually gathers first hand data on how the company's "Zero Accident" initiative is working out in the field.

"I'm looking at driver behavior," Goodson says. "I'm watching for safe behavior in terms of three-point stance getting in and out of equipment. Are they looking where they are walking? The surfaces are uneven, they're wet, they're slippery. Are they being careful, are they taking their time?"

These on-the-job spot checks provide valuable feedback to the company's professional drivers.

"Employees are empowered to understand that safety is an attitude. We incorporated the VICAT Group's zero accident initiative some two years ago. We embrace it and work hard to embed it in our behaviors and day-to-day activities."

The urgency of always being safe is reinforced through Walker's adoption of six unconditional rules. The rules are posted on large signs and plac-

ards and even provided on a small wallet-size card. Goodson says those six rules are the cornerstone of weekly meetings sometimes conducted from the tailgate of a truck.

"We look for a fresh way to bring that message and help them understand that safety is a benefit not only to them and their families but to the company as well. force those concepts on a daily basis."

We exercise those six rules and where needed, help reinforce those concepts on a daily basis."

Back on the job site, Goodson is ensuring that rule number one is being followed: the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). "PPE is top of the list," he says. He's also taking note of each driver's interpersonal skills and how they interact with the customer.

And when it comes to customer relations, Goodson says Walker Concrete wants to be a close partner in keeping every job site safe. "We want them to appreciate that we're interested in a successful joint venture. We often share best practices so we can elevate the bar on safety for all of us," he says.

As the trucks leave the work zone, Goodson continues his fact gathering. "I'm looking at speed of trucks on the highway, following distance, driver behavior, are their drum rotations proper, How are they approaching? Those are a lot of the keys we targeted today."

Overall, Goodson was pleased with today's observations. "We encourage safety 24/7, 365 days a year."

