

Hour by hour, Phelps Dodge Corporation proves to be a very safe place to work

Phelps Dodge Corp. announced that four of its operations, including three wire and cable producers, have qualified as the first recipients of the company's Million Zero Hours Award for operating 1 million consecutive employee hours or more without a recordable injury.

The four sites – three in South America and one in Africa – are being recognized for achieving zero recordable injuries for

nearly 5 million hours combined, company Chairman and CEO J. Steven Whisler said in a press release.

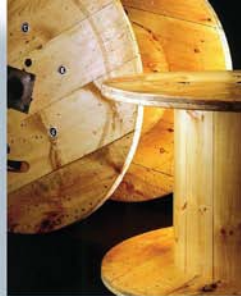
The wire and cable manufacturing facilities are: Pocos de Caldas, Brazil, which went injury-free for 1.09 million hours from October 2003 to December 2004; manufacturing operations in Venezuela, which went injury-free for 1.31 million hours from March 2003 to January 2005;

and the wire and cable manufacturing facility in Luanshya, Zambia, which went injury-free for 1.08 million hours from October 2003 to January 2005.

The fourth operation is the Candelaria mine near Copiapo, Chile, which went injury-free for 1.47 million consecutive employee hours from March to November 2004.

"These safety successes are a first step toward our corporate goal of achieving and sustaining zero injuries in all our locations," said Whisler. "We believe we have a moral obligation to send all our workers home without injury each day and to encourage them to be safe both on and off the job."

Phelps Dodge launched its Zero and Beyond safety initiative in 1997 with a goal of achieving and sustaining zero safety incidents, zero injuries, zero fatalities and zero job-related illnesses. The initiative encourages employees to take safety awareness beyond the workplace into their homes and communities.



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Marlin Steel adds robot, reports steady growth

U.S.-based Marlin Steel Wire Products reports that it has added a high-speed MIG-welding robot that will enable it to cut delivery times dramatically as well as tighten tolerances.

The Motoman welder, a standard in the automotive industry for many years, is the fifth robot to be added at Marlin recently, a press release said.

The welder permits Marlin to reduce its manufacturing cycle for baskets, shelves, and more complex shapes from 5 to 6 weeks to the 2 to 3-week range, the release said. "With an error tolerance of +/- 4 mils (0.004 inch, or 0.1 mm), the machine permits fabrication of precision parts for the most demanding customers in the industrial, medical, aerospace, automotive, and food industries."

"We are happy to expand our capabilities, but one more robot and we will have to expand the factory," quipped company President Drew Greenblatt. "We moved the company six years ago to Baltimore, in part to double our floor space, and I may have to start thinking about expansion again."