In the past two or three decades, safety management has been characterized, for the most part, by an emphasis on strict legal compliance. During this time, safety has also been largely viewed as the responsibility of the safety department along with a legally required safety committee where worker involvement was achieved.

Today, safety management is a whole new game. It's one that finds maintenance, engineering, facilities managers, union representatives, office workers, educators, and a variety of other employees functioning as proactive safety team players. Striving to meet workplace safety goals, they're judged by their success in meeting related performance measures. In the 21st century, safety management will become even more important in an organization's culture. To compete in a global marketplace, UWRF must demonstrate they meet international expectations for programs, service and quality. Inevitably, this will necessitate a new focus on safety quality assurance.

Enlightened committees will realize they must focus on health and safety, as well as the environment, sustainability, productivity, quality and cost management using an integrated model approach.

The new safety compliance mode means going well beyond the strict letter of federal and state laws. This involves setting up integrated management systems to ensure ongoing compliance with national and international safety.

Goals, objectives and related performance measures lead the way to continuous improvement! If you don't know where you're going, how do you know if you've arrived safely? Your UWRF safety committee will be working on defining this "whole new game" at their November and December meetings. Your thoughts are welcome as they map out the plan for their goals and objectives in 2011.

Safety in the 21st Century—A Whole New Game!

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Safety Committee Goals—2011
The Safety Committee has been working on defining goals for 2011. They have done this by using a time tested technique called the SWOT analysis. In a SWOT analysis, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats are listed. Once they have been identified, the committee will determine priorities to work on and identify how to remove barriers for reaching their goals.

Take the opportunity to talk to a safety committee member about your suggestions for workplace safety priorities for 2011!

Winter Weather Awareness Week—November 8-12
Winter Awareness Week is jointly sponsored by the State of Wisconsin Emergency Management team and the National Weather Service Offices that serve Wisconsin.

According to Wisconsin Department of Transportation statistics, an average of about 17,000 vehicle accidents occur in the state each winter season when roads are covered with snow...ice...or slush. This results in an average of about 75 deaths and 7,000 injuries each winter. Nationally, an average of about 950 people die in winter-related road accidents each year.

Storms that affect Wisconsin develop over southeast Colorado, northwest Canada, and over the southern Plains. These storms move toward the Midwest and use both the southward plunge of cold air from Canada and the northward flow of moisture from the Gulf of Mexico to produce heavy snow over the region. “Alberta Clippers,” which develop in the lee of the Canadian Rockies and move southeast toward Wisconsin, not only bring accumulating snow, but also strong winds and extremely cold air to the state.

According to the National Weather Service, a moderate to strong La Niña will be the dominant climate factor influencing weather across most of the U.S. this winter. What this means for our area is equal chances for above, near, or below normal temperatures and precipitation. So watch the weather reports and be prepared!