

DANA HEIMDAHL CHERNAULT, MS, CSP

JJ KELLER SAFETY PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR 2023

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Port Charlotte, FL 33948

As a seasoned safety professional, I bring over 30 years of experience in providing leadership in safety, health, and environmental areas across various industries. My background includes work in the military, manufacturing, construction, agriculture, healthcare, forestry, utility line clearance, disaster recovery, and consulting. I have extensive experience in every facet of safety oversight, encompassing strategic planning, the creation and implementation of programs, and team development. My consistent success is due to my ability to forge valuable relationships and effectively collaborate with individuals at every organizational level, from stakeholders and management to team members and clients.

SKILLS

- Subject Matter Expert
- Strategic Planning & Implementation
- Injury & Accident Trend Analyses
- Project Management
- Excellent Verbal & Written Communication
- Program Creation & Coordination
- Team Leadership & Development
- Employee Safety Training Development and Implementation

EXPERIENCE

PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT AND OWNER

August 2023 - Present

Edgewater Safety Consulting, LLC

Creates safety and risk management processes and procedures to enhance safety in operations. Crafts effective safety and risk solutions customized for client requirements. Composes and refines reports, proposals, and presentations for clients. Proposes actionable recommendations to boost client satisfaction. Recommends and applies modifications to the internal safety framework and culture for optimal efficiency. Performs data analysis to pinpoint improvements in safety processes. Formulates and enacts company policies and standards, guaranteeing adherence to legal and safety norms.

DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND RISK

Ceres Environmental

November 2020 - October 2023

Directed safety and risk management for a disaster recovery, hazard tree removal, and utility line clearance company, which included formulating and executing strategic safety plans. Led a team of six safety professionals in daily SH&E operations, spearheading initiatives and reinforcing programmatic and leadership principles. Oversaw all safety and risk management resources and the corresponding budgets. As a subject matter expert, advised employees, regulators, and clients in construction, forestry, state agencies, and the US Army Corps of Engineers. Implemented a subcontractor management program mandating safety and certification documentation prior to work initiation. Responsible for the creation, oversight, and evaluation of site-specific health and safety plans, to include adherence to 385-1-1 standards. Cultivated and sustained constructive relationships with clients, project managers, insurance carriers, and subcontractors. Ensured adherence to all state and federal safety regulations and assessed and introduced new safety protocols for current operations. Developed and conducted employee training programs. Built and maintained relationships with insurance carriers and brokers, actively managing these connections and the company's insurance claims, including worker's compensation, auto, general liability, and property. Achieved a 56% reduction in claims costs in 2020-2021 by proactive safety management and vigilant monitoring of claim reserves and closures. Performed safety assessments to verify compliance with safety standards on each project.

DIRECTOR OF SAFETY

Sunbelt Rentals

October 2018 - May 2019

Oversaw safety, health, and environmental management for over 200 profit centers within Sunbelt Rentals' Power/HVAC and Climate Control units, including crafting and executing strategic safety plans. Directed eight regional safety managers in daily SH&E operations, pinpointing key initiatives and upholding programmatic and leadership principles. Handled health and safety resources and budgets, acting as the go-to person for related issues and the expert for staff, regulators, and clients in construction and emergency scenarios. Developed, managed, and appraised site-specific health and safety plans, nurturing strong ties with clients, safety managers, corporate division heads, representatives, and subcontractors. Ensured compliance with all state and federal safety and health laws, including OSHA mandates, and introduced pertinent new safety policies for current operations. Built the company's electrical safety program from the ground up with a specialist team, initiated a "Drive Safe" campaign, and organized a "Driver Summit" to boost driver safety. Devised, updated, and implemented workplace safety programs, procedures, and policies, and created employee training programs, keeping detailed safety training logs. Conducted safety audits and inspections to confirm adherence to occupational and environmental health and safety standards, guaranteeing that project staff were well-trained in emergency response plan protocols.

DIRECTOR OF SAFETY

BAE Systems

May 2016 - October 2018

Supervised SH&E across five business units and 7,000 employees worldwide, supporting US government and military contracts that included military vehicle maintenance, radar repair, shipyard work, construction, and manufacturing. From 2016 to 2017, there was a 37% decrease in recordable incidents, and a 22% decrease from 2017 to 2018. Led a team of 11 SH&E managers and 70 part-time leads, improving the company's safety and health focus by developing and implementing a SH&E management system and engaging key stakeholders for its business relevance. Restructured SH&E functions to be in line with the integrated business plan, and set injury reduction targets and key performance indicators, resulting in an over 80% reduction in incident rates in the first year. Spearheaded the Significant Injury and Fatality initiative, launched a behavior-based safety program, and ensured proper management and documentation of safety near misses, incidents, and injuries. Conducted both planned and unannounced safety audits, compiled summary reports on deviations from Safety and Environmental Management Systems and took corrective measures to ensure worker health and safety and adherence to contracts.

