

# people, products & projects

WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S WHAT



Here's the team that is making the Tool Safe adaptor a reality. Back row, from left: Paul Waldner of Crawling Valley Plastics (CVP), Don Hofer of CVP, Michael Dudey of Tool Safe Products (TSP), Lyle Oberg of TSP, Aaron Briscall of TSP, John Hofer of CVP and Joe Kleinsasser of CVP. Front row: Larry Hofer of CVP.

## Falling for the last time

It seems that no matter what precautions you take—wearing hard hats, stacking materials to prevent falling or using protective measures like toe boards and debris nets—accidents can still happen.

There were 2,700 incidents involving falling non-powered hand tools in 2012, according to Alberta's Workers' Compensation Board. These tools are often small enough to slip through industrial walkway grating and can land anywhere if not attached to a lanyard.

About 15 years ago, Michael Dudey started trying to figure out a solution. The current standard fixes were flawed: welded-on rings weaken the structure of the tools, while duct tape is simply not strong enough. Eventually, Dudey developed a tool adaptor, and Tool Safe Products was born.

The plastic adaptor is essentially a clamp that attaches to tools, allowing a place for lanyards and making the tool wide enough that it will not fit through standard grating. Each adaptor is made of high-density polyethylene plastic and comes in multiple sizes

for different tool sizes. The company also markets harness and wrist lanyards to attach to the adaptors.

Dudey, who is also president of the Edmonton construction company Oncore Services Inc., brought on two partners for the company. Aaron Briscall, vice-president of product design, came to the company from a background in mechanical design and 3-D modelling, which was needed to pinpoint the right qualities for the adaptors. Tool Safe's vice-president of development, Lyle Oberg, has a history of public service, with experience as a member of the Alberta legislative assembly, including several ministerial positions.

It was through Oberg that the company learned about Crawling Valley Plastics Ltd., which manufactures the adaptors. Crawling Valley is run by a Hutterite colony in Bassano, Alta.—located in Oberg's former riding.

Dudey is proud that the devices are being made in Alberta, rather than abroad. Because the adaptors "don't have to fly," the pricing is competitive, he adds.

## HOW TO SUBMIT ITEMS

Does your company have news about personnel changes or new products? Or did it just land a new project in Alberta? We want to know about it. Here's how to get your news to us.

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