

BEHAVIOURAL SAFETY TAKES CENTRE STAGE

Behavioural safety in the workplace took centre stage recently when a team of actors from 'Theatre at Work' presented two training workshops on risk awareness, culture, procedures and responsibility, including compliance with Covid-19 protocols, in association with Collen Construction. Report by Grace Heneghan.

Annette Tierney and her 'Theatre at Work' team were invited by Collen Construction to deliver the behavioural safety workshops. "Our recent workshops marked a return to delivery of our live events, since things have started to reopen in Ireland," Annette Tierney, Managing Director of Theatre at Work, told 'Health & Safety Times'.

Inspired by an Irish incident, the case studies explored how failings in judgement and a failure to uphold a safe system of work, can lead to a workplace fatality. Focusing on safe versus risky behaviours in the workplace, both workshops were staged indoors at Dublin Airport with the support of the Dublin Airport Authority.

"The team at Collen Construction have been hugely proactive and very positive as always about the impact of the workshops. I was personally very pleased with the level of interaction between the 45 participants at both workshops, given the social distancing measures used, as it meant we could generate the usual energy at our events.

It's also great to support workers in staying safe and compliant with Covid-19 protocols," Tierney noted.

KEY THEMES ON AGENDA

Risk awareness, culture, procedures and responsibility were some of the key themes on the agenda. Through live interaction and facilitated discussion, the workshops explored how factors line up, behaviours merge and signals missed leading to 'tragic consequences for a hard-working family man, whose death has cast a shadow over the company forever'.

According to Joe O'Dwyer, Health & Safety Manager at Collen Construction, they have had the pleasure of working with Annette and her team over the last number of years and have delivered several workshops together over this time.

"While toolbox talks and safety presentations have their place in a comprehensive safety management system, Collen always strives to be innovative and seek out new ways to develop our safety culture. We find that Theatre at Work's approach on

exploring culture and human factors really resonates with our employees and challenges their thinking."

O'Dwyer said that they enjoy the interactive nature of the programmes, with the stories making quite the impact. "It is very much a collaborative approach and Annette will work with you in advance to include a bespoke piece into the workshop, based on our own experiences, which we have found to be very beneficial."

From her own perspective, Annette Tierney said that Theatre at Work has had to adapt how they approach their work by making greater use of film and also offering virtual online programmes.

"So, we're doing what we can to support our clients since Covid-19 became part of our culture. The same safety risks are there as always and now there are additional risks to assess. However, the same human factors apply, such as situational awareness and avoiding complacency, so we're very pleased to help."

For more information on 'Theatre at Work' visit www.theatreatwork.ie



Focusing on behaviours safety in the workplace, the theatrical workshops were staged indoors at Dublin Airport, in association with Collen Construction.