

# **Brewery Safety Panel Discussion**

## **Craft Brewers Conference - 1999**

### **Panelists:**

Teri Fahrendorf, Steelhead • John Mallet, Saaz Brewing Services • Matt Brynildson, Goose Island  
• Alan Pugsley, Shipyard • Andy Troccoli, New Belgium

### **Teri's Notes:**

1. Safety Program.
2. Difficulty to implement, or Safety difficulty.
3. General problems, and innovative solutions.

### **Background:**

3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns at first paid brewing job. 19 days in hospital, skin grafts from scalp, 2.5 years wearing Jobst artificial skin garment.

### **Caused by:**

1. Poor or non-existent training. (Was promised old brewer would train me.)
2. Poor brewery layout and design. (Designed for looks. One pump. Pump too far to draw properly from the different tanks. Pump switch far away.)
3. Inadequate tank design. (No boil head space in the kettle. Kettle outlet too high to drain properly.)
4. Bad advice from the tank manufacturer. (Make 10, not 7 barrels. Add 50 gallons at end of boil.)

### **Current Program:**

Safety is ingrained into the training program. Every nuance of each small task is analyzed for the safest way to do that task, and that is incorporated into the training. Equipment is also analyzed for safety, and ways to improve safety are incorporated into the equipment. In addition to tasks and equipment, processes are also analyzed for safety. Head Brewers are told to train new brewers exactly as they were trained in order to perpetuate safe training and operation. All brewers are told exactly WHY they have to do the job THAT WAY.

### **Examples:**

1. Plastic product hoses have factory installed steel clamps, rather than just worm screw clamps to hold the tri-clover barbs in.
2. Each tri-clamped connection has a safest way to connect, even to avoid “knuckle-busters”.
3. How you stand when disconnecting hoses from the pump is also crucial.
4. Processes might include exactly how a valve is left, ie: open or closed, and WHY.
5. Gloves now required, not optional, due to chapped, cracking hands.

### **Current Track Record:**

One serious injury over 9 years, and 5 locations, and 19 brewers at Steelhead, including myself. That injury was a neck disk injury that resulted in surgery. The cause was a long-armed brewer going up a silo ladder. That silo had an OSHA-specified safety cage. The brewer leaned back to look up as he was going up the ladder just as he was climbing a rung. He caught a bar of the safety cage with his forehead, and injured the back of his neck.

– THE END –