



What Is This “Switch Theory” Thing?

Great Question! Thanks for asking.

Significant circumstances represent a switch in any process. Imagine a series of circumstances between you and something bad happening.

Examples:

Circumstance 1 – Your shoe strings; If they are untied consider that a closed switch that takes you closer to having an accident.

Switch Theory helps us think about relevant circumstances. Helps us identify what “right” conditions and “incorrect” conditions look like by symbolically representing them as open and closed switches.

The switch is shoe strings – Open switch means they’re tied and safe; Closed switch means they’re untied and unsafe.

Circumstance 2 – Hand rail on stairs; If both your hands are full and you can’t use the hand rail consider that a closed or unsafe switch. You can’t stop yourself from falling if you have a misstep.

Closed Switches typically don’t guarantee something bad is going to happen. They usually close the gap or reduce the amount of margin between the safe condition you are in and an accident. You can open a switch and make a condition safe by taking mitigating action. Tying your shoe is a mitigating action. This action mitigates the risk of tripping over your shoe lace and falling.

If you walk up and down the stairs with your shoes untied and your hands full, you won’t fall and hurt yourself every time, but if I do it enough times you will eventually fall and you will likely get hurt pretty bad.

There is a reason I used stairs for this example. Many of our employees get hurt on stairs and ladders. These

injuries happen weekly across all departments and includes office workers.

Additional Examples of closed switches while you’re walking up or down stairs:

You’re looking at your phone

Your pants are too long

You have coffee in one hand and binder in the other hand

Its cold out and your hands are in your pocket

Attitude: It won’t happen to me mentality

You are in control of your own safety and you can help others by being a good example! Own Your Safety and Electric Boat’s safety by doing your part!

Sometimes taking a mitigating action to open one switch is enough to keep something bad from happening and each switches you open adds safety margin. When you have enough safety margin, one switch getting accidentally closed doesn’t lead to an accident, because there are other open switches.

I hope this explanation helps! Stay Safe!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Vieira". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dan Vieira

Director of Environmental Health & Safety

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2024 EECI Logo Contest Announcement

Thank you to all the contestants in the 2024 Employee Engagement Continuous Improvement Logo contest. Twenty-seven employees submitted a total of fifty-five designs, and members of Management voted on the entries. The voting is complete and here are the results of the 2024 EECI Logo Design Contest:

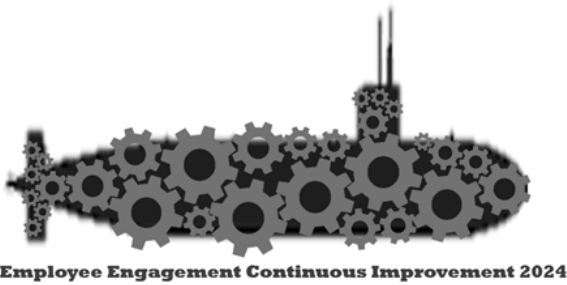
First Place



Carl Johnson D355

The First Place logo will be featured on 2024 Tee Shirts for Continuous Improvement Presenters and both Logos will be featured on Hard Hat Stickers and in communiques. There was a three way tie for Second Place:

Tied for Second Place



Christina Pavlick D341



Donovan Simms D921



Joshua Taul D936

To our participants, Congratulations on a job well done! We appreciate your efforts and look forward to your continued ideas / suggestions in 2024!

Sincerely,

The EECI Team

Kim Deschamps

Heather Richter

Shannon Sauls

Chris George

John Hasouris

Liam Lynch

Katie Sherman-Forrester

Robert Shaw

Stephen Lamb

Craig Haverly

Bob Barlow

Brenden Cossin

Meticulous Man of Routines to Retire After 61 Years of Service at Electric Boat



Elmer Church has held the same job at Electric Boat for just over six decades—61 years to be exact. In 1962, he began his career as a storehouse-man learner, a position that no longer exists, making \$1.95 per hour. By December 1967, Elmer progressed to a warehouseman 1C, and in August 1976, was promoted to a specialist. Now set to retire at the age of 80, there's no question that he's seen—and lived—a lot of EB history.

In the early days of his career, Elmer asked to be one of the radiation material handlers in the yard. At this time, material control handled all movement of radiation material, and as one of three people responsible for this task, he was always on the move. Whether it was volunteering to support a minimally-staffed shift in unpredictable New England weather, or staying overnight and days-on-end to support material control, Elmer was no stranger to hard work and overtime.

