

Vital benchmark

BHCC Construction's stringent safety measures benefits both workers and the bottom line

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FOR BHCC Construction, total commitment to protecting workers is the only way to thrive.

Senior corporate safety manager Joseph Chua says: "The WSH (Workplace, Safety and Health) landscape has evolved over the years and developed into a fundamental component of the construction industry."

Its managing director Yang Xin Ping takes a very serious view of workplace safety and he walks the talk by participating in all WSH initiatives, he adds.

Such commitment from top management sends a strong message that safety is of utmost priority, which trickles down all the way to workers on the ground.

BHCC also ties remuneration and bonuses to safety performance. This secures buy-in from all employees, as they have a personal incentive to ensure that performance scores exceed the key performance indicators.

BHCC is a recipient of the WSH Safety and Health Award Recognition for Projects (SHARP) for its Dawson C6 project this year.

Setting standards

Mr Chua says that BHCC's goals go beyond accreditation and accolades. He believes that his company can set the standard for industry best practices.

The company collects statistics on near misses, or situations where an accident almost occurred. The information is collated from different projects and thoroughly analysed.

"These studies help us to identify the



Senior corporate safety manager Joseph Chua's (right) role is to get staff to make safety as a key priority.

common near misses in our workplace, and introduce appropriate re-training programs to enhance mitigation measures and prevent future accidents," he says.

BHCC is even exploring using virtual reality for training by simulating common worksite hazards to prepare workers to deal with situations without disrupting on-site activity.

Overcoming barriers

One of the most challenging parts of inculcating safety values was getting around cultural and communication barriers.

Mr Chua says: "Our workforce comprises foreign workers from China, Bangladesh and India with different backgrounds and cultures, and a number of them do not have prior construction experience."

To address the issue, new workers are paired with an experienced buddy for two weeks to learn the ropes. A supervisor will assess the new worker before releasing the buddy.

BHCC also holds informal meetings with workers, and receives feedback and shares information through translators.

Remaining agile in an ever-changing industry requires keeping a constant ear to the ground. Mr Chua keeps a lookout for new technologies, innovations and ideas in the industry to refine his company's processes.

He says: "It is important to hold ourselves to higher WSH standards so as to stay competitive and aid in securing more projects."