

LAGNIAPPE

MONTHLY EMPLOYEE NEWS

CELEBRATING  OF SERVICE
1979 2019

OSHA's Top 10 Violations

By: Steve Ham, Lofton Safety Services

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced their Top 10 most-cited workplace safety violations for 2018 at the NSC Congress and Expo in Houston, TX.

The Top 10 Violations for 2018 were:

1. Fall Protection - General Requirements
2. Hazard Communication
3. Scaffolding
4. Respiratory Protection
5. Lockout/Tagout
6. Ladders
7. Powered Industrial Trucks
8. Fall Protection - Training Requirements
9. Machine Guarding
10. Eye and Face Protection

What does this mean for safety programs? Knowing how workers are hurt goes a long way towards keeping them safe. Having the OSHA Top 10 list calls out areas that require increased vigilance to ensure a safe workplace. To make sure these numbers don't increase in 2019, use these General Precautions:

- Always follow the correct procedures.
- Never take shortcuts.
- Be alert and aware on the job.
- Never take risks when it comes to safety.
- Always wear the approved PPE on the job.
- Obey safety signs, stickers, and tags.
- Report injuries, safety and hazardous conditions.

Healthcare "Compass"

By: Mary Dixon, Benefits Coordinator

Navigating healthcare these days seems impossible - unless you have Compass on your side. From finding doctors, to getting cost estimates for upcoming procedures, to finding more cost effective medications, Compass can help. As part of your Lofton healthcare package, Compass can serve as your personal healthcare advisor. The service is simple to use and available to you and your family.

How Compass takes care of you:



UNDERSTAND INSURANCE BENEFITS

Receive guidance in understanding your benefits throughout the year.



FIND A GREAT DOCTOR

Find the best doctors, dentists and eye care professionals in your area.



SAVE MONEY ON MEDICAL CARE

Get price comparisons before receiving care. Costs can vary by hundreds or thousands of dollars - even in-network.



PAY LESS FOR PRESCRIPTIONS

Let Compass compare medication prices and explore lower-cost options for you.



GET HELP WITH MEDICAL BILLS

Have medical bills reviewed to make sure you're not being overcharged.

Text "Compass" to 214.220.4608 or go to member.compassphs.com to get started.

MARCH 2019

MARCH 5

Mardi Gras



MARCH 6

Ash Wednesday

MARCH 10

Daylight Savings Begins



MARCH 17

St. Patrick's Day



MARCH 20

First Day of Spring



Lofton 40th Anniversary Gonzales, LA

Lofton kicked off our year-long 40th Anniversary celebration with our Gonzales office on January 28th. It gave our employees and community the chance to "look behind the curtain" at everything that goes into providing staffing & security services to Ascension Parish. Look for the next scheduled open house on our FB page.

Pictured (L to R): Marci Longnecker, Barker Dirmann, Bart Lofton, Scott Bull, Rae Milano, and Carl Carver.





Growing Stronger Together

By: Glenda Lofton, Ph.D.

As I reflect on the 40th Anniversary of Lofton Staffing and its goal of “growing stronger together,” it has also caused me to reflect on my life in general. Fortunately, Tommy and I both grew up in families that modeled and taught us the importance of growing stronger together... as a part of the family of God, as citizens of the United States, as a part of our immediate family, and in the workplace. Sadly, Tommy’s dad died unexpectedly in his sleep at the age of 52, and my dad had to retire at the age of 45 due to Parkinson’s disease which the doctors believed grew out of a severe head injury he received in World War II. Neither of our families had a lot of money, but Tommy’s dad had already instilled in him the value of hard work. He had gotten Tommy a job delivering papers at the age of 12 that continued through high school, requiring him to get up at 4:00AM to pick up and distribute the local paper. I, on the other hand, had never held a job when Tommy and I met on my first day at LSU, but my family had emphasized the importance of studying hard in school. As a result, I had graduated as Valedictorian of my high school class. While Tommy was proud of my achievements in school, that did not rule out the importance of having a real job! On my first Christmas holiday at LSU, he insisted on getting me a job at J.C. Penny’s where he was working at the time, and on my first day back at LSU took me to the Personnel Office to get a job on campus. In addition to taking 21 semester hours, I was soon working daily in the Veterinary Science lab. (I think he was predestined to put people to work, including me!)

