

BIG!

Workplace safety is a 'big' deal for the members of this Everett tooling team

By Joanna Pickup

Everything at the Everett site in Washington state is big, from the sprawling factory to the huge sections of twin-aisle airplanes assembled there.

But from the perspective of employees such as Gary Tamura, Shane George and Jerry Loreen, it can all look pretty small.

They drive Kalmar straddle carriers, from seats 35 feet (nearly 11 meters) above the ground.

"Being that high up, we see everything," Tamura said. "But everything is very small. Our challenge is that we share the same roads and transportation aisles with everyone else in Everett. We can't make quick turns or fast stops, and there's a risk of tipping over."

Safety is a priority—so much so that the team took the initiative to produce a safety video that is helping Boeing achieve its goal of improving workplace safety 25 percent by 2013, as measured by workdays lost due to injuries.

As members of the Everett Rotating Tools Employee Involvement Team, Tamura and his teammates deliver major assemblies for the 747, 767 and 777 programs from railroad cars and return fixtures to the vendors using the Kalmar. In just under two hours, they load and unload shipping containers. Each month the team moves more than 100 loads across the Everett site.

"Essentially, we begin the production process," said fellow Kalmar driver George.

Along with the Large Cargo Loader, which is used to move 787 parts from the

BY THE NUMBERS

35

Number of feet (nearly 11 meters) the Kalmar cab sits above the ground

62

Weight of the Kalmar in tons (56 metric tons) when empty

14 by 40

Dimensions in feet of the Kalmar (4 meters by 12 meters)

100 by 22

Dimensions in feet of the Large Cargo Loader (30 meters by 7 meters)

PHOTO: BOB FERGUSON/BOEING



PHOTO: Jerry Loreen, left, Gary Tamura, in background, and Shane George deliver major assemblies for the 747, 767 and 777 programs using the Kalmar. BOB FERGUSON/BOEING

PHOTO: Another big player at the Everett, Wash., site, the Large Cargo Loader moves 787 parts delivered by the Dreamlifter from the flight line to the factory. ED TURNER/BOEING



“Although our team prides itself on delivering the major assemblies on time, safety is the most important part of our job.”

– Chuck Burton, Rotating Tools team lead, Boeing Commercial Airplanes

Dreamlifter on the flight line to the factory, the Rotating Tools team is responsible for delivering all of the 777 airplane parts to the production line in the factory.

“Moving cargo across the Everett site can be dangerous. We have to be aware of everyone around us—pedestrians, people on bikes, even other vehicles and equipment operators,” said Chuck Burton, the Rotating Tools safety team lead. “Although our team prides itself on delivering the major assemblies on time, safety is the most important part of our job. We knew we had to do something to educate all employees about the potential safety hazards.”

The team members wanted to create a video to help spread their safety message. But lacking a budget, they had to find another way. They took advantage of an Environment, Health and Safety fair in 2009 to develop and distribute a PowerPoint presentation to more than 200 employees who attended.

“We couldn’t pass them out fast enough,” said Diane Kauffman, a member of the team. “It was great to see how enthusiastic and involved everyone was to hear our message.”

Not long after, the team noticed an improvement in safety and employee situational awareness around the big vehicles. Still, it knew more needed to be done—and continued to pursue the idea of creating a video. After more than a year, the team’s dedication finally paid off with approval from senior management to produce the video.

“I’m glad we never gave up,” Burton said. The team’s video now is used in monthly crew meetings across the Everett site.

“The team’s efforts are a great example of how it doesn’t cost a fortune to help everyone stay safe,” said Atsuo Miyake, director of Environment, Health and Safety for Commercial Airplanes. “Getting personally engaged like this team did is so crucial. ... We all need to realize we can make a difference in the safety of our workplace.” ■

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Employees can view the safety video at <http://boeingnews.web.boeing.com/frontiers/video/big.html> on the Boeing intranet.