

## Hanson Material Service Wins Innovative Safety & Health Leadership Award

The IAAP's Safety Committee members developed the Innovative Safety & Health Leadership award with the expectation it will highlight practices by one company thereby providing others with an innovative example they may use at their own operations. We grant this award to a company, workplace team, or individual demonstrating superior or exemplary contributions in safety & health leadership that engage employees with the understanding of what is needed to build and sustain an injury free workplace through their innovative and collective efforts.

**Hanson Material Service's Area Safety Manager, David Kohaus**, submitted his company's "Best Practices" program for consideration and it was selected by members of the IAAP Safety Committee for this prestigious award. Working with the company's management team, they began implementing this innovative safety program in the fall of 2011 with a goal to make their mine sites better and safer through the implementation of best practices. Hanson Material Service, a division of Lehigh Hanson, is based in Thornton, Illinois and operates limestone quarries and sand & gravel pits throughout Illinois as well as Indiana.

The Best Practices program works by sharing innovative safety solutions developed at a particular operation that could be implemented at their other mining sites. The concept is simple and motivates miners to take ownership of personal safety and safety of others as everyone strives for zero injuries and citations. According to Dave Kohaus, "Safety culture shifts from employees worrying about safety compliance to a more proactive approach focused on best practice."

<b>Hanson Material Service Safety and Health Best Practice</b>	Plant: Yd. 669 Nokomis Area of Plant: Parking Lot Equipment: Pick up trucks and cars
<b>Description:</b> Use speed bumps as wheel chocks at office to eliminate having to place chocks under tires	
<b>Required Implementation Steps:</b> Purchase bumpers and install	
<b>Achieved Upside:</b> Eliminate the need to manually chock tires every time you park vehicle.	



Each quarter of the year, all mining operations in the region are required to develop and implement at least one new best practice then document and submit this idea to the company; sometimes, several ideas come from a plant and its employees during a quarter. Sites have slightly different plants and properties but something that works at one location can easily be implemented at another, such as an idea originating at the Nokomis quarry where plastic speed bumps were installed in each parking space so that an employee doesn't have to manually chock his wheels every time he parks his truck.

With consideration to the rise in aggregate mining fatalities, the Romeo Quarry decided Fatalgrams should now be posted on highly visible signs that combat employee complacency by reminding miners to not be the next fatality we all read about. And how many of you have cut a conveyor belt using one of the most dangerous tools in your toolbox: a razor knife. Now, after a suggestion made by the Federal Quarry, Hanson Material Service mine sites have on hand an electric belt cutter to do the job in a safe and efficient manner.

Best Practice ideas are collected then sent along to all of the company's plants where they may be implemented or become inspiration for similar safety solutions. In this way, operations understand that their company leaders endorse these innovative solutions. Prior to the Best Practice program, Hanson Material Service's safety program was more compliance driven but the culture is changing and so have the worker's attitudes. Reflecting on their progress, Kohaus says, "Positive change comes from meaningful reforms and sharing great ideas."