Safety Wearables

What's the Risk?

In general, utility workers face a variety of on-the-job hazards, such as:

- Electrocution
- Falls
- Chemical Exposure
- Fires and Explosions
- Sprains, Strains, and Fractures
- Environmental Stress

Furthermore, field workers often work in remote areas where they might be isolated from people who can aid in the event of an emergency. In order to better protect employees and proactively address these potential hazards, NiSource has begun the process of adopting Blackline Safety's *G7 Safety Devices,* which include fall and no motion detection, two-way voice and text messaging, push-to-talk capabilities, gas detection and GPS monitoring.

Success Stories

- The device detected high CO levels while an employee was eating lunch at a restaurant; he was able to resolve the issue with restaurant management before harm was caused
- An employee was locked in a basement and used the device to call for help
- A leakage inspector was getting elevated readings from the device; after reporting they found a boiler was improperly exhausting
- An employee went to his friend's house after work where the device detected high CO levels; they determined the furnace was the cause and resolved the issue
- An Ohio crew used the device to call for help after witnessing a motorcycle accident

Lessons Learned

NiSource took an iterative process toward adopting safety wearables and has deployed approximately 1,500 devices, with the remaining 1,300 scheduled for deployment by the end of 2022. During this process, they cited several **lessons learned:**

- NiSource leveraged "Super Users" who trialed the technology, collected input, helped with change management
- Continue reiterating the benefits to employees and ensure messaging is coming from your leaders, rather than the vendor
- Begin discussions with leaders, who will ultimately be the ones pitching new technology to employees
- Gather and listen to feedback
- Engage with the vendor on configuration and sensitivity settings

Employer

NiSource

NiSource
NiSource Inc., based in Merrillville, Indiana, is one of the largest fully-regulated utility companies in the United States. They serve nearly four million customers across six states, and employ an estimated 7,500 people.

Technology

blacklinesafety

Blackline Safety
Blackline Safety pairs wearable safety technology and personal and area gas monitoring with cloud-connected software and data-analytics. The company helps companies meet demanding safety challenges with coverage across more than 100 countries.

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