

# IMPACTO ON SAFETY

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Fall 2002 Newsletter

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## Hot Off The Press

Welcome to the Fall Issue of **Impacto on Safety**. If you think you missed the summer issue, you didn't. The newsletter will now be released in the Spring, Fall and Winter. Be sure to check out the new items in the Product Showcase section. The featured items are the 890-00 Knee Saver and the Dip Belt Back Support. Speaking of back supports, I am sure the article on back injuries and prevention will be of interest to many. Until next time....

## Who's Who

Our featured employee in this issue of **Impacto on Safety** is Mary Maracle. Mary began her career at IMPACTO as a production sewer on the night shift. Fourteen years later she is supervisor of the Sewing, Cutting and Packaging Departments. As work orders enter the production area, it is Mary's responsibility to schedule their completion. Completion of an order is based on inventory levels, availability of materials and sewing schedules.

Mary also monitors quality issues in manufacturing and helps complete any necessary employee training. Sewing and manufacturing were not new to Mary when she joined IMPACTO. Her first job, at the age of 14, was in the sewing industry and that is where she has remained ever since. Mary says since that time she has seen a lot of changes in the industry. Mary and her husband Ron have 4 children and 7 grandchildren.



## Message From The Boss

This has been a year of changes for IMPACTO ; new equipment, internal and external building renovations, new employees and new products. These changes will help us to continue growing into the next fiscal period and beyond. Overall sales for the first 8 months have been well ahead of last year. In addition to the new back support line, solid growth in the base IMPACTO business has also been achieved. European growth has allowed us to add another sales person to help service and expand the market. Mr. Paul Appleby joined Eric in the UK on August 1, 2002. Paul is based near Liverpool and he brings years of experience in the Health & Safety market.

I am personally looking forward to the Fall show season. We have several new products as well as new marketing support to feature. I look forward to seeing as many of you as I can over the next six months. Special congratulations and thank you to **Rob Zaremski** and **Targeting Customer Safety** for their help in the Pennsylvania mine rescue. See page 4 for all the details.

## Coming Soon

Another Compact Disc will be available from IMPACTO shortly. The CD will focus on the causes of back pain and injuries and offer suggestions on how to reduce your exposure. The CD will also explain how the IMPACTO Back Supports, which include the Air Belt Product line can be used in conjunction with safe lifting techniques, exercise programs and properly designed workstations. If you are not familiar with IMPACTO's current CD offering, it is intended to increase your awareness of Cumulative Trauma Disorders. The CD explains the hazards of vibration, impact, repetitive strain and mechanical stress. This CD is currently available and will continue to be available along with the Back Awareness CD.

## Safety Tips

Although work environments vary from industrial plants to underground mines, there is one thing that each workplace has in common and that is they all depend on electricity or electrical systems for every aspect of operation. This includes communications, data and energy. Electrical accidents occur in all types of workplaces. When planning or working on electrical systems please keep the following tips in mind.

Plan every job

Think about what could go wrong

Use the right tools for the job

Isolate the equipment from energy sources

Minimize the hazard by guarding or establishing approach limitations

Test every circuit and every conductor, every time before you touch

Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as a last line of defense

These are just a few tips that you should consider. Check your company's policy for a detailed list of accepted and non-accepted practices in your workplace.

[www.nesf.org/work/reminders.html](http://www.nesf.org/work/reminders.html)

## From The Plant Floor

Not only has IMPACTO added manpower they have added machine power as well. The newest member of IMPACTO is a Brother BAS-311F-0 Programmable Electronic Pattern Sewer. Greater cost performance and productivity, accuracy and ease of use are the trademarks of the BAS-311F-0. The Electronic Sewer allows the operator to create all kinds of sewing data with ease. An image of the data appears on the LCD panel during data editing, so that you can check the pattern being created at a glance. If an error occurs messages and details on how to solve them are also displayed so the problem can be resolved quickly. This will reduce sewing times and eliminate skewed sewing patterns. According to Chris Doolittle, Product Development Manager with IMPACTO, "minimal sewing

experience is required to operate the Pattern Sewer, thus freeing up skilled stitchers to perform other tasks."



