



# Strategies for Improving Contractor Safety Management

August 14, 2019

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NAEM delivers actionable strategies that empower corporate EHS&S leaders to make an impact



# NAEM is a community for EHS&S leaders



# Today's Speakers



Elizabeth Ryan  
Director of Communications  
NAEM



Marcus Pettus  
Safety and Supply Chain Product Manager  
Veriforce



# Today's Purpose

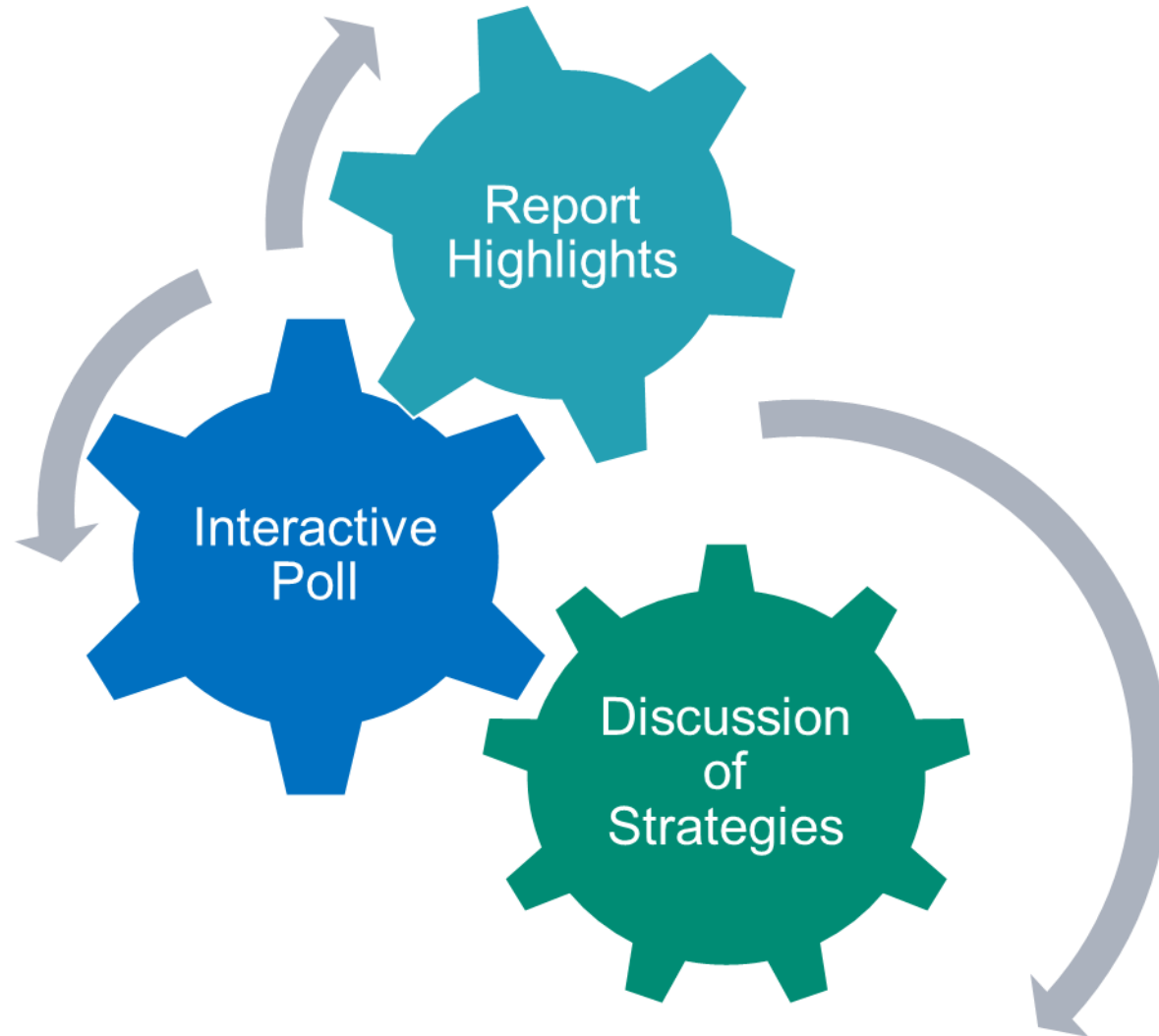
To share highlights from NAEM's latest report

To help you identify where you are on the program maturity curve

To identify actionable strategies to take your program to the next level



# Format of Today's Webinar



# About our Research



Download the full report at  
[naem.org](http://naem.org)

- Approach:

- Interactive poll conducted in May 2019 at NAEM's EHS OpEx Conference

- Respondents:

