

CFO Invites Division 10 Employees to Put Safety First

By AMY HOWELL
(Feb. 19, 2002) What does a 200-year-old chemical company formed around the manufacturing of gunpowder have in common with the MTA

This was a question posed by an audience member to MTA Chief Financial Officer Dick Brumbaugh, as the MTA's Safety's First campaign was rolled out, Friday, at Gateway Division 10.

Bus Operator Dayman Medearis, microphone in hand, participates in The Safety Game, answering a safety-oriented question before a panel of judges.



"Over the last 200 years, Dupont has been able to instill in their organization a safety culture that is unparalleled to any organization in this country," said Brumbaugh. "Their accident-injury rate is almost zero, and they have 98,000 employees."

Division 10 Manager Evelyn Frizelle, center, makes a point about the Safety's First program during a discussion with Chief Financial Officer Dick Brumbaugh and Division Advisory Committee Coordinator Norma Carrasco.

The Safety's First campaign is the MTA's effort to reduce employee injuries by 50 percent—or more—over the next five years.

During the campaign rollout, Brumbaugh introduced three Dupont employees, who are assisting with the implementation of a safety culture at the MTA. He also cited the safety culture of New York City Transit as one the MTA should strive to emulate.



PHOTOS BY AMY HOWELL

"Safety's first will be our goal; safety's first will be the watchword of this organization," said Brumbaugh. "I hope we can all stand together and make that happen."

Come on down and spin the wheel

Audience members, comprised of Division 10 employees, were then invited to play The Safety Game. Employees were picked at random to spin a color-coded wheel and answer transportation or maintenance safety-oriented questions for prizes.

Prizes included gift baskets, pairs of movie tickets and MTA hats and key chains. A panel of judges, which included Division 10 mentors and instructors, as well as Acting Division Maintenance Manager Jim Fulkerson, asked the questions.

Although some employees had to be gently prodded by their co-workers to spin the wheel, they answered questions such as "What is the safest position your hands should be placed while steering the bus?" and "When in the yard, when should a reflective vest be worn?"

Employees were also invited to a lunchtime barbeque held outside of the Division's main building.

- Amy Howell is a Transit Operations correspondent intern assigned to write news articles about employee activities at the operating divisions.

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