Electronic Pattern Sewer

## Check It Out

Did you know that Impacto now has new packaging to better meet your retail merchandising needs? In the past not all of the product lines could be merchandised in a retail environment but this is no longer the case. Many of the products are in a resealable zip lock bag, which makes product handling much easier for the customer. The packaging is also consistent in color and design to help create a merchandising impact. If you would like assistance in planning your display, please contact Judi Gilbert at IMPACTO.



## Product Showcase

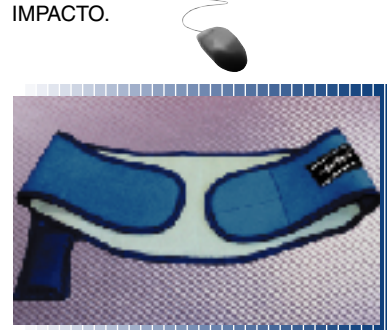
IMPACTO has added several new items to its inventory that will compliment its current product offering. Two of these products include the 890-00 Knee Saver and the Dip Belt Air Belt™.

The **IMPACTO 890-00 Knee Saver™** helps relieve strain on knee joints, tendons and cartilage and features a unique molded design that prevents slipping. It limits the range of knee movement and supports the buttocks, like a seat and has adjustable elastic straps that enhance wearer comfort. The Knee Saver can be utilized in any work or recreational environments where squatting or kneeling is required. The 890-00 can also be worn in unison with any of the IMPACTO kneepad styles.



890-00 Knee Saver

The **IMPACTO Dip Belt** features a patented multi-cell air chamber technology that utilizes body movement and heat to enhance therapeutic effectiveness. The consistent application of cushioned air stretches and relaxes the back muscles to reduce and prevent painful spasms. This Air Belt's unique contour design provides excellent conformance to the back and hips with no "riding up" and its low profile and lightweight make it ideal for all day wear either under or over clothing. Air pressure in the belt is easily adjusted to create a custom fit. The Dip Belt is only one of several Back Supports offered by IMPACTO.



Dip Belt Back Support

## It's Baaaack!

It has been over a year since OSHA's ergo rule was thrown out by Congress and in mid March of this year Senate Democrats held a hearing to grill Labor Secretary Elaine Chao about the long delay in issuing a promised follow-up plan. Shortly after that the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) released its long awaited plan to address ergonomic health and safety concerns in the workplace.

The four part plan, which includes industry-targeted guidelines, tough enforcement measures, workplace outreach and advanced research, fulfills the commitment by Chao to provide an alternative to the previously rejected regulation.

**Guidelines-** OSHA will develop industry or task specific voluntary guidelines for a number of industries. Officials will study injury and illness rates in various industries, including construction, agriculture and maritime, to decide which ones could benefit.

**Enforcement-** The Department will focus on industries with serious ergonomic problems. Inspections will be coordinated with a legal strategy developed by DOL attorneys that is based on prior successful ergonomic cases.

**Assistance-** OSHA will provide assistance to businesses, in particular, small ones, and will help them address ergonomic issues in the workplace. OSHA will use a special Web site: ([www.osha.gov/ergonomics/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/ergonomics/index.html)) and training grants to give employees tools to identify and control ergo hazards.

**Research-** OSHA is forming a national advisory committee to identify areas where more ergonomic research is needed. Only a small part of the Ergonomic Plan has been presented in this summary. In order to learn more you can visit OSHA's website at the above address. June 2002 Issue ISHN

## Literature Update

If you require product information, IMPACTO has developed some new literature as well as having revised some current pieces. A new one-page flyer has been designed for the TS199 Thermo

Glove. The Eggsercizer flyer has been updated to include the 4 styles of eggs that are now available and the Selection Guide flyer and poster have been revised. The Back Protection flyer has also been revised and is available upon request.

## Back Injury Causes and Prevention



I am sure many of us know someone who has suffered a back injury at work. The following are a list of factors that can contribute to back-related injuries in the workplace.

- Over exertion.
- Repetitive movements.
- Working in awkward or uncomfortable positions.
- Pushing, pulling or carrying and lifting materials manually.
- Poor workstation design.
- Poor housekeeping resulting in slips, trips and falls.

Such injuries can be prevented if certain guidelines are followed.

- Conduct regular workplace inspections to identify and correct substandard conditions.
- Ensure that workers are properly trained in the safe use of lifting equipment and machines.
- Adjust workstations and implement job rotations where necessary.
- Train workers on safe lifting techniques.

ppezzone.com newsletter, July 2002

If you are unfamiliar with safe lifting techniques please contact us for more information.

