

editor's note



WHILE MY YOUNGEST CHILD EXCELS AT SPORTS, MY MIDDLE CHILD HAS NEITHER INTEREST NOR APTITUDE IN THIS AREA.

However, he does enjoy music, so late last year we decided to give him piano lessons. And while we hoped he would have some ability, my wife and I were greatly surprised when his very experienced teacher told us Joshua was one of the top introductory students she had ever taught. Though I'm not holding out hopes of a concert pianist in the family, I'm confident that I'll soon be able to have live entertainment at any dinner party I host.

It's always a pleasure to discover these hidden treasures. I was recently rooting through the AISC website and noticed one area that probably isn't very obvious to most people—our safety channel (the easiest way to access it is by visiting www.aisc.org/safety).

Not surprisingly for an association focused on the fabricated structural steel industry, we have a safety committee focused on the dissemination of information about the application of current safety standards and accepted safety practices. Three areas in particular are pretty impressive and warrant some serious attention.

AISC offers two important safety publications. The first, "Sample Safety Program Elements for Structural Steel Fabricators" is only available to AISC members and includes information on such items as records, reporting, and documentation; employee training; safety rules; personal protective equipment; safety practices for selected practices; facility evaluation and emergency preparedness; company safety committees; accident investigation; and occupational injury management. The second, "General Safety Rules for Structural Steel Fabricators," is available free of charge to AISC members and for \$40 to non-members. Both documents are available as .pdf files, with the latter being ideal for distribution to everyone within the fabrication shop.

The second item warranting attention is what the site calls "Safety Details" but which many fabricators would call "tool box talks." These

are one-page sheets that can form the basis for a lunch-time safety program. The site has around 40 of them, with more added on occasion, so it's possible to build a pretty good safety education program with them. Topics range from "handling compressed gases" to "preventing welding flashback" to "picking the proper glove."

The newest feature is a "Safety Ideas Contest." If you have an interesting safety idea or program that you've implemented in your shop and would like to share with your peers, send it to AISC's Director of Research (and the guy in charge of safety at AISC) Tom Schlafly (schlafly@aisc.org). Here's an example of a safety idea, suggested by Dave Sailing at Zalk Josephs Fabricators:

"Cranes have to maintain clearance from the proximity of power lines but the distance from a line can be hard to judge. One way is to put an extension on a jib and hang a rope from it. If the rope hits the line, the crane is at the limit of the proximity."

In addition to helping the industry by improving safety, rumor has it that the best entries will earn the submitter a cool prize.

I look forward to seeing some interesting entries!

SCOTT MELNICK
EDITOR



Editorial Offices

1 E. Wacker Dr., Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60601
312.670.2400 tel
312.896.9022 fax

Editorial Contacts

EDITOR & PUBLISHER
Scott L. Melnick
312.670.8314
melnick@modernsteel.com

SENIOR EDITOR
Thomas L. Klemens, P.E.
312.670.8316
klemens@modernsteel.com

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
Alison Trost
312.670.5447
trost@modernsteel.com

DIRECTOR OF PUBLICATIONS
Areti Carter
312.670.5427
aretic@modernsteel.com

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Kristin Egan
312.670.8313
egan@modernsteel.com

AISC Officers

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Advertising Contact

Account Manager
Louis Gurthet
231.228.2274 tel
231.228.7759 fax
gurthet@modernsteel.com

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Address Changes and Subscription Concerns

312.670.5444 tel
312.893.2253 fax
admin@modernsteel.com

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717.394.7350
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