SAFETY MANAGER

Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company

October 2014 - May 2016

Led safety operations at a large, unionized facility spanning 56 acres with 2,200 employees, overseeing a team of three safety professionals and six medical professionals in an onsite clinic. Achieved a 22% decrease in recordable incidents and a 43% reduction in total incidents. Fostered and enhanced the collaboration among business center managers, an eight-member union safety committee, and 90 union safety representatives. Developed a comprehensive safety system encompassing new and revised policies, job hazard analyses, a behavior-based safety initiative, and an incident investigation protocol. Established injury reduction targets, implemented a robust system for incident reporting and management, and maintained or revised emergency response strategies, formulating standardized emergency protocols. Conducted inspections and evaluations of workplace environments, equipment, and practices to ensure adherence to safety standards and government regulations, advocating for measures to safeguard workers from potentially hazardous methods, processes, or materials.

PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT

Midgaard Safety Consulting, LLC

November 2007 - October 2014

Managed a portfolio of business with multiple large-scale manufacturers, healthcare facilities, tree trimming services, warehouses, transportation companies, and workers' compensation insurers. Assessed clients' safety requirements, offering expertise in OSHA compliance, DOT regulations, and safety training, and acted as the go-to resource for all safety, health, and environmental (SH&E) issues. Developed and delivered a multi-week, management-level safety and environmental course for an aerospace support manufacturer and created a safety course curriculum for small businesses at a local community college. Acted as a keynote speaker and presenter at Chamber of Commerce events, professional development conferences, and other venues to educate leaders on safety, health, and environmental strategies and risks. Conducted new-employee health and safety orientations, created training materials, documented all training activities, and ensured continuous compliance with certification regulations.

SENIOR LOSS CONTROL CONSULTANT

AmTrust North America

November 2003 - November 2007

Managed a portfolio of business with multiple large-scale manufacturers, three large hospitals, eight skilled nursing units, three hospice care facilities, six home health care companies, four major landscaping firms, seventeen tree trimming services, various agricultural clients, several large scale warehouses, and transportation companies. Assessed clients' safety requirements, offering expertise in OSHA compliance, DOT regulations, and safety training, and acted as the go-to resource for all safety, health, and environmental (SH&E) issues. Conducted new-employee health and safety orientations, created training materials, documented all training activities, and ensured continuous compliance with certification regulations.

CORPORATE SAFETY AND SAFETY TRAINING MANAGER

Northwest Airlines

December 1998 - July 2003

Oversaw airline technical operations and aircraft maintenance, ensuring OSHA compliance and risk management training across 39 global stations. Led two distinct teams: a unionized safety training staff of 25, and five environmental, health, and safety specialists. Collaborated with corporate management to integrate OSHA regulatory updates into training curricula and system-wide program implementation. Developed corporate-wide operational safety and health programs, focusing on OSHA compliance, injury reduction, workers' compensation, and policy creation. Engaged with all operational levels, from the CEO to union management and employees. Chaired various committees, including ground service equipment configuration, personal protection equipment selection, corporate safety, chemical purchase and safety review, and aircraft damage and slide deployment. Represented the airline at the national Air Transport Association ground safety committee. Established and oversaw injury reduction targets across all airline operations. Conducted training for the aircraft wing tank confined space rescue team. Supported airline operations during regulatory inspections, aiding in the minimization of citations and fines. Administered a substantial annual budget for corporate safety and training initiatives. Managed all aspects of corporate safety contractor relations, overseeing third-party vendor staff and contracts.

CH47D HELICOPTER PILOT/COMBAT SAFETY OFFICER

US Army (various duty stations); US Army Safety Center

November 1989 - July 2003

SAFETY SPECIALIST

Cypress Semiconductor

December 1995 - December 1998

EDUCATION

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN RISK CONTROL

University of Wisconsin

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SPANISH AND LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

State University of New York

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Safety Professional – Certificate #19177 – Board of Certified Safety Professionals

OSHA Outreach Trainer-Construction

AS9100:2016 Rev D Lead Auditor-Aerospace Quality

LANGUAGES

Spanish (intermediate); German (intermediate); Norwegian (conversational)