## Safer Work Environments

Workplace injury and illness rates declined in 2000 to the lowest level since the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) began reporting this data in the early 1970's, according to U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao. According to Chao "While the number of injuries and illness cases remained basically the same as reported in 1999- 5.7 million, the number of hours worked rose by 2 percent,

resulting in a lower injury and illness rate of 6.1 cases per 100 workers. "Injury and illness rates in construction and manufacturing, which are considered more dangerous occupations, continue to decline as well. The two main driving forces behind this trend, according to Chao, are proper enforcement of health and safety standards along with OSHA's model compliance assistance program. ISHN, February 2002

## Next Stop, San Diego!

Our tradeshow schedule has kept us on the fly this year. We have attended major shows in the U.S., Canada and Europe and it's not over yet. The NSC is fast approaching and we look forward to seeing many of you at this years show as the unfortunate events of Sept. 11 prohibited many of you from attending in 2001. If you are attending any of the shows listed below, don't forget to stop by and see us.



**VPPPA National Conference**  
September 9-11, 2002  
Orlando, FL (Booth # 217)

**Sante Et Securite**  
October 1-2, 2002  
Montreal, Que. (Booth # 238)

**National Safety Council**  
October 7-9, 2002  
San Diego, CA (Booth # 3125)

**Expo Protection**  
November 5-8, 2002  
Paris, France (Booth # E74)

**National Ergonomics Conference**  
December 10-12, 2002  
Las Vegas, NV  
(Booth # 518)

## Welcome Aboard!

Over the past few months IMPACTO has added several new employees to its staff in order to keep up with expanding product lines and increased activity in volume. Staff has been added to the Sewing Production area, Shipping and Receiving and the Cutting Department. New employees include Lori Prisque, Tiffany Watkins, Donna Barclay, Karen Beauchesne, Bev Hill, Glenda Wood, Cheryl Brooks, Ila Ingram, Gloria Wood and Dan Lawrence. **Welcome!**

## Look'n Good

IMPACTO's 22,000 square foot facility in Belleville, Ontario has had a face lift. The facility, which houses Manufacturing, Distribution, Sales and Marketing and Customer Service, had been under renovations for approximately 3 months. With the exterior renovations complete we can all enjoy the new look.



Before



After

## Visit [www.2protect.com](http://www.2protect.com)

In several of the articles included in **Impacto on Safety** you are encouraged to visit our website for more information on product, tradeshow schedules or information on worker protection. As well as offering you links to other industry related sites, IMPACTO's website also

offers you the convenience of booking a Plant Evaluation online. What could be easier? By visiting your plant and reviewing production processes, we can identify specific hazards that are affecting your workers ability to perform their job or tasks. Log on to [www.2protect.com](http://www.2protect.com) and book your on-site evaluation.



## Rep Profile

Our Manufacturer Rep profile continues in this issue with **Targeting Customer Safety**. Targeting has representatives in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia and Kentucky. Chris or Denny Swigert can be reached @ 330-666-8099. IMPACTO's Sales Manager, Lou Tornes, manages this territory and can be reached at 740-896-2191.

On a special note IMPACTO would like to congratulate Targeting's Pittsburgh Territory Mgr., **Rob Zaremski** on a job well done! Rob was involved in the rescue efforts of nine miners at the Somerset, Pennsylvania mine site on July 25th. Rob worked with a rescue team in hopes that they would be able to establish communication with the trapped miners. Finally, 2 days after his arrival at the accident, using a two-way communication probe, Rob heard the voices of the trapped miners at the 175ft. level. He was able to verify that all miners were alive and he kept the communication open until all were above ground. Thanks to Targeting Customer Service for sharing this with us. It is a success story we wouldn't want to have missed!

## Thanks For Reading!

Thanks for taking the time to peruse this issue of **Impacto on Safety**. If you would like more information on any of the articles please visit our website or call our office. Don't forget you can view any of the past issues of **Impacto on Safety** on the web site as well.

## Contact Us...

Don't Forget. If you have an interesting story that you would like to share please contact Judi Gilbert at 888-232-0031 or you can email your story to [jgilbert@2protect.com](mailto:jgilbert@2protect.com).

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