

## Blue Safety Lights are Top Pick at Andersen Corporation

Andersen Corporation, the largest window and door manufacturer in North America, employing over 9,000 people, challenges its employees annually to improve workplace safety, quality, cost and other metrics. With safety, the corporation recognizes the best safety initiative each year by awarding a facility with the Chairman's Safety Award. This award is intended to promote and recognize safety leadership, innovation and achievement. An award winning initiative must be innovative, impactful and sustainable, engage employees and ideally become a best practice across the Andersen Corporation enterprise.



In 2014, Wisconsin Lift Truck Corporation's very own, Mike Smith introduced Andersen Corporation's Menomonie Wisconsin production facility to the Linde Blue Light option. This technology was a no-brainer for Andersen Corporation as they immediately began implementing this throughout their facility.

The Linde Blue Light is a blue colored light typically engaged when the forklift is switched into reverse. When the truck is moving, a highly visible blue spotlight is projected onto the floor typically 10-15 feet behind the forklift, alerting pedestrians and other moving vehicles that there is a machine approaching. These lights work extremely well in notifying others where there are obstructed views or blind spots, like aisle ways and in between pallet racking.

After installing the lights on the rear of all the forklifts, the Menomonie facility took the idea a step further. They decided to install blue lights on the front of the forklifts as well. No matter what direction the truck is moving, there is the blue light to notify that a vehicle is approaching. They also had WLT Corporation add a blue light to a floor scrubber and a robotic stretch wrapper, making those two machines much more visible as well.

Sometimes warehouse personnel get numb to horns and floor signs used day in and day out. Adding the blue light to vehicles resulted in better visibility for a high risk activity, with a moving signal that draws attention. So when Andersen Corporation requested facilities to apply for the 2014 Chairman's Safety Award, the Menomonie facility presented what they titled 'The Blue Light Special'. The project won the award, which was presented at the facility by Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer Jay Lund on February 27, 2015. Not only were Andersen Corporation employees recognized at this celebration, but so was Wisconsin Lift Truck Corporation for their recommending and installing these innovative safety devices. Another example of how Wisconsin Lift Truck is more than forklifts and how we provide "solutions of excellence" in material handling.

