

Eliminating Injuries with Lean Six Sigma and Rapid Action

In less than 60 days, a team of unionized employees at a paper mill were empowered with a simplified Lean Six Sigma team process to reduce hand-laceration injuries to zero, earning the plant \$20,000 in cost-avoidance from saved lost workdays and a safer working environment.



SITUATION The largest mill for a major paper manufacturer was experiencing an unacceptable increase in the rate of hand laceration injuries, causing a spike in lost workdays and worker compensation costs.

TEAM ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY Assemble a team of cross-shift union employees led by the plant safety manager and supported by a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt (for data analysis) to attack the problem using **Rapid Action**, an “all in one” team engagement toolkit for accelerating results.

RAPID ACTION PROJECT CHARTER How can we reduce the occurrence of hand lacerations (employees being injured from cutting accidents) across all shifts in order to improve the total case injury rate reported for the mill while reducing days lost to injury.

SAMPLE SOLUTIONS IMPLEMENTED

1. Presented a Black Belt briefing on existing data related to laceration injuries (including frequency, location and potential cause) to the team.
2. Developed a simple questionnaire and surveyed employees on perceived causes of laceration injuries.
3. Conducted a best practices review of laceration-prevention methods through internet research and surveys of other mills.
4. Developed standard work procedures for handling cutting tools, removed worn cutting tools, and replenished inventory with cut-resistant gloves.
5. Developed and conducted a special safety briefing for all employees on safe-use of cutting tools and laceration injury prevention.

RAPID ACTION TEAM RESULTS

Zero

laceration injuries in the subsequent 12 months

\$20,000

projected cost-avoidance based on prior year injury rate

New SOPs

training deployed to all plant employees

55 days

cycle time from team launch to wrap-up

“*The data painted a clear picture of the opportunity to reduce injuries, but without Rapid Action, we would not have achieved the buy-in of employees and supervisors to the creative ideas that solved the problem.*”

– BLACK BELT RAPID ACTION COACH

RAPID ACTION FOR LEAN SIX SIGMA Eliminating Injuries with Lean Six Sigma and Rapid Action



The “All in One” Team Engagement Toolkit for Accelerating Results



Prelaunch Planner



Action Accelerator



Scripted Meeting Guides



Quick Read Booklets



Idea Sorting, Prioritizing and Tracking Posters



e-Templates & Tools



LEARN MORE ABOUT RAPID ACTION FOR LEAN SIX SIGMA

Are you interested in accelerating results and increasing engagement from your organization’s change management and continuous improvement initiatives? Take a look “inside the box” of the most reliable process available for rapid, team-based improvement.



Call 800.254.6805 or email to request@improvefaster.com to schedule a demo of the Rapid Action Toolkit.



For more information including Case Studies and White Papers please visit www.improvefaster.com.

Leap Technologies

Improve faster through better team engagement!

Since 1993, Leap Technologies has helped organizations across the globe elevate return on investment in Lean Six Sigma.

Organizations including HealthPartners, M&T Bank, Mosaic, Momentum Chemicals, Nashville Metropolitan Airport and Valspar among many others have integrated Leap Team Engagement Toolkits into their Lean Six Sigma deployments to productively engage more leaders and employees in “the improvement game” while simultaneously improving Belt skills and productivity.

For organizations looking for a faster, better and more affordable way to leverage the power of Lean Six Sigma, Leap Technologies is the resource of choice.