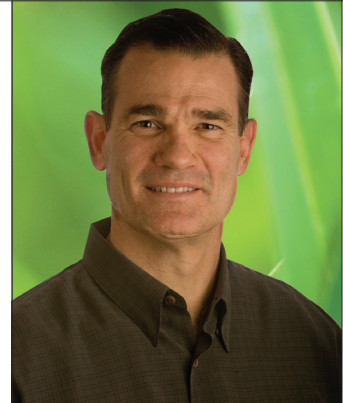


# Safety is paramount



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Smart companies are paying extra attention to the safety of their associates. Sure it makes good business sense, with insurance companies offering discounts on premiums for a company operating a safety program. Even more important, work-related injuries and the down-time these injuries cause – not to mention the loss of job-specific expertise – absolutely negatively impacts the bottom line.

Tara Cox, customer service manager for CAT Safety, a division of Caterpillar, is passionate about spreading the message concerning the importance of safety in the workplace. It is not a secret many of the jobs related to landscaping, site clearing and preparation, and construction are some of the most dangerous in any profession. That is why Tara and many of us like her are looking for new ways to bring attention to safety in the workplace in dangerous vocations.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reported the top 10 violations that occurred between October 2008 and September 2009 were related to: 1) scaffolding, 2) fall protection, 3) hazard communication, 4) respiratory protection, 5) control of hazardous energy (lockout/tagout), 6) ladders, 7) powered industrial trucks, 8) electric wiring methods, 9) electrical systems designs, and 10) fall protection training requirements. For a full-service, professional landscaper, every one of these violations could be applicable.

Caterpillar's solution to bridging the gap between many companies and safety awareness on a daily basis is online education programs. They offer more than 200 courses at \$19.95 each. For a busy professional landscaper, especially during this time of year, convenience is paramount. If you are interested, check them out at [www.safety.cat.com](http://www.safety.cat.com). The advantages of an on-going safety program are limitless, starting with the preservation of the health and well-being of your company's most precious resource: your associates. The secondary benefits are critical to the long-term health of a company as well. OSHA citations are expensive and cast a negative light on companies that get written up on a regular basis. Customers tend to do business with professionals whose good business practices include a strict adherence to safety – on the road, in the neighborhood, or in their backyard. Safety in the workplace is simply one thing we can't afford to do without. **TLC**