

Team 1 Plastics celebrates stellar safety record



Team 1 Plastics in Albion will honor its employees for 3,500 safety days on the job.

By Jill Hinde
Staff Writer

It will be a party nearly ten years in the making, but Team 1 Plastics in Albion is ready to celebrate.

The plastic manufacturing company marked a milestone earlier this year, passing 3,500 safe days at the plant, located in the Albion Industrial Park.

Team 1 President Craig Carrel said he is proud of the employees for meeting such a major milestone.

"It was a team effort," Carrel said. "We are proud of our safety record and take it very seriously."

The 3,500 safety days came after no job time was lost during that period due to on-the-job injuries. Carrel said plastics can be a dangerous industry, which means the accomplishment is even more important.

"Plastics is not known as the safest industry," Carrel said. "What we look at is lost time. A safety day is a full work day without a 'lost time' accident."

That means that no employees lost any job time at Team 1 Plastics for more than 3,500 days. The last time the company had an injury resulting in lost time was in 2001, Carrel said.

"We had 2,600 days, but then we had one day missed because of an injury," Carrel said. "That meant the clock started over again."

The clock runs, literally, on the company website, logging safe hours at the plastic and injection molding plant. There are more than 30 employees who work in shifts 24 hours, seven days a week.

"It takes effort and awareness on the part of the team," Carrel said. "I am very proud of our team. Everyone is aware of safety and we value our team members and work to create a safe environment."

To mark the occasion, Carrel said team members will receive a jacket and will be treated to a catered meal next month at the plant.

"We want to commemorate this," he said. "We are going to shut down for a couple of hours to celebrate. We want to thank the team and acknowledge their hard work."

Then, the clock will keep ticking towards 4,000 safety days.

"Each time we hit 250 days, we have a small celebration, and then after 500 days we make a bigger deal out of it," Carrel noted. "Every day that goes by (without incident) is a new record."