

# SCSA Spotlight – Advisory Services

When working toward achieving a company certification or individual designation, SCSA Safety Advisors are there to provide you with quality safety advice.

Everything from worksite visits to safety demonstrations; SCSA Safety Advisors actively assist you and your company with the implementation, monitoring, and improvement of your safety management system to achieve your safety goals.

## Meet some of our SCSA Safety Advisors!

### Mike Moore Safety Advisor (Saskatoon Office)



“Companies that focus on safety have a higher degree of focus on other details of their business, like quality.”

**Started working at the SCSA**  
October 2013

#### Regions you serve

Prince Albert — from Shell Lake and Big River, fanning over to Birch Hills.

#### Background in safety / construction

At 18 years old I went from working at a restaurant to pipeline construction in Alberta as a labourer. Upon completion of a stint on the pipeline, I came back to Saskatchewan and had a few jobs in construction including, power-lining, working for a flooring company, and on the utility crew at a local power plant. After working job-to-job in Saskatchewan, I moved to Alberta and put myself through an apprenticeship program to become a Journeyman red seal welder. I then spent seven years working in the oil patch doing custom fabrication and B-Pressure work. Like many others, I felt Saskatchewan calling me back. After completion of a top-to-bottom renovation of a home in Leduc I sold in 2008, I moved back to Saskatoon. After running a mobile welding/mechanics truck for a couple years I decided it was time to get off the tools and into another role in the blue collar realm.

Utilizing the diverse experience of my past it was an easy decision to move into the safety field. Due to working on large and small projects and with many employers, union, and non-

union environments, I could bring my real-world experience into assisting employers and employees to see the functional and positive aspects of safety. Not to mention being a sceptic in the past, I wanted to give myself the opportunity to become more educated in the workings of safety in industry. If I could see through the negative aspects of what I felt was going on in the safety field and get to the real point of what was trying to be achieved, then I would have something that I could work with in challenging corporate culture and taking part in educating and promoting positive change.

I did some industry investigation into which safety designation would “fit” best in achieving gainful employment in the safety field. After extensive research my decision was to take the National Construction Safety Officer (NCSO) program through the SCSA. Upon completion of the program, I started at a northern uranium mine as a Safety Officer for underground electricians. This was an enlightening experience and after a couple years up there I decided it was time to get engaged in a larger cause. This brought me to the SCSA in 2013. I have been passionately involved in what we do at the SCSA for the last three and a half years.

#### Favourite safety topic

Functional safety is my favourite safety topic because safety in the workplace should provide value and have a specific function. I don’t believe in doing paperwork for the sake of doing paperwork. The paperwork should document that a valuable function is being done. It is crucial that employers and employees understand the function of their safety processes; therefore making it functional.

#### Favourite safety demo

The Ladder Safety Demonstration is probably my favourite because it’s one of the most widely used tools in the construction industry and at home. I have noticed that many professionals do not know the Saskatchewan laws or the risks associated with ladder use. Many people have been injured while using ladders. I attribute this to improper ladder selection

or use. This demo addresses both of these issues while having good discussion with the crews about their specific ladder procedures.

### **Favourite part of your job**

My favourite part of my job is the engagement with employees and supervisors and having the opportunity to spend time with community leaders in Saskatchewan. They are what generate positive change in Saskatchewan.

### **A question you get asked a lot**

How much do your services cost? Many people ask what the costs are associated with Advisory Services because we are consultants for the construction industry. Anyone with a B11: Construction Trades, B12: Residential Construction or B13: Commercial, Industrial Construction WCB rate classification is a member of the SCSA and are welcome to contact a Safety Advisor for assistance with any safety-related matters free of charge.

### **Challenges you see in construction safety**

Jargon. There is a lot of jargon used for safety in construction. It seems like there is no standardized language for a consistent message. The names of various hazard assessments are a great example of this: JHAs, PSIs, FLRAs, FHRAs, etc., the list goes on and the function is unknown until the form is analyzed.

Another challenge I see is that, in the words of a leader I know in the safety industry: "In the end, it all comes down to \$." Ok, it is ok for this to be true. The problem I see is that statements like that appear to put dollars and cents at the forefront of decision-making. This is a problem. Especially for people that may not have the vision to see how well-managed and responsible safety management will, in the long run, invariably lead to a more sustainable and profitable business.

This happens through understanding that sometimes sacrificing productivity for the sake of predictable safety outcomes is the responsible choice to make. This also applies in the tendering process. There are numerous examples of taking low bids without much consideration placed on the management of safety. It is a fact that companies that focus on safety have a higher degree of focus on other details of their business, like quality. These cost savings that are achieved out of the gate many times end up costing the general contractor or owner down the stretch in unplanned incidents, loss, or quality issues.

