

## bizSAFE AWARDS 2020

# Learning about workplace safety the fun way

Building an amusement arcade using recyclable materials and answering quizzes via mobile phones are some new safety initiatives by interior fit-out firm Jim & Hall's

BY SUZANNE SNG

**W**orkplace safety is no laughing matter, but that does not mean learning about it cannot be fun.

Interior fit-out firm Jim & Hall's has devised two new innovative methods to heighten the awareness of workplace safety and health (WSH) among its 45 employees.

Implemented last year, the first initiative – titled Fun – sees staff learning Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) requirements specific to their area of specialisation through amusement arcade games built from recyclable materials.

"We strongly believe that the Fun initiative encourages the practice of WSH implementations. Through games and activities, it will also enhance the WSH learning experience for everyone," says Mr Mok Thye Wai, 57, the director of the company which started in 1989. This year, it is taking

home the bizSAFE Enterprise Exemplary Award for the third consecutive year, thus earning the Gold accolade.

The company uses the Fun amusement arcade, which has various games such as pinball machines with different WSH questions for each hole, to enhance their employees' safety knowledge.

The company's second initiative is termed Technology and fully utilises something almost everyone uses every day, if not every hour – the mobile phone.

The interactive programme, which also started last year, consists of quizzes with questions flashed on a projector screen; workers would answer them using their mobile phones.

Accuracy and speed are key to winning the challenge. After each question, the leader board is displayed, showing which participant is in the lead, and this creates a sense of excitement and camaraderie among the workers.



Mr Mok Thye Wai (centre) finds value in listening to the workers when it comes to workplace health and safety. PHOTO: TED CHEN

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MR MOK THYE WAI  
DIRECTOR  
Jim & Hall's

Mr Mok adds: "At Jim & Hall's, we believe that knowledge from learning is best attained when having fun. Therefore, we will ensure the fun element is present during EHS initiatives. We also ensure our training and briefing sessions are fun for the workers, which will ultimately yield greater attention and participation from them."

Of course, workplace safety is not just fun and games. Jim & Hall's has adopted a training policy which requires all staff to attend at least one safety-related training or seminar annually.

"Safety is not anyone's responsibility but everyone's. No amount of safety work measures implemented can guarantee a 100-per-cent accident-free environment if any individual is not conscious of his/her own safety at work," says Mr Mok, who has been using the motto "Safe Work, Safe Life!" for his company since the early 1990s.

Jim & Hall's, which has about eight worksites on the average a month, currently has a pristine zero-accident record.

Although workers in the interior fit-out industry are less exposed to high-risk activities compared to the building and construction sector, Jim & Hall's is not taking any chances.

In recent years, the WSH Council has rolled out the Safe Hands Campaign, which Jim & Hall's has adopted, utilising training materials and posters from the council. The campaign enables us to address work hazards and focus on preventing hand and finger injuries," he explains.

He believes that everyone in the company has a part to play in workplace safety and it should not be a top-down approach. "Remove the corporate hierarchy when it comes to health and safety. You'll be surprised what you can learn from the workers as well," he says.

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