2017 Annual Conference and Vendor Showcase Bigger and Better!

The TT&S 57th Annual Conference and Vendor Showcase drew an impressive crowd of attendees to the Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center on February 21-23, 2017. One of the highlights for attendees was a visit by North Dakota’s only Representative in Congress, Kevin Cramer, as the opening keynote speaker on Tuesday with an “Update from Washington.”

A variety of topics were available in breakout sessions on Wednesday, but the hottest was Wi-Fi. Those who wanted to learn more could listen to Spirent representative Rich Schaeffer present Wi-Fi I&M Techniques, attend Scott McClure’s (Alliance) presentation on Outdoor Wireless Solutions that Allow Packaged Services, learn about the Greenlee Airscout from Colin Bryant, and sit in on 802.11ac Wi-Fi by Mike Ockenga of Finley Engineering.

Breakout sessions also featured returning presenters. Jody Frey was again well-received for his Fiber Inspection and Testing sessions. Brendan O'Boyle and Brad Lendzian of Preformed Line Products entertained attendees with their light-hearted and playful style of exploring fiber cases. In addition, Mark Worshek shared his knowledge about the Calix Access Network.

This year, a familiar face to many telecom employees presented a topic that affects everyone. Those who attended the sessions with Shar Arvig of NTCA walked away with the tools they needed to make better decisions for their financial futures.

Wednesday was a full day for attendees and vendors alike. Although there was a social with vendors on
Summer Safety

TT&S may not have it on the schedule for safety meetings in March, but summer safety is important. Because we understand this, we have prepared a “Summer Safety” presentation that covers severe weather and heat and sun issues. This presentation is available on a flash drive that can be checked out on a two-week loan from our office. If you are interested in using this powerpoint in your organization, please contact Melanie at ma.nilles@ttsafety.com.

Case Study: Worker Struck, Killed by O outrigger

A 48-year-old foreman was killed while repairing a water line break. The victim was inside an excavated hole in a roadway. A backhoe loader was positioned near the trench with its outriggers extended and bucket attachment resting inside of a dump truck. The backhoe loader was unintentionally pulled forward when the dump truck was driven forward. As the backhoe loader was pulled forward, the outrigger on the right side struck the victim and dragged him out of the hole. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene. The medical examiner listed the cause of death as multiple blunt force injuries to the head and torso.

To prevent future occurrences:

* Ensure excavating equipment is moved away from the excavation edge and all attachments are lowered to the ground before workers enter the excavation.
* Ensure the operator performs a walkaround to warn workers on foot that equipment will be moved.
* Consider closing roadways when the work area is located in a roadway and limited space is available.
* Develop and enforce a safety and health program that addresses hazard recognition and the avoidance of unsafe conditions.
* Ensure work environments meet all relevant OSHA regulations.

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