



# CENTENNIAL ELEVATOR INDUSTRIES, INC.

## Centennial News

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### 10 Hour OSHA Safety Training Class

On Tuesday, January 6, 2009, Wael Khalil, the Safety and Health Consultant from Lovell Safety Management, presented an OSHA 10 Hour Construction Training Course for 50 Centennial Elevator employees at Bruno's On the Boulevard in Astoria. Mr. Khalil, who is an OSHA certified instructor, addressed a group composed primarily of modernization teams which are now required by law to have safety certification while working in public buildings such as schools, housing and hospitals. Also present were Executive Vice President Richard L'Esperance Jr, Eric L'Esperance, Superintendent Carl Rogalski, Dave Gherardi, and Dennis Reiner. Reinhold Peper, our safety consultant was also in attendance and ever the opportunist, used the occasion to distribute pairs of safety goggles and to provide additional information accumulated over his 45 + years in the business.

The session covered many topics using a multi media approach which included photos, video to illustrate safety rules and actual safety equipment to demonstrate its use in the field. The presentation began on a dramatic note when Mr. Khalil mentioned the emotional and financial cost of workplace accidents to the workers, their families and to the company. This was followed by a film on lifting do's and don'ts which clearly demonstrated proper lifting technique while listing the most common causes of back injury. He emphasized that injuries can occur even when lifting small objects and discussed the proper way to shift the stress of the load away from your lower back.

Additional areas of interest were covered during this session including an electrical safety slide show, a discussion of electrical equipment and the effects of electrical current as it travels through your body. Wael also discussed fall protection and used members of the audience to demonstrate how the harness is used when structural fall protection is not available.

This presentation was not only interesting but provided Centennial employees with valuable information that, if followed, could contribute to a more productive and healthful career. Future sessions will be held to certify and update all of our workers.



Wael Khalil addressing the group of candidates seeking their OSHA certificates.

### College Scholarships Available

**The Elevator Conference of New York (ECNY) is funding two competitive \$5,000 scholarships for children of workers in the elevator industry. Those eligible are any daughter, son, step-child or grandchild of Industry Employees who are currently high school 12<sup>th</sup> graders. The awards will be presented to the top two qualified high school seniors who submit the ECNY application before June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009. This includes a photo, high school transcript, SAT or ACT scores and letters of recommendation. The application and further information regarding these and additional awards of \$2,500 that may be available can be found on the ECNY website, [www.ecnyweb.com](http://www.ecnyweb.com)**

### - Proper Work Attire - By Reinhold Peper

A sometimes overlooked, but important, aspect of workplace safety is proper dress. The main danger points involve the interaction of clothing and worn metallic objects with moving machinery and energized equipment. Elevator Superintendents, Technicians and Technical Assistants work in confined spaces such as elevator shafts and motor rooms where the presence of moving machinery presents an immediate, if not obvious, danger of accident and places them in close proximity to electrical equipment that can deliver a damaging jolt of electricity. Because of these present dangers proper apparel becomes important.

The OSHA Safety Manual states that workmen's clothing must be suited to the work that is being performed, however, more directly, it states that loose clothing, dangling neck ties, long hair, key chains that suspend from belts and lanyards should not be worn in the workplace where moving machinery presents a danger to the worker. With regard to electrical safety, large metal belt buckles as well as rings, bracelets, wrist watches, necklaces, earrings or any conductive jewelry should not be worn around moving machinery, electricity, or at any other operation where they may be a potential source of injury.

At times long sleeve shirts typically worn during the winter months become too hot as the temperature rises during the course of the day it is common to roll up ones sleeves on a long sleeve shirt. This simple act, as harmless as it may seem, provides a dangerous "hook" for a moving piece of machinery to grab onto and do incredible damage. It is preferable to wear a short sleeve shirt in this regard.

In terms of pants, trousers with cuffs, while seemingly stylish, present another hazard that all workers should avoid as well as hand tools protruding from trousers. Safety rules even extend to clothing material: wearing synthetic clothing, such as polyester, which may combust so rapidly that it will adhere onto your skin causing severe burns. Cotton or cotton blends are preferable when welding, soldering or brazing. By the way, some liquids such as solvents and lubricants are harmful when they come into prolonged contact with skin, so if spills occur onto clothing it must be changed immediately and laundered before it is worn again. Finally footwear is very important, since your feet are the foundation of your body shoes must be as skid-proof as possible (think of the dangers of walking down wet metal staircases) and should be constructed to prevent punctures from protruding nails. Finally facial hair should not interfere with the proper fitting of respiratory equipment.



