



For Immediate Release
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STARCON Achieves Two Major Safety Milestones in 2009

STARCON International, Inc., a leading industrial and mechanical services contractor serving a wide variety of process industries, recently announced that it achieved two significant milestones in safety performance in late 2009.

In October 2009, the team members at STARCON completed three calendar years without a lost time accident. Then in November, STARCON surpassed ten million consecutive work hours without experiencing a lost time injury.

Bill Holder, STARCON's vice president of health, safety and loss prevention, attributed this success to the focus and dedication of each STARCON team member: "These milestones show that we are looking out for each other, doing the right things and being leaders in our work place every day, so that we all return home as good as or better than when we came to work."

The company implemented a behavioral-based safety (BBS) program in 2005 and has been building on that program by focusing on team member competency training, risk mitigation and reinforcement of a positive "stop work" culture. A primary tenet of their BBS philosophy is that those people closest to the risk are best able to reduce or eliminate that risk. In addition, STARCON employs traditional safety professionals, whose role extends beyond the management of risk, regulations and exposure. They also have a firm grasp of how the firm's safety culture is affected by team dynamics, individual empowerment, technology development and external (client) forces.

In 2009, STARCON maintains a total recordable incident rating less than 0.35, marking seven consecutive years with a TRIR under 0.50. While proud of the recent accomplishments, Holder noted that the efforts, knowledge and attitudes that drive safety performance must be consistently cultivated. "While we celebrate the achievement of these goals, we know that the work is far from over. We're counting on our team members to personally commit to our belief in 'Beyond Zero,' which is the way we describe our holistic safety culture and program at STARCON."

Holder expects that the next year's performance will be driven by focusing on leading indicators developed in the planning stages of work and by learning from the critique of past jobs. STARCON utilizes Near Miss reporting, JSA (Job Safety Analysis) quality grading, project Readiness Reviews, audits and assessments, team/peer observations and team member feedback to indicate loss prevention trends that can be affected by decisions or resources. He added, "I expect us to reach our improvement goals in 2010, but not by accident. We will work every day to reinforce our culture and improve our programs."

ABOUT STARCON – STARCON provides comprehensive industrial and mechanical contracting services to a wide variety of process industry clients. Services include capital construction, plant maintenance, turnaround execution, project management, specialty welding, insulation and scaffolding. With an uncompromising commitment to safety, quality, training and innovation, STARCON serves clients in the refining, chemical, food processing, metals, paper and power industries. STARCON is headquartered in Manhattan, IL and has offices in La Porte, TX, Fairfield CA, Gonzales, LA, and San Nicolas, Aruba. Visit www.starcon.org for more information.

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