

THE FIRE LINE

Clothing Order!

- The clothing order has arrived! Please come see Leah to pick up your items.
- Next round of ordering will be in October.

"The best way to appreciate your job is to imagine yourself without one"

Oscar Wilde

WTBI w/ BIM?

What's the big idea with BIM?

We've all heard the word "BIM, usually accompanied by groans, curses, and other general expletives I won't repeat here... BIM stands for Building Information Modeling. BIM is the process in which 3D computer models of a building, structural elements, and all other mechanical trades are used to create a composite model that can be viewed on the computer. The model is then used to determine "Clashes" between various objects for coordination prior to building. For example; if a sprinkler main conflicts with a mechanical duct, it shows up as a clash that is discussed and resolved prior to fabrication.

BIM takes a lot of additional time and lot of cooperation with other trades, especially the General Contractor. When you have a good GC on board that will make the coordination stick in the field, like BDB, Okland, and others, the process goes well. When the GC or other sub-contractors don't care what happens after the BIM process, our coordination efforts are wasted and the field personnel are left with the nightmare of making it all fit. In any case, timing is critical and can make all the difference in a good job going bad.

Although this might make sense in a perfect world, the actual implementation of BIM gets a little hairy. To make a very long story short, the models don't show everything perfectly. Several items are regularly excluded including: fire proofing on steel, electrical conduit and clearances, hangers and rods, strut supports on ductwork, diagonal bracing, and even some structural elements to name a few. Add to that, imperfections in the construction, architectural changes, and the fact that each trade simply can't install each item to the inch for whatever reason. In short, BIM will only eliminate 90% of the potential conflicts, but it will eliminate most.

So what is the big idea? The real benefit of BIM is in the time and labor it can save in the field. Our designers and field coordinators are challenged to negotiate properly to help insure our interests are top priority. They also must educate the other trades what our needs are and do this in a timely manner so we can mobilize when needed. When a model is on time and coordinated thoroughly then ALL the in-office coordination is done. We then have real information that tells us the expected pipe routing is clear and know when the Sparky has to move that stupid cable tray he forgot to model. We can get to the job site faster because we can fabricate with the confidence that it will fit, within reason. We can work out issues before they become issues...If you haven't had a chance to see it, stop by the office and let us show you...

The point is that BIM is still an emerging technology with more than enough bugs to work out. When done well, it significantly reduces the conflicts left for the field to resolve on their own. When done poorly, well....pick your expletive.

~Craig Atkinson~



CELEBRATION OF THOUGHT & EXPRESSION

A NEW POLICY - INTEROFFICE MEMO

Due to increased completion and keen desire to remain in business, we find it necessary to institute a new policy.

Effective immediately, we are asking that somewhere between starting time and quitting time, and without infringing too much on the time usually devoted to lunch period, coffee breaks, rest periods, storytelling, ticket selling, golfing, auto racing, that each employee endeavor to find some time that can be set aside and known as the "WORK BREAK".

To some, this may seem a radical innovation, but we honestly believe the idea has great possibilities. It can be conceivable be an aid to steady employment and it might be a means of assuring a continuation of regular pay checks.

While the adoption of the "WORK BREAK" plan is not compulsory; it is hoped that each employee will find enough time to give the plan a fair trial. It is also hoped that those employees not in favor of adopting the "WORK BREAK" idea will have fully completed their vacation plans! **All in FUN!**

NEW EMPLOYEES

LaNae Fausett – Accounting
Kylie Mimitz – Receptionist

Stephen McSweeney – SH
William Fields – SH
John Gupta - SH
Michael Ball – SH
Tom Hardman – SH

CONGRATULATIONS!

Kenny Sprouse – Journeyman
Brian Morrill – 3rd Class Apprentice
Nick Berrett – 3rd Class Apprentice

Eric DeKarver – NICET 1
Mike Gress – CWSI Alarm
Brady Molyneux – CWSI Alarm

FECI – EMR BELOW 1.0 YEAH!!

EMR is a term that we use all the time when we talk about safety. Do you know what it really means? EMR means Experience Modification Rate and it has a strong impact on our business with respect to worker injuries be they in office or on-site and remains with us for a minimum of 3 years. This is a formula used by insurance companies to gauge both past cost of injuries and future chances of risk. The lower our EMR is, the lower our worker's compensation insurance premiums will be. An EMR under 1.0 is considered the acceptable industry standard and is what many construction companies and owners base their decisions on whether to allow us to work on their projects when this value is exceeded.

Fire Engineering has had an EMR over 1.0 since 2007 which has restricted us from bidding many projects, not to mention the financial cost of increased premiums as well. Thanks to every person in our company, working very hard on changing our safety culture, we have finally gotten our EMR down to .95!!!! This is something we as a group should be very proud of. We cannot let up on safety, not even for a minute.

Every day and every task has new challenges. We must remain diligent while performing our tasks safely and work to keep each and every one of us out of harm's way, day in and day out. Congratulations to all and keep up the good work!

Casey Benson

Fire Engineering Co.

Bulletin #13 - May 1968

"I make progress by having people around me who are smarter than I am – and listening to them. And I assume that everyone is smarter about something than I am."

Henry J. Kasier