



The turn out for the CSAA safety seminar breakfast for contractors and employees, was over 250 and closer to 300 in the Estevan Legion Hall on April 3.

Safety session delivers strong message

The Estevan Legion Hall was filled to overflowing last Thursday morning as about 300 contractors and employees sat down to a free breakfast and a fast-paced but educational video and personal presentation on safety.

The event, a kick-off to Safety Month, was sponsored by the Contractor Safety Awareness Association (CSAA) and the Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance. This was the first time these two agencies collaborated for the activity.

"Most of our members are also members of the Alliance anyway," said Jeff Yanko of Enbridge, one of the co-ordinators of the Estevan seminar. So he added, it was easy to merge the two safety programs and messages.

Twenty-nine similar events are being held, or have been held throughout the province during April with between 5,000 and 6,000 people receiving the message.

Earlier sessions in Oxbow and Carlyle attracted over 120 delegates each. Future breakfasts were being planned for Weyburn and Assiniboia.

Membership fees and corporate sponsorship covers the costs of the breakfasts and seminar.

Chantelle Bourassa, public awareness co-ordinator for Enbridge, introduced the 20-minute video and provided back-up information and messages to the gathering.

"Work is being done with government to get sites where there will be ground disturbance covered with one phone call," said Yanko. "If we can get a one-call system mandatory through legislation, it would be a big help."

Right now Saskatchewan has one of the poorest records in Canada when it comes to hospitalization due to on-site injuries.

Yanko was joined by Wayne Irwin, who also has an

extensive background in safety awareness campaigns.

The CSAA sessions have been ongoing for the past 25 years.

The video presentation focused on such things as trench relocations, overhead power lines, first-call and follow-ups, employee rights to refuse dangerous work situations and protection for all from the operator to owner.

There is a Mission Zero campaign out now, and it was noted that while zero incidents may be unattainable, the goal is still to pursue excellence, they said.

Irwin and Yanko added that there is an increasing number of young operators now out in the field mining, drilling and in construction, so these sessions were even more important now as they serve as real reminders that safety always needed to be at the top of everyone's daily agenda.