### **Current goals as a Safety Advisor**

To continue to learn highly-effective strategies to manage safety in the office and in the field and pass this information off for others to utilize. Currently, I am going through the process of learning to teach my seventh class at the SCSA. I love stepping into the classroom to pass on legislative requirements, best practices from industry, and exercise critical thinking with the participants. Our training is useful and can be applied in the real world; this makes it a joy to teach.

### **Recent accomplishments**

In the last six months I have been able to utilize our new manual building process to assist 15 companies in building Certificate of Recognition (COR®) and Small Employer Certificate of Recognition (SECOR®) compliant manuals to be implemented in their business. It is extremely rewarding knowing how much time and effort is being saved by companies utilizing this service.

## **Rick Rieger Safety Advisor (Regina Office)**



"I always tell those that doubt Mission: Zero that hindsight is twenty-twenty ... All injuries are predictable and preventable."

### **Started working at the SCSA**

August 2014

### **Regions you serve**

Estevan/Weyburn (South East Sask)

### **Background in safety/construction**

I have experience in framing and concrete work. Previously, I worked many years at a residential treatment centre where the importance of safety was a daily topic of discussion. I also have a degree in Physical Activity Studies-Fitness & Lifestyle, which focusses on healthy living.

### **Favourite safety topic**

Can Mission: Zero be attained? There's always a good discussion around whether or not Mission: Zero is attainable — some people think it is, others think it is unrealistic. I always tell those who doubt Mission: Zero that hindsight is twenty-twenty and if you can go back in time, there are factors leading up to an incident. All injuries are predictable and preventable.

### **Favourite safety demo**

The Fall Protection Safety Demonstration is my favourite because it gives a good visual and has a lot of impact on people. I think people are able to visualize themselves in the equipment that they use on a regular basis and see how their body would react in a fall. Also, with the scale that we use, they get to see the amount of force that would be applied to their body in the event of a fall.

### **Favourite part of your job**

Meeting many interesting people who do interesting things. The diversity from seeing new Mosaic stadium being built at different

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stages, the new wastewater treatment plant project in Regina, to a one-man framing operation — it's always a new and different experience. As a backup Auditor and Training Technician, I am also exposed to a variety of different tasks and people. There's never a dull moment.

### A question you get asked a lot

I often get asked by residential building companies how they are supposed to financially compete for contracts with companies that don't invest in safety. I tell them that in order to secure the longevity of their company, they need to ensure the safety and security of themselves and their workers and the best way to do this is with a health and safety program.

### Challenges you see in construction safety

Companies and/or workers not ensuring their safety either because they don't know, don't care enough, or don't think that an incident or accident will occur to them. With proper training and education, we can raise awareness about the importance of having and maintaining an effective health and safety program in order to prevent injuries and fatalities on site.

### Current goals as a Safety Advisor

I want to continue having thoughtful conversations and meaningful interactions with workers in the construction industry; leading them to think of safety as a priority, and in turn, having them work in a safer manner.

### Recent accomplishments

Receiving my National Construction Safety Officer (NCSO) designation.

## Trisha MacKay Safety Advisor (Saskatoon Office)



"It's important that we all work together to educate as many people as we can to show them how they can accomplish their work but still do it safely."

### Started working at the SCSA

May 2016

### Regions you serve

Saskatoon and Lloydminster

### Background in safety/construction

I worked eight years in construction and in related industries, such as carpentry, electrical, heavy equipment, safety training, and as a project safety coordinator. I've also held National Construction Safety Office (NCSO) and Construction Safety Supervisor (CSS) designations since 2014.

### Favourite safety topic

Fall Protection is my favourite topic because I love working at heights but it is also very important for everyone to understand how to do the work safely. It is very important to me because my father had sustained serious injuries from a fall and had lost co-workers due to the same fall. I want to be able to help others prevent these types of incidents from occurring.

### Favourite safety demo

The Eye Protection Safety Demo is my favourite because everyone gets very engaged and are usually very surprised by how their safety glasses will withstand an impact and their regular glasses will not provide much protection. I think it's very important for people to understand how to tell if their glasses are Canadian Safety Association (CSA) approved and how they will protect them if used.

### Favourite part of your job

Helping companies achieve their safety goals and reducing incidents because I have seen how a chronic injury can impact a worker and their family.

### A question you get asked a lot

Why did I choose safety as a career? Because I have sustained an injury that prevents me from doing carpentry and I wanted to be able to use my knowledge and experience to help others prevent injury in the workplace.

### Challenges you see in construction safety

Individual's willingness to adapt and learn new ways as industry standards for safety changes. It's important that we all work together to educate as many people as we can to show them how they can accomplish their work but still do it safely.

### Current goals as a Safety Advisor

To educate employers and employees on current legislations and help them through the process of developing health and safety programs and then implementing them in the field so that everyone has an understanding of the importance of safety in their workplace.

### Recent accomplishments

Certified to present Eye Protection and Back Protection Safety Demonstrations.