



Works Alberta: 3 million man hours without an accident!

When it comes to safety, the Canadian subsidiary Works Alberta is a Grade A student. In 2008, it won no fewer than 8 Vanguard awards. What's more, Shell Oil Canada Ltd has just confirmed one million accident-free kilometers. In addition, the Workers Compensation Board, a federal body that manages workers' compensation insurance in the event of workplace injuries, actually paid money back to Works Alberta in recognition of the very small number of accident-related claims. And last but not least, in June, Martin Bouygues, Chairman of the Bouygues Group, and Hervé Le Bouc handed the company the International Crystal Woodpecker award in recognition of 3 million man hours without an accident (see photo above: from left to right, Hervé Le Bouc, Garry Walker, Safety Manager at Works Alberta, Martin Bouygues, Jacques Michel, President of Works Alberta). Hervé Le Bouc congratulated staff for this outstanding performance, particularly

remarkable given that it was achieved on a multitude of small work sites. "Zero accidents, zero injuries. Our target is an ambitious one," explains Garry Walker. "To get as close as we can to meeting this objective we focus on training and motivating all employees to share the same commitment." To this end, for example, each team on-site includes at least one person qualified to deliver first aid, representing around 560 people or one employee out of three at the height of the season. Each year, dedicated training courses are organized covering risk prevention and first aid. Good practice awareness programs are also in place for managers, who regularly take part in safety committees and information meetings. And since health and safety are one and the same, the company also encourages its employees to do warm-up and stretching exercises before starting work to prevent potential musculoskeletal injuries. ■