



(952) 934-4695
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First Quarter 2017
Volume 5, Issue 1

How 'Safety first' paid off ...

RTL will feel benefits of improved safety score in 2017

While RTL Construction continues to deliver more and more in the field, it also continues to deliver more and more in terms of working safely.

Last year produced more workers working more hours to complete more projects than any year in recent history, and yet RTL Construction's safety rating improved from the previous year.

Insurance companies, OSHA and contractors reference a subcontractor's Experience Mod Rating (EMR) when rating a contractor's safety performance. The EMR is generated from a formula comparing the number of days lost



to injury and OSHA citations in comparison to total hours worked.

It's like your credit score. The lower your credit score the lower your interest rate. The lower your EMR, the less you pay in premiums. An EMR starts at 1.0, which is average. Many General Contractors require that a subcontractor's

EMR is below 1.0 in order to bid on a project.

RTL's EMR Rating for 2015 was 1.12, resulting in a loss of opportunity to bid a few large jobs. Based on your safety performance in 2016, RTL will enter 2017 with an EMR rating of .77, meaning our safety rating won't eliminate us from consideration for certain projects.

Now is not the time to let your guard down. RTL will continue to offer safety training throughout 2017, starting with a FIRST AID session shortly after the start of the year.

News and Notes

Timely timecards

Please remember to get your timecards to your foreman or superintendent on Friday. Your timecard is your lifeline to your paycheck.

If compensation for your efforts is important to you, filling out your timecard daily and getting it in on Friday should also be important.

Resolution resolve

You've identified the things you'll do to make yourself better. You're among 45% of people that make New Year's Resolutions.

Thirty-eight percent of Americans never even bother with resolutions.

The most popular resolutions include lose weight, get organized, spend less/save more, quit tobacco and enjoy life to the fullest.

Don't feel bad when you fail, as only 75% of resolutions last a week, and 46% last six months.

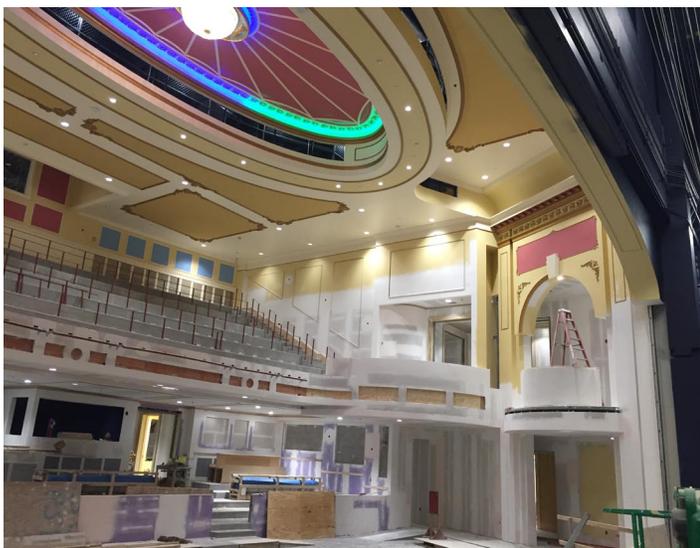
On thin ice

Widely variable weather conditions has caused ice to deteriorate rapidly and create potentially dangerous conditions, according to the Minnesota DNR. The DNR is asking anglers, snowmobilers, skiers and others to use caution and "think twice before going out on the ice."

The DNR said that the ice that formed quickly during the recent sub-zero temperatures is now thawing and re-freezing, which leads to extremely weak ice that is dangerously deceptive. Recent snow cover means new ice takes longer to form, and ice that has thawed and refrozen is only as strong as new, clear ice.

Color blind?

Former Vikings quarterback Brett Favre predicts that his former rival, the Green Bay Packers, will represent the NFC in the Super Bowl. "They will be in the Super Bowl," Favre said.



The theater at Providence Academy in Plymouth is a thing of beauty. The school was one of many projects completed in a banner year for RTL Construction.

Celebrating 2016. Turning the page.

RTL Construction celebrated a banner 2016. More than 300 projects hit the books in 2016 alone, resulting in new highs in terms of field employees and hours. August alone topped out at nearly 280 field employees, almost 100 more than the peak in August 2015.

The backlog into 2017 gives promise for another busy year at RTL. While the construction season has gotten off to a slow start, expect it to kick off soon in a big way.

Injured? Know what you're doing.

If someone is to suffer a work-related injury, proper procedure on the jobsite is a must.

If the situation is an emergency, call "911" IMMEDIATELY.

In non-emergency situations, report all injuries to the job foreman immediately. If the foreman is not available, the job superintendent is next in line. If this not an option, Safety Director Steve Gillman (612.802.7843) should be notified.

If the injury requires additional treatment, the injured party must be accompanied to the nearest Minnesota Occupational Health clinic, which is posted in the gang box, and Steve Gillman should be notified.

Injured parties are required to complete a post-accident drug screen, and will not be permitted to work until the results are received by the RTL office and found favorable. Also, all clinical documentation must be submitted to the RTL office indicating whether or not the injured is cleared to return to work.



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Things can get buried quickly in adverse conditions. Make certain you have a game-plan before taking action.

If the muck has you stuck Plan your escape, execute the plan

There are multiple contributing factors to RTL being able to remain competitive. Lowering its EMR safety rating (see story on page 1) allows RTL estimators to bid more competitively because it saves in insurance premiums.

Managing and caring for our fleet of nearly 110 lifts is another area that can reduce costs. Knowing what gas container to use for a lift or partner saw can eliminate unnecessary repair costs.

Site conditions can present problems. Navigating a lull around a muddy site presents many challenges, and can be downright impossible when inclement

weather is coupled with difficult site conditions.

Last year alone RTL spent nearly \$50,000 in lift repairs that could've been avoided. The most important thing we can do is stop and assess before we react. Any doubt about how to address a stuck lift or failed equipment is probably enough to force you to stop.

If you have to ask yourself "is this the right thing to do?," you've probably already answered your question.

Any questions, call Steve Gillman at 612.802.7843 BEFORE you act.

RTL COOKBOOK

Cream of anything ...

Nothing says "winter in Minnesota" as well as a cream of something recipe. This classic tuna hotdish is a staple at any social or potluck, or perfect for an afternoon of football or after a day on the sled. If the kids don't like it, tell them it's chicken.

- 1/2 pkg. egg noodles (16 oz.)
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can mushrooms (optional)
- 1 c. frozen peas (optional)
- Dash of pepper
- 1 can tuna fish
- 1 can Cheddar cheese soup
- 1/2 c. milk
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. paprika

Cook noodles as directed. Just before noodles are done, add frozen peas to heat through. Drain noodles. Rinse, if desired.

Mix soups, milk, and tuna in casserole bowl separating tuna. Add mushrooms, if desired. Add noodles. Sprinkle with paprika. Bake at 350 degrees for 1/2 hour.

Invite friends. Enjoy.

NFC North

Team	W-L	GB
Green Bay	10-6	-
Detroit	9-7	1
Minnesota	8-8	2
Chicago	3-13	7

Recent scores

Minnesota 38, Chicago 10
Green Bay 31, Detroit 24

"The road to success is always under construction."

- Arnold Palmer
Professional golfer

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 @RTL_Const

Big northern Pike



This unidentified RTL Employee successfully landed this northern pike at an undisclosed western Minnesota fishery earlier this winter. Despite initially being frightened by the girth of the northern pike, angler was able to land the fish and save his fingers.