



A Close Look at Close Calls

By Joe Farinella, plant personnel director

We've all become familiar... perhaps too familiar... with the violent episodes on the TV or movie screen, complete with buckets of gore and dreadful screams of pain. They may raise our pulse rate momentarily, but by the time the next program or feature

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begins, we've forgotten all about it. After all, it wasn't "real."

By contrast, anyone unfortunate enough to have experienced or witnessed a serious accident, on the road or in the workplace, doesn't ever forget the real blood, screams, and tears.

There is serious real-life danger, though, in incidents that don't result in personal injury because sometimes we tend to think of them like the movie massacre... scary for a few moments but no real harm done.

This is a dangerous (very dangerous) attitude because if we don't notice and correct whatever condition or behavior caused that close call, it's likely to be a closer call the next time, then closer yet, and so on. Eventually, we get the real thing with all the pain and suffering that goes with it... for the victim and for co-workers and family.

A close call or "near miss" incident must be regarded as a red warning flag or a high fever... a sign that something is very wrong and requires immediate attention. The list of possible near misses in our workplace is virtually endless, but here are just a few examples:

- A heavy object falls off a ledge or shelf and thuds to the floor a foot or so away from team members.
- A team member slips on a slick surface and almost, but not quite, falls.
- A team member jumps back just in time to avoid being hit by a fork truck.

Obviously, every near miss is a call to action. Sometimes it's something you can fix right away yourself. Other times it requires specialized attention. In either case, the near miss should never be ignored and should always be reported. That way, the next "real" incident may not happen.

Last year at Toledo, our team members reported 72 "near misses." That's good. It's a sign that we "get it." We understand that by reporting near misses and correcting the situations that led to them we help to keep all of us safe.

Let's keep our eyes wide open and continue to take very seriously our pledge to each other to be "our brother's and sister's keeper."

Toledo Transmission Blood Drive

The TTO Blood Drive is Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2012, from 8 a.m. - 11 p.m. in the Auditorium. To schedule an Appointment go through your Group Leader or call Lisa Davis directly at 419-470-9881 or Cote Smith at 419-779-7319.

All blood types are needed on an ongoing basis, even in severe winter weather. Winter weather across much of the Midwest and Eastern parts of the U.S. has caused hundreds of blood drives to cancel, resulting in a shortfall of more than 8,000 blood donations. Across the state of Ohio, 23 blood drives have canceled due to winter weather with a total shortfall of more than 1,200 donations. You are needed now to help. Give at this upcoming blood drive:

Time and location:

- TTO Auditorium on Feb.14, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. (To make an appointment contact Lisa Davis at 419-470- 9881 or email lisa.d.davis@gm.com).
- Or for another opportunity, please call 1-800-RED • CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org to find a convenient blood donation location and to schedule a lifesaving blood donation appointment.

Thank you from your American Red Cross and the hospital patients we serve

All Employee Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012

6:00 a.m.

- 3rd Shift: Machining, Maintenance, GSC-ALL

9:00 a.m.

- 1st Shift: Machining, Maintenance, GSC-ALL

12:00 p.m.

- 1st Shift: RWD Subs, GSC, Maintenance, RWD Prismatic

1:30 p.m.

- 1st Shift: RWD ML, CL, GSC, Maintenance, RWD Gears

3:15 p.m.

- 2nd Shift: GF6 Machining, Maintenance, GSC, Quality, Assembly

4:45 p.m.

- 2nd Shift: RWD Subs, GSC, Maintenance, RWD Prismatic

6:15 p.m.

- 2nd Shift: RWD ML, CL, GSC, Maintenance, RWD Gears

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012

6:00 a.m.

- 3rd Shift: GF6 Assembly, GSC, Maintenance

7:15 a.m.

- 1st Shift: GF6 Assembly, GSC, Maintenance

Safety Is Our Value

Road Rage and How to Avoid It

By Victor S. Roth, MD, MPH Medical Director

Most of us drive to and from work at GM Toledo Transmission – and work and many other events that we drive to, have specific times that we need to be there. That being the case, driving can be a stressful experience. All drivers have gotten frustrated behind the wheel at some point. Despite these frustrations, it's important

“Aggressive driving can trigger a response in ourselves and others, which sometimes may escalate into road rage”



to avoid aggressive driving behaviors, including speeding, running red lights, quick lane changing, tailgating and failure to yield.

