

Conover business receives SHARP award



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A Conover business' sharp safety skills landed it a prestigious award.

Profile Products, a manufacturer and distributor of erosion and sediment products for landscaping projects, was the third business in Catawba County to receive the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) award.

"It can be hard to get this award," said Howard Walters, N.C. Occupational Safety and Health Administration consultant supervisor for the Western district. "We don't just give them away."

Walters said Profile Products invited OSHA to the Conover location to turn its safety issues around.

"We recognized the hazards and get (the company) to fix them," Walters said.

After seeing the drastic turnaround made at Profile Products, Walters recommended the business for the SHARP award.

Currently there are 40 businesses in the Western district – out of 35 counties – that received the SHARP award. These 40 businesses are included in a total of 89 businesses in North Carolina.

The certificate given to Profile Products from the N.C. Department of Labor said the business lowered its lost workday rates below the national average and set goals to improve the safety and health issues identified as hazards in the work place. The award is good from March 10 to March 10, 2012. Walters said for two years, Profile Products is exempt from OSHA compliance inspections. During this time period, Profile Products will have a self-examination and submit its findings to OSHA.

Commissioner of Labor Cherie Berry commended the company for its hard work in putting safety first with its employees and in the facility.

"It's important to know the people you work with," Berry said. "Every person is important to somebody outside of this building. The folks that love these people need them to come home every day after work. Don't let this place be the place where mom and dad don't come home one day after work."

Berry said Profile Products is one of the state businesses that helped North Carolina have lower costs and save \$119 billion.

Conover Mayor Lee Moritz Jr. congratulated employees and hopes other area businesses will follow their example.

"Creating and protecting jobs is our No. 1 priority," Moritz said. "Hats off to you."

In addition to receiving the SHARP award, Profile Products received a plaque, medallion and certificate from the Newton Fire Department for providing funds to feed about 60 children during fire education events. Fire Inspector David Watson said the business has been a major sponsor for four years.

"Fire safety not only starts at the home, but here in the plant," Watson said. "Thank you for what you have done for our kids."

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