



star wars-type TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES awareness

Alex Smith

Gilbane uses Dbo2 SafetyNet System to Record Safety Observations

LIGHT SABERS, MICRO-COMMUNICATIONS, holographic messages, C3PO, R2D2, and now we have DBO2. Star Wars technology has made the leap into construction safety. This futuristic vision of communication and information accessibility is being used to evaluate and record safety on construction sites.

Dbo2 SafetyNet system is one of a few safety-based electronic inspection programs that utilize a hand held PDA device to record safety observations. Gilbane Building Company has been working with the Pocket PC based safety observation system since 2005 and has improved its ability to collect, compile, analyze and track safety trends and performance over a large subcontractor base. Across the country, SafetyNet helps Gilbane reduce injuries, worker compensation costs, and general liability expenses, thereby improving business performance, and most importantly, sending employees home safely.

SafetyNet improves consistency and results in Gilbane's safety processes through increased participation by field personnel and increased accountability for safety at all levels. Chuck Praul, Regional Safety Manager for

Gilbane's Delaware Valley Region, said that by utilizing the hand held PDA, "Everyone on our project teams have a built-in, comprehensive safety checklist that enables them to identify and record both safe and unsafe observations while addressing corrective actions when needed. After syncing the data collected from the inspections, automatic reports are issued to the subcontractors via e-mail. This ability to be more efficient with how we document our safety inspections allows our project teams to be more productive, raising the level of awareness while in the field. Every member of our project team has the ability to perform safety inspections through the use of the hand held PDA, creating a greater perspective of the project and increasing participation in safety."

Pat Catalano, a Gilbane Project Superintendent noted, "SafetyNet is really great because I can take the PDA out into the field with me and make real time observations and log them into the program. Having a complete checklist of safety requirements in your hand helps to make sure that you cover all the bases. When our Project Manager goes out into the field he'll grab the PDA and record observations as he



The Dbo2 SafetyNet system allows for the collection, compilation, analization and recording of safety trends and performances on multiple jobsites.

goes about his business too. It's great to have a fresh set of eyes that can pick up items."

Data from each inspection can be compiled into various reports that allows measurement of a subcontractor's performance over the course of one or several projects. This objective measure of performance allows both Gilbane and its subcontractors the ability to identify trends and at-risk behaviors before they become accidents.

Since the rollout of SafetyNet at Gilbane in 2005, project teams have conducted over 14,000 inspections, making over 1.3 million observations on over 400 projects across the country.

Since SafetyNet requires that observers capture safe actions as well as unsafe ones, Gilbane can also use the data to show successes. By using the Contractor Analysis Report, it can see that a subcontractor is complying with the 100% safety glass policy or a steel erector is complying with the 6 foot fall protection policy.

"Having the ability to show a subcontractor the compiled data on their performance on a Gilbane project is truly a valued tool in raising the bar on safety. We are only as good as the subcontractors that work

on our projects", said Praul, "We need to constantly remind ourselves that we work in an inherently dangerous business, and we want to ensure everyone goes home safe."

Since the rollout of SafetyNet at Gilbane in 2005, project teams have conducted over 14,000 inspections, making over 1.3 million observations on over 400 projects across the country. Team members have identified and corrected more than 54,000 unsafe acts and conditions on Gilbane projects.■

Alex Smith is the Senior Business Development Coordinator for Gilbane Building Company.



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