VelocityEHS ®

A Fresh Start Through Transparency

GOLDEN ALUMINUM

Background

Golden Aluminum was established in 1982 by the Coors Brewing Company to provide Coors with a complete aluminum can (body, lid, and tab) from a single alloy made from recycled beverage cans. Contrary to all normal aluminum industry practices at that time, Bill Coors set out to make the closed-loop lifecycle concept a reality.

Today, Golden Aluminum has transformed the industry as a leading innovator in the aluminum sheet coil manufacturing sector, taking used aluminum and repurposing it into aluminum coils for reuse. It produces aluminum for beverage packaging, food packaging, the automotive industry, home products, building supplies, and electronics.

Incident Management Challenges

Golden Aluminum has around 200 employees who contribute to its commitment to sustainability. In return, the company is committed to providing a safe and healthy work environment for them. So, when Ryan Thompson stepped into the role of EHS Manager in January of 2021 he noticed there was no centralized system in place beyond reporting an incident and those incidents were logged on a spreadsheet in SharePoint™. He had a vision for how to streamline and grow the safety program, starting with incident management.

At the time there was no formal accountability of root cause or corrective action. Ryan said, "I saw this as a big gap. It's really good to report an incident, but if we are not acting upon it, then only one step in the process is being taken. We needed a system that showed root cause analysis so we could take corrective action."

Closing the Gap through Transparency

Ryan believed transparency was key to closing the gap and keeping everybody in the loop when it came to reporting and closing incidents. It was important for him to be able to gather data to identify trends in different departments so he could be proactive in incident reduction.

Because this would be a new software platform for the company, Ryan was looking for a user-friendly easy-to-implement solution. After testing multiple possible solutions, he found **VelocityEHS Safety**, with its Incident Management capability, was the best option for them because of the value it brought within their budget and its ease of implementation.

Once the onboarding was completed and the platform was up and running, Ryan and his team quickly started seeing results. "One of the biggest tangible improvements we saw was an increase in engagement. We're getting a lot more people feeling like they have a voice—they can put in an observation or near miss and see action being taken," said Ryan. "That was the goal, to empower everybody and create positive proactive change." Accessibility to incident reporting has allowed them to recognize the positive trends and see what's working while coaching improvement opportunities. It has also allowed them to see what works for different departments and implement new safety strategies.

Ryan added, "The biggest value this software has brought is transparency and accountability. It has helped everyone see what next steps are being taken and who is responsible. It has also allowed us to see which corrective actions work and which ones don't so we can go back to the drawing board. It's a continuous journey of improvement."

Golden Aluminum is a 24/7 operation and has very different hazards in each department. With transparency and the corrective action process, the crews can better look out for each other. They are empowered knowing they have an impact on the safety of others and see the value in building a strong safety culture. Ryan pointed out, "What we're able to do is see risk holistically instead of through tunnel vision. If something happens in one area, we can hone in, examine it, figure out if this risk can present itself in a different area, and implement corrective action for everyone, helping to prevent a future incident."

Moving Forward with VelocityEHS Safety

Because of the success of the Incident Management capability, Golden Aluminum decided to move forward in expanding its use of VelocityEHS Safety, adding capabilities like Inspections & Observations, Audits, and Training & Learning. Ryan said, "The next step for us is to utilize the audits and inspection tools more effectively; we're just getting it off the ground now. There are a lot of projects in the works and transparency has allowed everyone to be involved and drive accountability."

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