

Gerdau celebrates 3 years without an accident

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The Gerdau Huntington facility has reached three years without a lost time accident.

This means no employee has had to miss work because of an injury sustained on the job in three years, according to Rich Card, plant manager.

Gerdau is the leading producer of long steel and one of the largest suppliers of special steel in the world.

"I'm really excited that our plant has received the award. Safety is our number one priority in Huntington and as a company and to be able to go 3 years and not have anyone miss work because of an in-

jury is phenomenal," Card said.

He said the goal is that people come to work and return home safely and that no one is injured.

"We get our work done, but we do it the safe way and the fact that the plant has done that for 3 years consecutively is really an achievement."

The team is proud of the accomplishment and speaks volumes to the type of employees the business has, according to Card.

He said employees are focused on their jobs and safety. According to the Steel Manufacturer's Association, there were 816 injury inci-

dents in 2016 for major domestic steel producers.

Employees held a celebration Aug. 11 attended by Gerdau Special Steel North America President Mark Maruccci.

Card has been at the Huntington facility for two months. Before he was a routine facilitator at the Jackson, Mich., mill for almost two years and before that a management systems facilitator at the Monroe, Mich., mill for 5 years.

He said it's the Huntington facility's motto that keeps everyone focused.

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The team here utilizes the motto, Safety First. Then Quality. Then Production."

In the short time I've been at the facility, I've witnessed this philosophy in action in the decisions made by our teams when trying to solve problems," Card said.

The Gerdau Huntington facility adds strength to its steel bars produced in Monroe, Mich., as well as cutting bars to customer specified lengths among other processes. The steel is used in automobile parts and other types of machinery.

But their work is not done. "Everyone knows how great it is that we've reached this

milestone, but we also know we haven't arrived at the finish line," Card said.

"We celebrate the accomplishment but don't forget the bigger picture: one lost time accident is too many."

Gerdau's North American operations consist of mills, recycling operations, and downstream facilities which manufacture steel products for the construction, automotive, agricultural and energy markets.

Brian Crone, who has worked at the business for 13 years, said he is glad the company received the award.

"I feel it is an outstanding achievement for the environment we work in," Crone said.

"I feel privileged to work for a company that focuses on safety over production."



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MILESTONE: Pictured are Gerdau Huntington facility employees, front row, from left, Blaine Stouder, Mike Dolby, and Ted Carpenter. Back row, from left, Edison King, Brian Crone and Todd Okuly.