Elmer spent a few years at a then-new warehouse space near Groton's Poquonock River Boardwalk, known by many EB long-timers as Midway. New and high-tech for its time, he took charge of the space, ensuring it ran and operated seamlessly. Following time spent in some of the buffer warehouses, he transitioned to Main Stores on second shift, where he's been for many years now. In all of his assignments, Elmer became the go-to guy known for his knowledge and willingness to help. His dedication and knowledge was evident to all he met throughout his career, and was applauded in two letters of commendation from the chief of material control in 1973, and former EB president, John Welch, in 1998.

Unbeknownst to Elmer, his peers saw a handful of personal traits that will contribute to his EB legacy. Should those he encountered follow in his lead, they will always show up on time, root for the Yankees, appreciate the reliability of a Toyota Camry and enjoy a daily dose of Raisin Bran, preferably at 4:15 p.m. Most importantly, the positive attitude, work ethic and knowledge he passed down will continue to benefit EB and its future shipbuilders now and for years to come.

The oldest of Elmer's two sons retired before him, and he's set to follow behind him at the end of this month. After 61 years of service and a boat load of vacation time, Elmer can now enjoy the hobbies he's been saving for retirement. Thank you for your service, Elmer!



Self-Care Wellness Break

Beat the Winter Blues!

It's not uncommon to feel down during the months where there is less sunlight and colder weather. A healthy lifestyle can support positive mental health until spring comes again!

Invite your Health Promotion Specialist, Don Black, out to your team for a 15-minute wellness break to learn about SAD, some self-care tips to feel your best this winter, and how to join Optum's [Self-Care Bingo Challenge](#). Participate any time during the month of February/March.



All Self-Care Bingo Challenge participants will be entered into a raffle to win a \$100-value self-care package!

To schedule a wellness break and/or sign up for the challenge, call or email:

Don Black, Health Promotion Specialist
donald.blackjr@optum.com
952-205-6067



- **USS New Jersey Hoodies & Long Sleeve T-Shirts!! Just Arrived!!**
- **A Great Extra Layer, Carhartt's Duck Vest Insulated For Warmth!! Sold Here!**
- **Great Gift Idea ☺ EB Sub Line-Up Mug ONLY \$18.00!!**
- **Shop Our Latest Selection Of Safety Toe Boots For Both Men & Women!!!**

Bldg 4: 9:30am to 4pm
Bldg 104: 8am to 4pm
New London: 7am to 2pm
7am to 1:30 Th.



February Safety Stand Down

200%
ACCOUNTABILITY

| SIF | DEPT | Description |
|------|------|---|
| 24-3 | 230 | Heavy Machinery - Navy personnel did not notify rigging department that they were working in the envelope of the crane. This resulted in a near miss. |
| 24-5 | 505 | Heavy Machinery – Snow removal tractor tipped over with the operator inside the cab due to a combination of lack of supervision, inadequate training and operator error while traversing the side walks. |
| 24-6 | 914 | Electrical Shock - Improper ground return resulted in an electrical shock, with a current path across the chest, to a fitter working nearby. The employee should have verified the correct ground before starting work. |
| 24-7 | 272 | Electrical Shock – Improper electrical installation of a corded plug energized the outer casing to a pump motor resulted in a 220V shock to a tradesperson who placed their hand on the pump case. The electrical current traveled across their chest. |
| 24-8 | 545 | Heavy Machinery – Forklift made unintentional contact with an Agrekko heater and staging tower due to common practice of storing material inside the cab floor. A wheel chock was lodged behind the brake and the operator was unable to stop. |

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DIRECTORY

When calling from an outside line, remember to dial 433 and the last four digits of the numbers below.

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| EMERGENCY | 3-3333 |
| Ambulance..... | 3-3344 |
| Fire Department..... | 3-3617 |
| EEO Officer..... | 3-4167 |
| Benefits..... | 3-4201 |
| Employment..... | 3-7386 |
| Environmental..... | 3-2791 |
| Ethics Hotline..... | 1-800-433-8442 |
| Payroll..... | 3-3702 |
| Safety..... | 3-2811 |
| Security..... | 3-5530 |
| Van Tran..... | 3-7603 |
| Timekeeping..... | 3-6604 |
| Training..... | 3-0591 |
| Yard Hospital..... | 3-3470 |
| Rad Con..... | 3-5019 |

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