Tommy likewise instilled the value of work from an early age in our sons, Bret and Bart. Bart had

decided back in the fourth grade when we lived in Macon, GA that he was going to be a movie director when he grew up. I came home from the University of Georgia one day to find him entertaining the neighborhood kids with a very creative movie he had produced. (He had also charged admission.) Bret was still considering his options, but when he started LSU, he decided to pursue a career in merchandising and planned to open a clothing store in Baton Rouge.



Tommy, Bret, and Bart at an Olsten franchise meeting.

Regardless of their future plans, beginning in high school, Tommy put both Bret and Bart to work part-time at Lofton Staffing, doing business then as Olsten. One summer Bret even worked on a delivery job with his high school football coach who insisted on doing things his way. (Ask him about it sometime.) Most memorable, however, was when Bret was off for the holidays at LSU, and Tommy sent him on assignment to clean out some large storage tanks at one of the plants. When he got home, he was covered from head to toe with black, gooey junk, and we had to throw away all the clothes he was wearing before he could come in the house. (That’s also when Bret asked his dad about playing football at Southeastern where Tommy’s cousin coached. It had to be better

than this!) The good news was that regardless of where he attended school, he was definitely going to finish college and work in business after these experiences. Bart who was four years younger than Bret observed all this and requested to work in the Lofton office in both high school and college. But, still his dad insisted that he go on assignments, too. (Don’t even ask him about laying sod grass with his friend, Scott, in 95-degree weather.) So when he started LSU he majored in business. (Yes, he abandoned the idea of becoming a movie producer. But, throughout school he worked at church in the Children’s Program putting on puppet shows, etc. He and Bret both had roles in the plays at church, and both sang in the Youth Choir at church and the Show Choir in high school.)

Bret continued his major at LSU in merchandising, which included business courses and working as an intern at Goudchaux’s/Maison Blanche—a long-time successful department store in Baton Rouge. His coursework and internship took him away from his work at Lofton Staffing, but by this time, Tommy was considering opening an office in Lafayette, and had mentioned managing that office as a career option to Bret. Later Bret told us that he was working under the supervision of the son of the owner of Goudchaux’s/Maison Blanche at that time, so he asked him his opinion. And believe it or not, he encouraged Bret to go to work at Lofton even though he personally preferred that Bret stay and work with them. He chuckled and said, “You can always quit like I did once, and my father fired me twice, but thankfully he took me back.” And so Bret took the job, moved to Lafayette, and opened the first office away from the Baton Rouge area, making learning and growing together even more challenging.



Officer Kudos

We LOVE to hear about our outstanding officers! They work long hours, and are responsible for completing rounds, checks and patrols. We want to let you know...we do pay attention, and we appreciate everything you do! Following are just a few examples of those outstanding officers.

While on patrol, **Officer Marycia Moore**, Houston, found an abandon vehicle that did not have a license plate. The vehicle was reported and removed from the site. This is the exact type of results that we are looking for when we “patrol with a purpose.” Great eye, Officer Moore! Keep up the GREAT work!

Shout-out to **Officers Charlene Ward** and **Barry Raven**, Gonzales. A visitor to the site took the time to write a letter about the two officers. *“As a U.S. Navy veteran, I know how to identify quiet professionals when I see them. They serve as an example how to treat people in a professional setting. Please pass the two of them my regards, and I appreciate the dignity and respect they’ve shown towards me while fulfilling their duties.”* Outstanding! Keep it up!

A very special shout-out to **Officer Aneatra Stirgus**, Baton Rouge. Officer Stirgus works a post at LSU football. A frequent visitor to the games has met and interacted with Officer Stirgus on several occasions. He was so impressed with her professionalism,

attention to duty and detail, and her positive representation of Lofton, that he called the office to inquire about providing security for his company. Not only that, he said he would also like to consider and recommend Lofton Security in all four states that Lofton covers! We would like to thank Officer Aneatra Stirgus for not only providing superior service to the client, but for representing Lofton Security in the highest standard.

These officers, and countless others, are why our clients choose Lofton over competitors. It’s not just a tag line, it’s what make us stand apart. **Our Officers Make THE Difference!**

GREAT JOB!