



Advancing the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace.

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioner of Indiana Department of Labor Honors Elkhart Indiana's BlueLinx Corporation with Safety Award

Indianapolis, IN September 20, 2007 – Indiana Department of Labor (IDOL) Commissioner, Lori A. Torres, is proud to announce Elkhart, Indiana's BlueLinx Corporation has achieved Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) "Star" status.

VPP, Indiana's Voluntary Protection Program, was established to recognize and promote safety and health management programs throughout the state. All companies, regardless of size or business, can participate in VPP - where management and employees work together to create and maintain a healthy working environment.

BlueLinx's Elkhart facility employs 81 employees and operates two distribution warehouses and one saw shop that manufactures engineered lumber products. BlueLinx delivers products daily to customers in the local area, including recreational vehicle manufactures, manufactured housing accounts, transportation equipment and industrial customers.

The VPP award ceremony was held on Thursday, September 20, 2007 in Elkhart, Indiana. The ceremony provided an opportunity for BlueLinx employees and management to showcase their exemplary status to the media, state officials, and local elected officials. Commissioner Torres comments on the milestone achievement of BlueLinx, "It is always gratifying to see companies proactively addressing workplace safety. In the warehousing and logistics industry, there are multiple opportunities for accidents. BlueLinx has taken a corporate-wide comprehensive plan to address worker safety and health."

Workplace safety is integrated throughout each job function at BlueLinx. Employees participate in one of eight safety committees that include accident investigation, health and wellness, job hazard analysis, inspection committee, training, communication and recognition and ergonomics. "Employers demonstrate their commitment to worker safety and health by involving their employees. Active employee involvement is essential to the success of any workplace safety and health program," added Torres.

To qualify for VPP "Star" status, an organization's Total Case Incident Rate (TCIR) must be below that of the industry's average for their respective Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)/North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). BlueLinx's three-year TCIR is nearly 30 percent below the industry's average.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Sean M. Keefer at (317) 232-2683.

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