

Total Safety Taps NAFED to Certify Technicians

When Total Safety U.S. Inc., headquartered in Houston, Texas, decided to implement company-wide technician certification as a basic training requirement, Vice President of Fire Protection and Services, George Seymour, turned to NAFED for help. A past director, Seymour was familiar with the NAFED certification programs for technicians and was confident the format was best suited for accomplishing their goals.

With a vision of becoming “the premier global provider of integrated safety strategies and solutions for hazardous environments,” Total Safety recognizes the importance of ensuring employees meet a certain standard of excellence.

“To continue to be the leader in our field, we emphasize training and certification for all technicians in their area of specialization,” explained Seymour. “This includes fire equipment and servicing. Also, the upcoming edition of *NFPA 10* will require third party certification for portables technicians, and we want to be ahead of the curve in this regard as well.”

So on a hot Friday in June, Joe Ciesiel, technical trainer, and Norb Makowka, executive director – technical, conducted a training seminar for approximately forty-five Total Safety employees from Texas, Louisiana, and Alabama. Virtually every technician from these operations was in attendance. The next morning, attendees sat for the portable fire extinguisher technician examination. (This schedule is atypical; NAFED generally allows a minimum of four weeks between the training and the exam in order to allow for adequate preparation.)



Virtually every technician from Total Safety branches in Texas, Louisiana, and Alabama participated in the certification training and exam.

Both Ciesiel and Makowka were impressed with the cooperation of Total Safety’s employees and management.

“The attendees were very knowledgeable and participated openly throughout the seminar,” said Makowka.

Participants enjoyed the program, noting the number of changes made in recent years and indicating the importance of a thorough review. “The test really covers the whole range of what we do,” said one attendee.

Total Safety and NAFED have discussed training and testing other employees. This was the first step in certifying domestic employees; Seymour plans to include international operations shortly.

“The NAFED training and certification helps us demonstrate to both our employees and our customers our commitment to excellence,” said Seymour.

At NAFED, we believe that certification raises the level of professionalism in our industry and can be an invaluable marketing tool for individual companies. If you’d like to discuss developing a certification program for your technicians, please contact Norb Makowka at (312) 263-8100. ❖



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