



Tracy Lipinski Receives DCA 2024 Safety Director Award; Peter Caccese is the Safety Person of the Year

DCA named Tracy Lipinski, MP Technologies, Safety Director of the Year for 2024 and honored Peter Caccese, Hallen Construction, as Safety Person of the Year at the 2024 DCA Safety Congress, March 24-26, at the Hyatt Centric French Quarter in New Orleans, Louisiana. DCA President Dan Carson of Carson Corporation presented the awards.

Safety Director of the Year

Tracy Lipinski, Safety Director at MP Technologies, has led transformative initiatives that have significantly enhanced workplace safety, employee engagement, and risk mitigation. In 2024, she spearheaded the Regional Manager – Safety Representative Partnership, a program designed to strengthen leadership accountability and safety awareness. By pairing regional managers with safety representatives, the initiative fostered better communication, training, and hazard recognition, leading to measurable improvements in safety culture. Coupled with the Electronic Pre-Task Plan (PTP) system, which enables real-time hazard identification and mitigation, Tracy's efforts have contributed to a reduction in total recordable incident rates (TRIR), auto incidents, and utility damage claims.

Beyond statistics, Tracy has cultivated a company-wide safety mindset that empowers employees at every level to take ownership of their well-being and that of their colleagues. Under her leadership, MP has seen a 46% decrease in workers' compensation cases and a 40% reduction in auto damage claims over the past year. Her dedication extends beyond MP, as she actively contributes to industry-wide safety training and leadership initiatives. Tracy's commitment to building a culture where safety is a shared responsibility has made a lasting impact, solidifying her recognition as Safety Director of the Year.

In addition to Lipinski, 2024 Safety Director of the Year nominees also included Greg Dumper, Carson Corporation.

Safety Person of the Year

Peter Caccese, Labor Foreman with Hallen Construction, is an invaluable asset to Hallen Construction, demonstrating tenacity, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to safety. His career began in June 2012 as a laborer, where he quickly distinguished himself through hard work and a keen understanding of gas mechanics. His rapid promotion to foreman allowed him to foster a culture of excellence in both safety and efficiency among his crew. Beyond his direct team, Peter became an active voice in Hallen's safety committee and learning teams, consistently identifying potential risks and proposing practical solutions.

Recognizing his dedication, Hallen management invited Peter to join the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) department two years ago. His field experience as a gas mechanic and crew leader

provided crucial insights that strengthened the department's effectiveness. As a mentor to safety team members with limited gas work expertise, Peter has played a pivotal role in bridging the gap between technical fieldwork and safety protocols.

Safety Leadership & Impact on Hallen Construction:

- Tools & Equipment Modernization: Led the development of a comprehensive database tracking over 1,000 tools, ensuring calibration and inspection compliance, and integrating it with safety audits.
- Job Briefing Improvement: Partnered with the Construction Safety Research Alliance (CSRA) to assess and enhance job briefings, producing a gold-standard training video and implementing structured coaching, this resulted in a 43% improvement in job briefing quality post-training.
- Human Performance Training: Delivered 40+ classes and 180 toolbox talks in 2024, reaching over 1,000 employees on job briefings, hazard identification, and Human Performance Principles (HPP).

Peter Caccese exemplifies the highest standards of safety leadership. His proactive approach, technical expertise, and passion for cultivating a strong safety culture make him an outstanding recipient for the Safety Person of the Year Award. His contributions have not only elevated Hallen's safety standards but also fostered a workplace environment where employees feel empowered to prioritize safety in every aspect of their work.

2024 Safety Person of the Year Nominees also included:

- Walter Hyle, InfraSource LLC
- John Jaeger, Grace Industries LLC
- Jim Johnston, Miller Pipeline
- Tom Osborn, Michels Utility Services, Inc.
- Mike Sugrue, InfraSource LLC

The DCA Safety Director of the Year award began in 1998 to recognize the importance of the safety director's role in today's construction industry. Company management nominates their candidate then finalists are selected by members of the DCA Safety & Risk Management Committee and voted on by their DCA peers. The winner receives a \$1,000 cash prize and plaque.

The Safety Person of the Year award, which recognizes an individual who has made a lasting impact on safety, was suggested at a Safety Congress 10 years ago. Nominees can come from any department within a DCA member company. The winner also receives a \$1,000 cash prize and plaque.

The 2025 DCA Safety Congress

This year's Safety Congress attracted more than 50 construction industry safety professionals who gathered to network, share creative training concepts, discuss trends, and hear from leading safety training consultants, other safety directors, and risk management executives.

The event included presentations on important issues affecting the industry:

- “Leadership the NYFD Way,” Richard Picciotto, Retired NYFD Chief & Author.
- “Excavation & Trenching Safety,” Bruce Magee, United Rentals.
- “HDD Equipment Safety,” Weston Peters, Vermeer Corporation.
- “Significant Injuries & Fatalities,” Heidi Meyer-Bremer, Michels Power.
- “Root Cause Analysis,” Darrel Caldwell and Howard Kinsel, Drake Field Services.
- “Sub-contractor Vetting and Management,” Martin Kreutzer, SiteWise LLC.
- “Culture as a Catalyst: Elevating Safety Through Leadership,” Bill Keever, Discovery Hydrovac.
- “Team Building – Effective Communication,” Tim Schmitt, Michels Utility Services Inc.

The Congress wrapped up with a hands-on demonstration and insightful presentation by Jason Cramer and Chris Edelman with Wright Traffic Control who shared their latest technology that is shaping the future of innovative traffic management that enhances job site safety.

DCA wishes to thank 2025 Safety Congress Chair Tim Schmitt of Michels Utility Services Inc. for their efforts in organizing this year's event. The dates and venue for the 2026 Safety Congress will be announced soon.