

The Dane County Safety and Working Conditions Study Committee (SWCSC) has recognized Dane County employees and departments for their efforts in promoting safer working conditions since 2006. These awards recognize both individual and departmental achievements for the promotion of a positive, proactive safety culture.

Individual Safety Achievement Award:

Individuals are nominated by their peers for their contributions in promoting safe working conditions for Dane County Employees. The Safety and Working Conditions Study Committee looks for individuals who display positive safety attitudes, encourages others in promoting safe work practices, employees who go beyond their job requirements in the promotion of safety.

Joe Cockroft is the recipient of the 2013 Individual Safety Achievement Award. He is a member of AFSCME Local 65, working at Public Works, Highway and Transportation Department.

Outside of his work at Dane County, Joe has 22 years of firefighting experience, and 14 years of EMT experience, and has accumulated six saves in his lifetime with the use of defibrillators. When the Highway Department was asked to buy AED's, Joe was asked to assist in this acquisition. He not only assisted with the purchasing of the AED's, but helped with the mounting and installation at the various Highway shop locations. He has put together his own PowerPoint presentation and has trained all of the Highway personal in the safe use of AED's. Joe continues to train new employees on the safe use of AED's when they are hired.

Joe currently works as a mechanic with the Highway Department and he continuously promotes for safer work practices while on his job. Joe goes beyond his position description requirements, continuously looking for ways of promoting a positive safety culture at Dane County.

Departmental Safety Achievement Award:

The departmental award uses both quantitative and qualitative measures to determine the winner. Departments compete against themselves, to achieve the best "safety rate" improvement. This is necessary to level the playing field for all departments given the diversity of job descriptions within Dane County.

The **Henry Vilas Zoo** is the recipient of the 2013 Departmental Safety Achievement Award. The Henry Vilas Zoo is being recognized for their efforts in reducing recordable injuries, lost work days, and restricted work day rates. They were the top department in this process involving other county departments, competing to achieve the most significant safety rate improvement. Departments use the OSHA 300 data to establish a baseline rate, then look to meet or exceed the previous years safety rates by 15% or greater. The Henry Vilas Zoo succeeded in meeting every injury rate reduction goal set before them.

Efforts for promoting a positive safety culture are also factored into this process. Safety committee involvement, initial safety training, & written safety procedures are just some of the non quantitative considerations that factor in to this decision.

This is the Zoo's first time winning this award. Other departments that have won this award in previous years include: Alliant Energy Center, Badger Prairie Health Care Center, Dane County Parks, and the Dane County Sheriff's Office. Congratulations on your success in this achievement.