- 43 in-house EHS&S leaders from across industry sectors

- Results:

- Results from a survey of EHS&S peers
- Case study examples from companies with leading programs
- Ideas to help you advance your program performance



# Why do contractor safety programs matter?



## Diminished Quality

Output not at the level of quality the contractor was hired to produce



## Operational Disruption

Work is delayed, and projects or operations are halted



## Reputational Damage

Market avoids your brand



# Hallmarks of a Mature Program

Mature Programs are Strategic, Integrated

## Culture

- Partnership across the business
- Resource commitment
- Focus on continuous improvement

## Technology

- Consistent data capture/workflows
- Simplified, streamlined processes
- Mobile accessibility

## Data

- Defined KPIs
- Historical context
- Use of self-reported, internal, & 3rd-party data



# How would you best describe the maturity of your company's contractor safety program?

## Common Stages of Program Development



# Where do you want your program to be in the next 2-3 years?

- A: Ad hoc
- B: Developing program
- C: Basic program
- D: Advanced program
- E: Strategic program





Stage 1: Making sure your contractors are qualified to do the work, safely

# How do you vet contractors to ensure they can meet your company's safety requirements? (Check all that apply)

- A: Review their TIR
- B: Review EHS policies and procedures
- C: Require a job hazard assessment for all contracted work
- D: Use a risk assessment tool
- E: Use of a third-party vendor
- F: N/A





# Characteristics of Early Maturity Programs

Activities	Ad Hoc	Developing Program
Resources		Small part of someone's job
Prequalification	Inconsistent	Starting to define criteria
Use of a 3 <sup>rd</sup> party		
Data Management	Emails/local files	Limited data capture
Historical Data		Limited
KPIs		
Risk Assessment		
Program Audits		



# Safety Performance Metrics are the Backbone of the Pre-qualification Process



## Contractor Vetting Process

45% Use of a third-party vendor

45% Review EHS policies and procedures

35% Review their TIR

23% Require a job hazard assessment for all contracted work

10% Use a risk assessment tool

Source: NAEM's Contractor Safety Survey

N=40



# Suggested Basic KPIs for Building a New Program



## Safety Stats

By contractor (min 3-year rolling) and YoY average for total contractor pool:

- TRCR/TRIR
- # of fatalities
- # of motor vehicle incidents
- EMR
- DART Rate
- Other Recordable Incident Rate
- Days Away/Lost Time Incident Rate

# How do you assess whether the contracted employees are prepared to do the work safely?

- A: We require contractors to evaluate employees for the skills needed for the jobs they will be performing
- B: Safe work plan requirement
- C: Work permit process
- D: Pre-task plan

# Next Steps for Early Stage Program Development

1. Assign appropriate resources: Identify a program owner and invest in manpower
2. Create a centralized system and processes to manage contractor safety data
3. Establish basic KPIs to support contractor prequalification
4. Partner with internal and external stakeholders to champion program value







## Stage 2: Creating consistency for your contractor safety policies, program management

# How are you currently sharing your company's safety requirements? (Check all that apply)

- A: Train our contractors in our processes
- B: Give contractors our employee handbook with our safety policies
- C: Require contractors to train to our requirements
- D: Depends on the type of contractor



# Program Characteristics: Basic Program

Activities	Ad Hoc	Developing Program	Basic Program
Resources		Small part of someone's job	Significant part of someone's job
Prequalification	Inconsistent	Starting to define criteria	Focus on consistency
Use of a 3 <sup>rd</sup> party			For data review
Data Management	Emails/local files	Limited data capture	Standardized data capture & review
Historical Data		Limited	1 year +
KPIs			Basic
Risk Assessment			
Program Audits			



# Partner with Contractors to Achieve Mutual Success

- Set the stage: What do you communicate to your contractors about your program?
  - Goal: Create a safer workplace
  - Approach: Enable everyone to achieve
    - Helpful, not punitive
- Provide tools and feedback to help contractors improve their safety programs



# Next Steps for Program Development

1. Enhance prequalification to account for risk
2. Shift your program's focus to driving safety improvement among contractors by incorporating audit & observation programs
3. Implement technology to support the increasing maturity of your program and the data
  - Improve efficiency when analyzing data set
  - Track contractor compliance with other requirements
  - Streamline communication with the field
  - Leverage third-party support for data review







## Stage 3: Leveraging data to improve program performance

# Which of the following are you using to provide ongoing monitoring of contractor safety? (Check all that apply)

- A: We require the contractor to conduct regular audits
- B: We conduct annual audits
- C: Periodic inspections during the contract term (quarterly, annual)
- D: Weekly walkthroughs
- E: Other





**49%**

of responding companies  
conduct periodic  
inspections during the  
contract term.