Aggressive driving can trigger a response in ourselves and others, which sometimes may escalate into road rage – defined as a criminal act of assault - which may stem from a confrontation that occurred on the road.

The AAA Foundation's Aggressive Driving update found that aggressive driving behaviors are a factor in up to 56% of fatal crashes. Additionally, nearly 90% of drivers view aggressive driving as very serious or somewhat serious threat to their own safety.

Here are some tips on how to avoid aggressive driving:

Don't Offend

- Avoid cutting off other drivers - apologize if you do so
- Avoid tailgating and horn honking
- Avoid making offensive gestures

Don't Engage

- Steer clear of other aggressive drivers
- Avoid eye contact with other aggressive drivers
- Seek help if you're being followed – by driving to a safe/crowded location and/or by dialing 911

Adjust Your Attitude

- Leave enough time to get to where you are going
- Put yourself in the other driver's shoes
- Take a deep breath and try to relax

Remember escalating a situation will serve to make matters worse

The following is a link to a “Road Rage” brochure published by the American Automobile Association Foundation for Traffic Safety (AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety). The brochure has additional details on how you can avoid being a victim of an aggressive driver:

<http://www.aaafoundation.org/pdf/RoadRageBrochure.pdf>

Investment Construction

GF6 Gen 3 (major recent work activities/completions)

- Completed Fire Protection install
- Completed concrete floor slab install
- Completed facility area lighting install
- Completed filter area floor drain trench install
- Continued area painting
- Continued mechanical piping install
- Continued electrical duct install
- Continued HVAC air duct install
- Began demising wall steel erection
- Began chip building floor slab replacement
- Substantial completion/tool install target = 3-01-12

RWD 8-Speed

- Week of Jan. 30 - begin rehab of plant 2 starting with floor work.

Suggestions 2012

Two new hourly Suggestion Administrators have been added to assist with the Suggestion Program.

Pamela Sloan will be responsible for all suggestions in RWD.

Kevin Strouse will be responsible for all suggestions in GF6.

Just a few reminders for suggestors to prevent suggestions from being delayed:

Team Leaders/Team Members

Be sure to fill out the suggestion form completely with your name, GMIN Only (No SS#'s), Dept/Shift, indicate if this is your 1st suggestion this year, and initial after speaking to your Group Leader. If it's a team suggestion each member needs to legibly write their names and GMIN (No SS#'s).

Group Leaders

Be sure to fill in your information completely including your signature, date and phone number. You are also to fill out the back of the yellow copy with your comments about the suggestion and who (if other than you) would be best to evaluate it. You may also Award a suggestion up to \$500.00. Contact the Suggestion Administrators for the calculation forms.

Suggestion Administrators

Pamela Sloan 419-466-8014

Kevin Strouse 419-466-8407

Dan Macut- 419-408-1476

Forms that do not have all of the needed information will be returned to Group Leaders.

Thanks, Suggestion Team

Thanks For Your Support

MLK, Jr. Dinner Raffle Winners

The Local 14 and TTO Unit Civil and Human rights Committees would like to send a big thank you to all of those who supported the Martin Luther King, Jr. Dinner event held on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012, at the Union Hall.

Raffle Winners: Phil Boles - Region 2B Jacket; Mary Swade - Good Guys Car Detailing; Phil Boles - Patron Spirits Tequila

Purchase Raffle Tickets To Win The 2012 Camaro Convertible. Proceeds To Benefit The Make A Wish Foundation

Tickets available in these locations:

Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012 - 5 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

in front of the FWD Assembly Team Center

Friday, Feb. 3, 2012 - 5 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

in Bay-G7, east of the UAW work center.

One ticket for \$10 or three for \$20

Drawing is Friday, April 13, 2012

All in-plant emergencies dial....

131*128*3856

...on your NEXTEL phone only

How to contact us...

Communications Integrator - UAW: Daniel Macut

Direct Connect: 131*128*3895; cell: (419) 408-1476

Email submissions to daniel.macut@gm.com

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Deadline for POWERLine is 3:00 p.m. Tuesday.

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