**Office Spotlight—John O'Sullivan**

Although he is the son of a NYC Firefighter it seems that John O'Sullivan was destined to be an elevator man who, after graduating from Hicksville High School became an apprentice and never looked back. He seems to have done it all

spending 19 years at Universal Elevator going from apprentice to mechanic in 5 1/2 years and quickly advancing to supervisor of the service department, elevator adjutor and running modernization jobs until 1989 when he moved over to the management team at Mainco. While there he used his expertise in various capacities such as sales, modernization and maintenance and as the area manager for Bronx, Westchester and Staten Island. Having done every job available the only place to go was up so naturally he was named President of Mainco in 2003. Al-

though the story does not end here lets digress for a moment and not forget that behind every successful businessman lies a happy home life. John has been married for 33 years to Jane who is currently employed by the local school district and has been blessed with two children John 25 and Kaitlyn 20. His son is currently employed while working toward his MBA at the Stern School of NYU while Kaitlyn attends Marist College in Poughkeepsie. Both children are also accomplished athletes with Kaitlyn achieving all American status in Lacrosse and in a highly unusual scenario both children received acclaim as student athletes of the year in their respective senior years in high school,



On January 2, 2007 CEO Richard L'Esperance, who has known John for many years, announced that he was joining the Centennial team. With all that experience and a quick wit and ready smile to boot, John has met with continued success at Centennial. When asked about the challenges of the job John indicated that coordinating modernizations and keeping clients happy were most important. Among his major career



accomplishments he mentioned a 32 car job he ran at 270 Park Avenue and in an unusual twist coordinated the installation of a window washer rig in New Orleans. John is no stranger to safety having received OSHA 500 certifying him to be a safety trainer. When asked about changes in the elevator business over the last three decades he mentions safety improvements that require workers to not only observe safety rules but also to wear specialized equipment .

Things really got interesting when we switched from business to their personal lives. It seems that both these men were top athletes in high school. Oliver was a multi talented athlete who concentrated on baseball as a combination pitcher, 2nd baseman and short stop for Lehman High School in the Bronx. He recounted the story of one game played against George Washington High School when he was at bat against a young pitcher named Ramirez; yes the Manny Ramirez, who unfortunately struck him out in 4 pitches. Funny how clearly you can remember certain events in your life. Today Oliver is content keeping active in several sporting leagues and by using the artistic side to occasionally write lyrics and engineer Latin and R & B music.

Muhammad has similar interests having played varsity basketball for three years at Cardozo High School in Queens. His talents were good enough to have allowed him to achieve two 50 point games in his career and to succeed against some top players such as Sebastian Telfair who currently is a guard for the Minnesota Timberwolves of the NBA. In addition to his interest in sports Muhammad is also involved in Rap and Hip Hop music. These two seemed to set a pattern for when we visited 34-15 Parsons Blvd we discovered that Tech Assist Glenn Tomasulo, a grad of Aviation High School is an ice and roller hockey player.



It is always good to hear about the healthy balance between the professional and personal lives of our workers. All the more reason to keep them healthy and safe on the job so they may continue to pursue alternate goals in their lives.



**Safety Sam Says: Leave your jewelry at home!!**

**Top Athletes working at Centennial Elevator**

Reinhold Peper and I learned some startling athletic news on a visit to 37-30 73<sup>rd</sup> Street in Jackson Heights. Since a complete conversion of two elevators was taking place there Reinhold wanted to see how things were going there safety-wise so we stopped by and met Field Technician Oliver Witt who has been with Centennial for 6 years and Technical Assistant Muhammad Shamsid-Deen. They were both working on the exterior of the car that was being modernized since the cab company was involved rebuilding the interior. Reinhold reviewed the list of safety equipment to ensure that they were properly equipped and was pleased to see that they were using barricades in areas that required their presence. Both men inquired about the 10 hour OSHA Safety class that was held on January 6, 2009 and were eager to receive their certification.

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