

Safety superheroes honoured at NAOSH Week Awards

Chilliwack's Society for Community Living earned the prize for "Most Innovative" for their superhero themed safety message.

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's Road Rage Randy!

The catchphrase may not roll off the tongue, but the concept of superheroes as a theme for Chilliwack's Society for Community Living's North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (NAOSH) was a hit with their over 300 dedicated employees and 200 contracted caregivers.

Inspired by the "superman" image for NAOSH Week, Chilliwack Society developed an entire campaign to raise awareness for health and safety in the workplace — earning them "Most Innovative" at the annual NAOSH Week Awards last October.

A superhero costume challenge, safety comic book, and evidence challenge were just some of the events organized. Themes for the week included: Medication Monday and Transportation Tuesday, while Misdiagnosis Molly, Side Effects Sam, and Road Rage Randy delivered important safety messages.

Participating in NAOSH's safety week is an ongoing tradition for Chilliwack's Society for Community Living. "We've been doing this for about five years now, and every year it gets better as far as the contribution, the involvement, the participation," said director Jeff Gilbank. "Pretty much everyone in the Society knows about [NAOSH] so we're proud of that, but also that we're having a lot of fun with it."

Safety — a daily habit

The City of Surrey took home the prize for “Best Overall” campaign, hosting a variety of activities throughout NAOSH Week, including a chemical response drill at the sports and leisure complex, fire drills and evacuations at both city hall and the operations centre, an orientation for new and returning summer students at the operations yard, and an employee video contest.

Mayor Linda Hepner also formally proclaimed May 1–7, 2016, as North American Occupational Safety and Health Week in the City of Surrey.

“You want your staff to know that you’re focusing on safety,” said roads and drainage manager Jeff Welch. “If you can keep your staff realizing how important safety is they’ll work safer. We want them to always be thinking about safety and the best way to do it is from the top down.”

Other notable winners of this year’s awards included DHL Supply Chain, Squamish Nation, Fairmont Vancouver Airport Hotel, and the Vancouver International Airport Authority.

“The theme: Make Safety a Habit is something that workers and employers should think about every day,” said Chris Back, WorkSafeBC director of Industry and Labour Services, at the recognition luncheon. “There are more than 225,000 employers in B.C. that have the responsibility to provide safe workplaces and more than 2.3 million workers that have the right to expect a healthy and safe workplace.”

This is something Mike Tasker, safety officer with WorkSafeBC and Darren Beattie from Conifex know very well. Both are Canadian Registered Safety Professionals who worked to develop WorkSafeBC’s Supervising for Safety e-learning program — earning them special recognition at the NAOSH Week Awards. The program is an online adaptation of a two-day, classroom-based course.

“At the end of the day, what it means to me is people go home safe,” said Tasker of the course. “We’ve come a long way but I think this is just a stepping stone to really making things a lot safer in B.C. workplaces.”

Since its inception, the Supervising for Safety program has been completed by over 18,000 participants. This program is in continuous demand, and has been for the past five years.


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—Jeff Welch, City of Surrey

More than just awards

And while awards are given out every year in celebration of NAOSH Week participants, the message is really about health and safety awareness.

“We’re here to celebrate NAOSH Week and to recognize those that put the effort and time into the campaigns they’ve created,” said Richard Dulong, president of the B.C. NAOSH Week Steering Committee. “We have a big job ahead of us to continue striving to ensure we at least get most, if not all employers involved, so that they are aware of what it is and bring safety to the forefront.”

A video of the event and the full list of winners can be found by searching NAOSH on worksafebc.com 

NAOSH | MAY 7–13, 2017

SAFETY & HEALTH WEEK IN B.C.

Be the hero...

MAKE SAFETY A HABIT



For more information on how to get your workplace involved, visit worksafebc.com.