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4714 Sheffield Avenue
P.O. Box 585
Hammond, Indiana 46325



OK Champion

(219) 933-0510

(800) 431-9192

FAX (219) 933-0120

www.okchampion.com

THE CHAMPION CHRONICLE

Safety is TOPPS for Greater Productivity

In any underground application where heavy equipment and machinery play an important role in completing the task, there is a single, shared priority among industry professionals in every arena: safety.

No matter what the task – whether it be pulling and placing cable for the telecommunications and power industries or rodding conduit, sanitary ducts, and storm sewer lines – the key to greater productivity is eliminating downtime due to equipment failure or employee injury.

A greater understanding of the equipment, proper operation, and safe operating practices will help ensure the longevity of the life of your machinery and, of course, your most valuable asset – the members of your workforce.

At OK Champion, we've developed an easy way for you to remember the basics of on-the-job safety: TOPPS. TOPPS is an acronym that stands for **T**rainning, **O**peration, **P**ositioning, **P**rotection, and **S**tandardization.

Whether your company utilizes an OK Champion power rodder, rodder-puller, cable scrapper, reel carrier, or any combination of the products we manufacture, adhering to these general guidelines will help keep your employees in "tip-TOPPS" shape...from the shop to the job site.

Look for equipment-specific safety recommendations in future issues of *The Champion Chronicle!*

OK Champion is TOPPS in Safety

Use these general guidelines for greater safety awareness and basic safe operating practices. Be sure to consult with the Safety Department in your company for specific information regarding safety in your work environment.

TRAINING

The first priority when working with heavy-duty machinery is getting proper equipment training. For every piece of equipment we manufacture, OK Champion offers comprehensive training – whether you're a new operator or simply need a refresher course. Using "practice" conduit in our very own OK Champion testing site, we'll give equipment operators the opportunity to practice the skills they'll need for excellence in on-the-job performance.

OPERATION

Learning how to use the equipment is only one component of the equipment education process. With every OK Champion product, a detailed Operation Manual accompanies the machinery. Read it thoroughly. Familiarize yourself with the operation and components of the equipment. Learn how to effectively troubleshoot various situations. In short, exercise your mind, as well as your skills and good judgment when working with heavy-duty machinery.

POSITIONING

Proper positioning represents the classic "man versus machine" scenario – a scenario that has the potential to present a life-threatening situation. For example, when you're working with cable reels that weigh anywhere from 4,000 to 25,000 pounds, it is imperative to steer clear of a suspended load. In our industry, we simply say, "Never stand under a 'live' load!" An important component of good positioning practices is to make sure that all loads are secure before moving the unit.

PROTECTION

Proper positioning goes hand-in-hand with wearing personal protective wear at all times. Hard hats, safety goggles, work gloves – these may represent a few of the protective wear guidelines within your company. If in question, consult your company's safety manager for details.

STANDARDIZATION

Regulatory compliance organizations, such as OSHA and ANSI, among others, provide specific guidelines for working in a multitude of environments. While these guidelines may or may not be applicable to your specific task, there are situations – confined space entry, for example – where OSHA guidelines may apply. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the guidelines and adhere to them should they pertain to your particular application.

UPCOMING SHOWS

OK Champion will be highlighting its equipment at the following upcoming shows:

- Electric Fleet Managers Conference – June 17-21, Williamsburg, Virginia
- International Construction Utility Equipment Exposition (ICUEE) – September 25-27, Louisville, Kentucky

For more information, contact Harvey Reed at (530) 587-7381.

OK Champion's "Assembly Line" Up and Running

OK Champion's new "assembly line," located at 150th and Columbia Avenue in Hammond, was fully operational in September, 2000, thanks to the hard work of all OK Champion team members, including P.J. Coleman, Material Specialist at the new facility, and Gordon Rudd, Plant Manager. By combining P.J.'s materials knowledge with Gordon's 23 years of OK Champion experience, the two helped assemble a facility – and a new workforce – that have resulted in greater efficiency and productivity in the manufacture of

OK Champion's complete line of rodding machines.

As the new facility was being updated with a new floor, increased lighting, new pneumatic lines, and other necessities, new employees had the opportunity to participate in a two-week orientation program at OK Champion's main facility.

"Prior to the start-up of this new facility, we were able to produce only three to four rodders per month," stated Rudd. "Now, with the new facility and 'assembly line' production, we're completing upwards of 12 in the same time frame."

For more information about OK Champion's newest facility, contact Paul Knoerzer at 1-800-431-9192.

Introducing the New 660 Valve Module

ELECTRICAL DESIGN OFFERS EASE OF USE

This past fall, members of the OK Champion engineer and sales department were hard at work developing a new valve module that would offer a number of advantages over the traditional "mechanical" hydraulic controls. Greater operator ease of use, the ability to put multiple tasks (throttle control, emergency stop) at your fingertips, and the opportunity to streamline production to be able to offer customers what they need, when they need it, represent only a sampling of what staff members had in mind.



They answered the challenge with the development and manufacture of the new 660 Electric Valve Control. With the first prototype out to a customer in November – a prototype that was received enthusiastically by Electric Conduit, OK Champion is prepared to offer this new product to customers in the near future.

In addition to offering more comfort for the operator, built-in safety and performance measures and easier, more effective troubleshooting are other advantages of the new 660. Look for the 600 Electric Valve Control as the new "standard" in future OK Champion units.

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