The 2012 Safety Award winners have been determined. In 2006, the Dane County Safety and Working Conditions Study Committee developed the Safety Achievement Award program that recognizes Dane County employees and departments for their efforts in promoting safe working conditions for Dane County employees.

**Individual Safety Achievement Award:**
Individuals are nominated by their peers for their contributions in promoting safe working conditions for Dane County Employees. All nominations are reviewed by a sub-committee from the SWCSC (Safety and Working Conditions Study Committee). This sub-committee looks for individuals that display positive safety attitudes and encourage others in promoting safe work practices. The goal of this award is to encourage innovative ideas that promote safer work practices, improve safety education and communication, and to encourage the development of other initiatives to help improve workplace safety.

Justin Fay is the recipient of the 2012 Individual Safety Achievement Award for his efforts in Facilities Management at the Badger Prairie Health Care Center. Justin was nominated for this Individual Safety Award for his “positive and caring attitude that carries over into his work for both employees and residents”. The nomination form stated: Justin started his own internal safety committee, taking time to conduct short safety “gatherings”, sharing and brainstorming safety issues, and demonstrating proper safety procedures. Justin strives to get everyone involved, and his work in keeping others safe has had a considerable impact on preventing injuries. Justin is also recognized for his participation in the annual fire door inspections, quarterly life safety inspections and daily fire and safety hazard reporting.

Justin was also commended for doing the above duties, and others, without his supervisor’s direction. “He is just doing what he considers to be his job and feels it is the right thing to do”. He is recognized also for his caring attitude and outstanding leadership. Thank you Justin!

Justin is currently working in Facilities Management, but is now located at the City County Building.

**Departmental Safety Achievement Award:**
The departmental award uses both quantitative and qualitative measures to determine the winner. Departments compete against themselves, not against one another. This is necessary to level the playing field for all departments given the diversity of job descriptions within Dane County. Criteria used in determining the winner includes improvements in recordable injury rates, lost work day rates, restricted work day rates, and workers compensation paid. Qualitative criteria that are given equal consideration include departmental safety orientation for new employees, periodic safety training, written safety programs and procedures
in effect, and the formation and functionality of an interactive safety committee within the department.

**Dane County Sheriff’s Office (DCSO)** is the recipient of the 2012 Departmental Safety Achievement Award. They have received this departmental award three of the last five years. The DCSO is being recognized for their efforts in reducing recordable injuries, lost work days, and restricted work day rates, along with meeting, or surpassing, established target rate improvement goals. Their efforts for promoting a positive safety culture were also factored into this awards process. A functioning safety committee, initial and regular in-service training updates for sworn and non-sworn employees, and an active return to work program, keeps DCSO on a continuous improvement path. To win this award once is challenging, but three out of five years shows that DCSO is committed to their employee’s safety. Well done!

We hope to see this Safety Achievement Award process continue to generate continued enthusiasm in promoting a positive safety culture for Dane County Employees and their families. Nominations for this year’s (2013) Individual Safety Award are available now online. Anytime you see a coworker going above the call of duty in safety, tell us their story and why you believe they should win. Thank you for your attention to promoting a safety culture. We want you to enjoy a long and healthy life. Continue to be safe!