

Howard Talks Tech

I Have a Dream

Five score years ago; a momentous change occurred in American regulations. This momentous regulation, 29 CFR 1910, came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of workers who had been seared in the flames of hazardous jobs and wanted to go in a new direction. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity to a norm of the trading of your health for a paycheck. To present my thoughts; I ask permission to paraphrase a great American when he poignantly presented his dream for America in a thought-provoking style. Here is my dream:

- **I have a dream;** that one day employee safety will be the cornerstone of industrial might.
- **I have a dream;** that employers will genuinely value the contributions of their employees.
- **I have a dream;** that one day the efforts of safety professionals will receive the credit they merit.
- **I have a dream;** that employees will no longer have to fight to work in a safe environment
- **I have a dream;** that every employee will be given specific hazard recognition training.
- **I have a dream;** that one day everybody will voluntarily wear the correct PPE for every job.
- **I have a dream;** that every employer will incorporate wellness in their programs.
- **I have a dream;** that 1 day employees will read the MSDS's before they use a new chemical.
- **I have a dream;** that every college will instill the knowledge of safety in its graduates.
- **I have a dream;** that every spouse will be freed from fear of death of their mate at work
- **I have a dream;** that every manufacturer will only produce safe products.
- **I have a dream;** that every child will have safe, lead free toys.
- **I have a dream;** that every child will have well designed & maintained safe playgrounds.
- **I have a dream;** that every passenger will wear a safety belt every time they are in a car.
- **I have a dream;** that no driver will talk on a cell phone while driving.
- **I have a dream;** that on that day all workers will eliminate at-risk behaviors from their lives.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here to read this treatise out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from hazardous workplaces. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for safety left you battered by the storms of neglect and staggered by the winds of indifference. You have become the veterans of creative suffering.

What is your safety dream? Like MLK we must apply all of our energy into keeping the dream alive and working hard to bring it about. Come join the journey. This is one march we all must join and it certainly is a non-violent protest to the status quo. Success is on the horizon. Come with me to the mountaintop and get a glorious glimpse of what could be our future.