

We are communicating to our teams to Make it Personal and Take it Personal.



Incorporated in 1922, Granite Construction builds roads, tunnels, bridges, airports and other infrastructure-related projects used by millions of people. In addition, Granite produces sand, gravel, ready-mix and asphalt concrete and other construction materials. Unusual among large contractors, Granite handles both large and small jobs through its regional offices nationwide.

Granite has established an award winning Accident Prevention Program that includes formal safety training, inspections, audits and a formalized system of reporting. We train our Managers, supervisors and employees to identify and correct unsafe conditions and more importantly unsafe work practices.

We communicate to our employee that our safest jobs are typically our most productive jobs. With planning, communication and cooperative effort we can reach our productivity goals and still make sure no one gets hurt. That is our ultimate goal.



LEAN AND SAFETY CONCEPTS FOR CONSTRUCTION

Granite, in concert with our insurer, looked at a process that would apply the concepts of Lean manufacturing to the job site environment. Lean concepts look at improving quality, eliminating waste, reducing delays, and minimizing risk factors that result in workplace injuries.

Getting started required the understanding of value streaming in conjunction with analysis of what activities and resources are absolutely necessary to create that value. We identified setting up the proper work flow and providing the employees with a well-designed work environment to create value. This, combined with embracing ergonomics that considered the capabilities of employees in terms of movement, strengths and their vulnerability to muscle fatigue and physiological stresses, allowed us to set the work plan in place and better design and manage the work flow.

In mid-2007 Lean concepts were implemented in our business units with a goal of increasing productivity and efficiency while dramatically reducing risk factors associated with manual material handling after finding that 68% of our workers compensation claims and 62% of the total claim costs came from musculoskeletal injuries.

RESULTS

Comparisons of workers compensation soft tissue claims from our business unit between 2005-2010 show how Lean concepts have worked to decrease frequency and costs as demonstrated in the in the chart below.

NEXT STEPS

We will continue to implement Lean concepts across our business units and share our commitment to our employees so that everyone at Granite looks at Safety and Accident prevention as a commitment to Making it Personal and Taking it Personal.

Granite Workers' Compensation