**28%**

of responding companies  
do weekly walkthroughs to  
monitor contractor safety.



**26%**

of responding companies  
conduct annual audits to  
monitor contractor safety.



**23%**

of responding companies  
require the contractor to  
conduct regular safety  
audits.

Source: NAEM's Contractor Safety Survey

N=39

# Program Characteristics: Advanced Program

Activities	Ad Hoc	Developing Program	Basic Program	Advanced Program
Resources		Small part of someone's job	Significant part of someone's job	Dedicated resource plus field support
Prequalification	Inconsistent	Starting to define criteria	Focus on consistency	Risk-based process in place
Use of a 3 <sup>rd</sup> party			For data review	For data review & audits
Data Management	Emails/local files	Limited data capture	Standardized data capture & review	Safety compliance mgmt. system in place
Historical Data		Limited	1 year +	3 years
KPIs			Basic	Advanced
Risk Assessment				Comprehensive view of safety/risk
Program Audits				Reviewed annually



# Shine a Light on Daily Practice: Observation Program

- Leverage field staff to conduct observations of contractor safety practices on the jobsite
- Define criteria – what to look for
- Gain insights to pinpoint and correct areas where contractors have program weaknesses
- Incorporate coaching



# Strengthen your Audit Program

- Establish formal audit program
- Expand prequalification requirements for higher-risk contractors
  - Based on type of work and/or volume of work
  - Desktop audit: review contractor HSE policies and documentation of implementation
  - Field audit: onsite evaluation of contractor safety program
- Add value with 3rd party auditors
  - Impartial perspective
  - Cross-industry experience and best practices
- Close loop with contractors to drive improvements
  - Review audit results
  - Corrective actions
  - Follow-up audit





# Next Steps for Program Development

1. Leverage mobile tools to share and gather data
2. Plan for the unexpected: establish back-up contractors and an exception process
3. Get broader and more granular with your data
  - Include leading and lagging indicators
  - Leverage all your data sources: self-reported by contractors, internal, and 3rd-party
  - Consider capturing data at client or project-specific levels





A photograph of two men in a construction or industrial setting. The man on the left is wearing a yellow hard hat and a grey work jacket, gesturing with his hands while speaking. The man on the right is wearing a blue button-down shirt and is looking at a tablet computer. The background is blurred, showing industrial equipment and structures.

## Stage 4: Integrating risk management and program evaluation

# Post-work, does your company include EHS in its performance review?

- A: Yes
- B: No
- C: It Depends



**Q: Does your company include EHS in its post-project performance review?**



Source: NAEM's Contractor Safety Survey

N=36

# Program Characteristics

Activities	Ad Hoc	Developing Program	Basic Program	Advanced Program	Strategic Program
Resources		Small part of someone's job	Significant part of someone's job	Dedicated resource plus field support	Program buy-in at all levels
Prequalification	Inconsistent	Starting to define criteria	Focus on consistency	Risk-based process in place	Risk-based w/ defined exception processes
Use of a 3 <sup>rd</sup> party			For data review	For data review & audits	For data review & audits
Data Management	Emails/local files	Limited data capture	Standardized data capture & review	Safety compliance mgmt. system in place	Safety compliance mgmt. system w/ mobile tools
Historical Data		Limited	1 year +	3 years	3+ years
KPIs			Basic	Advanced	Integrated
Risk Assessment				Comprehensive view of safety/risk	Comprehensive view of safety/risk
Program Audits				Reviewed annually	Continually enhanced



# Plan Ahead

What do you do when your regular contractor is unavailable? In emergency situation? For critical activities or locations?

- Establish formal process for managing exceptions
  - Approve and document exceptions to normal safety prequalification
  - *E.g.*, use of contractor that's not prequalified or has poor score
  - Require specific mitigation plan in place (e.g., third-party audits)
- Identify and prequalify back-up contractors

# Leverage Technology

- Streamline and simplify processes
- Minimize downtime at the worksite
- Support risk-based prequalification
  - Group contractors by risk factors
  - Auto-enforce requirements
- Make it easy for contractors
  - Easy-to-use interface to submit required documents
  - Heads-up on needed actions
- Go mobile
  - Easily verify contractor's readiness to work at the worksite
  - Capture paperless observation and audit reports in the field





A close-up photograph of a person's hand raised in the air, palm facing forward. The hand is dark-skinned and belongs to someone wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt. The background is a blurred classroom or meeting room with other people and bright windows.

# Questions?





# Lessons Learned

# Key Benefits of Effective Contractor Safety Management

Contractors understand that you're serious about safety

Higher quality, more efficient work

Lower risks, Cost savings



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