

Nearly 75 Percent of US Manufacturers Believe Their Workplace is Safer Than Last Year

More Than Half of US Manufacturers Report a Decrease in the Rate of Workplace Injuries

National Workplace Survey by The Marlin Company and Occupational Health & Safety Magazine

North Haven, CT, May 24, 2006 -- Nearly three out of four (74%) of US manufacturers believe that their workplace is safer than it was a year ago, according to new survey findings released today by The Marlin Company and *Occupational Health & Safety* magazine.

The nationwide survey of 691 manufacturers, conducted in honor of National Safety Month (June), also found that 70% of US manufacturers have experienced no increase to their Worker's Compensation premiums and 55% of those surveyed reported a decrease in the rate of workplace injuries over the last year.

Nearly half of the manufacturers surveyed – 47% -- reported increasing the amount of safety training in the last year. The majority of companies – 57% -- report holding monthly safety meetings. Sixty percent said they supplement their safety meetings with newsletters and other publications and 72% said they supplement the meetings with safety posters.

Manufacturers that don't supplement safety meetings with newsletters, other publications and postings reported a 46% rise in workplace injuries over the last year. While companies that supplement their safety meetings with newsletters, other publications and postings, reported only a 10% rise.

“Manufacturers clearly understand the importance that training plays in improving workplace safety,” said Frank Kenna III, CEO of The Marlin Company, an international workplace communications company. “But training alone doesn't do the job. It's important to deliver repeated reminders so that employees stay focused on key safety issues. Adding a visual component like posters can provide additional reinforcement and help workers take safety seriously.”

The number one safety problem among US manufacturers is employees' failure to wear personal protective equipment, according to the survey.

The survey found that 60% of US manufacturers experience safety problems from employees' failure to wear personal protective equipment. The number two and three safety problems confronting American manufacturers, according to the survey are

- Slips, trips and falls (58% reported this a problem)

- Back injuries from lifting (47% reported this a problem)

Here are the ranking of safety problems reported by US manufacturers:

	<u>Percentage Experiencing Problem</u>
Failure to wear personal protective equipment	61%
Slips, trips and falls	56%
Back injuries from lifting	47%
Failure to follow housekeeping procedures	43%
Improper use of machinery, such as lack of guarding or improper placement of fingers	35%
Eye injuries	22%
Lockout/Tagout	17%
Other	11%
Injuries related to hazardous materials	8%

The survey was conducted in March 2006 and fielded to 4,948 manufacturers who subscribe to *Occupational Health & Safety*.

About The Marlin Company

For more than 90 years, The Marlin Company has been the Workplace Communication Experts™ helping companies improve employee morale, productivity and performance through the innovative use of original, visually engaging content that is displayed in Communication Stations that can be managed through print or Internet distribution. Its stations, which contain content customized by industry, are helping more than 8,000 companies of all sizes improve workplace attitudes and behavior. Through its many years of experience, The Marlin Company has developed a strong database of, and experience in, issues affecting the workplace. It routinely surveys thousands of clients to determine their current issues, works with industry experts across North America, and conducts national polling. Since 1995, it has conducted its annual "Attitudes in the American Workplace" Labor Day poll, which is now done through Harris Interactive. For more information, please see www.themarlincompany.com.

About Occupational Health & Safety

Occupational Health & Safety (www.ohsonline.com) is the leading U.S. magazine for workplace safety and health. Published by 1105 Media Inc., it reaches more than 84,000 qualified subscribers nationwide.