2015 Safety First Award Winner: Civil and Environmental Engineering Technical Team

The Department of Occupational Safety & Environmental Health (OSEH) recognizes individuals and teams who routinely take an active role in creating and maintaining a safe workplace here at the University of Michigan.

OSEH is pleased to announce that the Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) Technical Team has earned this recognition and received the OSEH Safety First Recognition Award! Team members include Rick Burch, Bob Fischer, Jan Pantolin, Bob Spence and Tom Yavaraski. All five continue to take an active role in safety and are strong advocates for safety conscious procedures, policies or guidelines. They partner with faculty, staff and students across three buildings, working to create a culture of safety within their department.

The entire team leads department safety drills, and encourages registration with the University Emergency Alert system. In addition, they emphasize student safety and remind everyone to look out for one another.

This team planned for digitization of CEE standard operating guides and other safety plans, and developed a safety-related web page for their department. They work daily to raise safety awareness throughout the CEE community at all levels – including visitors, students, staff and faculty. One example of this is their significant involvement in the ergonomic upgrades made throughout the department. They assisted in the preparation of three ergonomic grant applications which have led to the department purchasing a scissor lift, a lift table and ergonomic furniture such as desks, files and chairs.

The Civil and Environmental Engineering Technical team has broadly implemented safety throughout their workplace, remains an active advocate for safety, makes improvements whenever possible, and is consistent in their efforts over time to keep the CEE community safe.

Please join OSEH in congratulating them for their outstanding efforts to emphasize the importance of health & safety.

(Photos from left: Award Recipients Jan Pantolin, Rick Burch; Terrance Alexander, Executive Director OSEH and the Office of Campus Sustainability; Award Recipients Bob Spence, Tom Yavaraski, and Bob Fischer)