

More than a Commitment to Safety Mechanical Systems of Dayton

Phil Smith, Safety Manager for Mechanical Systems of Dayton, looks at his role within MSD as more than just a job. Phil oversees the safety of almost 200 employees that work for MSD. “At MSD, safety starts on day one,” said Phil, “Part of the new employee onboarding process is fairly intense safety instruction.” The safety training doesn’t stop there. “All of our foremen and most journeymen carry their OSHA 31-15 certificate which means they have completed 24 hours of Fall Protection Training including 8 hours of hands-on training. All supervisors, foremen, and managers complete their OSHA 30 before they even step onto the project site.”

Phil usually checks his email first thing. “Sometimes a field guy will run into a challenge and I’ll run out to the project to help figure out a solution.” Keeping an open door policy to all MSD employees is important to Phil, “Our team members have the right and the responsibility to come to me with any safety issues they see. We owe it not only to the company, but to our families to get home safe.”



Phil Smith,
Safety Manager

Next, Phil will check the calendar in order to prepare for any new employee training to be done. At MSD, they like to keep the onboarding to pretty small groups. Phil notes they may have 1-3 new employee trainings a week depending on how many projects they have going at the time.

From there, Phil spends about 50% of his time on the jobsite, making sure he knows how PPE is working and to keep up with any upcoming needs as the job progresses.

MSD was opened in 1984 by John and Bev Stewart, who ran the growing company up until about six years ago when all operations were turned over to their son, John (Johnny) Stewart. Now President and CEO of MSD, it was Johnny who hired Phil. At the time, Johnny had just taken over and Phil had been working in the field as a sheet metal worker. “Johnny had worked in every

position at MSD prior to taking over operations, and when he stepped up a lot of effort was focused on safety,” recalled Phil.

The emphasis MSD has placed on safety is paying off! “The national average OSHA recordable rate for companies like MSD is 3.8, MSD’s is 1.94. I’m very proud of that,” said Phil, “We have had one OSHA recordable injury this year and three last year.” At the time of this interview MSD had worked over 607,000 hours since the last lost time injury.

Nick Davis, Director of Business at MSD, is pleased with Phil’s commitment to MSD and safety, “Phil walks safety every day. At MSD, safety is part of our daily culture. Protecting our team members and the partners we work with positions our team to exceed the expectations of our clients.”



Nick Davis
Director of Business

MSD’s efforts for safety are not going unnoticed in the industry! MSD won the Builders Exchange of Dayton’s Safety Award in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, including winning at the highest level possible, the Platinum Safety Award. “We find our participation in the BDX Safety Award Program extremely valuable. Having the different aspects of our own safety program reviewed regularly gives us the opportunity to continuously improve. The feedback and suggestions we’ve received from accomplished OSHA attorney Gary Auman have been implemented into our safety programs many times.”



The MSD team at DBX Team Building Night 2019.

Phillips Companies Recognized by Ohio Aggregates & Industrial Minerals Association

For the second year in a row Phillips Companies has been recognized as the top Aggregate Transportation Company of the Year and also for having the Aggregate Driver of the Year in the state of Ohio by the Ohio Aggregates & Industrial Minerals Association! OAIMA Executive Director, Pat Jacomet, stopped by to award Brett Shover with Driver of the Year and Heather Rowe with Transportation Company of the Year. Also pictured below is Rich Phillips, who oversees the Aggregate Department, and Frank Phillips, Safety Director.

The Trucking Company of the Year is awarded to one company in the state. It is judged on the following criteria:

1. Fleet Safety Record (20%)
2. Fleet Cleanliness and Maintenance Standards (20%)
3. Overload Record (ODOT) (20%)
4. Exceptional Service and Positive Employee Attitude (20%)
5. Community Involvement and Neighborhood Relations (20%)

The Driver of the Year is awarded to one driver in the state. It is judged on the following criteria:

1. Driver Safety Record (20%)
2. Vehicle Cleanliness and Maintenance Standards (20%)
3. Driver Overload Record (20%)
4. Exceptional Customer Service and Employee Attitude (20%)
5. Community Involvement and Neighborhood Relations (20%)



Phillips Companies commitment to Service and Quality started in 1942 on Linden Avenue in Dayton, Ohio when Frank G. Phillips started Phillips Sand and Gravel as a one-man gravel pit with a single truck and wooden bin.

