



Client:

GE Johnson

Industry:

Construction

Benefit:

Moving from paper-based systems to a user-friendly software platform rich in data.



Case Study

GE Johnson Digitizes Safety Program with KPA Flex



Client Profile

Putting Safety First in Diverse Construction Projects

Above all else, GE Johnson's objective is to send their employees home to their loved ones safe and healthy each day. The 630-person Colorado-based construction company approaches large and small projects with equal expertise and passion. GE Johnson's portfolio ranges from performing arts centers to office improvements to state-of-the-art stadiums to hospital facilities, and more.



Challenge

The Company's Paper-based Systems Discouraged Engagement and Analysis

As with many companies in the construction industry, GE Johnson had decided to make its way from paper-based EHS management to a technology solution.

"Everybody's been so used to paper, I think sometimes they don't realize the technology that's available to them," said Safety Manager Jim Cosgrave.

The company had gone through the wringer of using Excel sheets, Word documents, and other paper-based systems in the past. "We'd start with one system, then shift over to another," Cosgrave said. "In the end, we'd tried a ton of options, but we really couldn't find anything that was consistent."

"It's about ease of use. It's time and cost-saving. It's real-time data. The ability to filter down to specific issues, specific people, and specific sites."

Jim Cosgrave, Safety Manager



One issue with the paper-driven approach was access to data, Cosgrave noted. "So, if all this stuff is in paper form, how do you collate that data? How do you take that data to your job site? How do you take that data to your company?"

In addition to requiring a better system for field staff, Cosgrave also looked for a better way to empower his executives to complete their tasks inside their EHS system. "If you think about time-saving, these executives are managing multiple entities, multiple states. They needed a more efficient way to file assessments and other reports."



Solution

Making Safety Easier through a Mobile Safety Management System

"We were looking for something that would make safety easy for people. Assessments, our plans of the day, our pre-task planning...we wanted to be able to engage people digitally versus using paper," Cosgrave said.

Initially, the company evaluated 17 online EHS platforms and beta-tested two. The systems tested were hard to use for the variety of staff logging in. And in the end, the resulting data farmed from the trial systems weren't as in-depth as Cosgrave was seeking.

Other issues included connectivity, crucial to GE Johnson's on-site performance. "I'd create a report, go to hit "save," and suddenly, there would be a glitch, and I'd have to start over."

Then, in mid-2021, the company turned to KPA.



Result

Saved Time, Made Data Visible, and Improved Safety Program Participation

"KPA was the winner hands-down," said Cosgrave. "To give you an idea of ease-of-use, we had people filling out forms the first day that we had it operational."

About KPA

KPA provides Environment, Health, and Safety (EHS) software, consulting, and award-winning online training to help organizations stay compliant with state and federal regulations and maintain a safe and productive workplace.

The KPA Flex software platform is easy to use, highly configurable, and designed for a mobile workforce, which encourages broad adoption and an improved culture of safety across the organization.

For more information visit
www.kpa.io or call **866.356.1735**.



When it comes to overall functionality, KPA hit on all cylinders. "It's about ease of use," said Cosgrave. "It's time and cost-saving. It's real-time data. The ability to filter down to specific issues, specific people, and specific sites."

In terms of time savings, Cosgrave said, "Typically, I do 90% of reporting on my phone. This saves a couple of hours each day. If you're filling out a safety form in the field, you're done. You don't have to come back to your desk with your notes and start from scratch."

Cosgrave also leverages KPA Flex to conduct executive safety surveys following a site visit. The survey asks them if they could spot and correct one or more unsafe conditions at the site, if they praised more than one employee or team member for working safely, and if they participated in the daily safety briefing. He's pleased to see that executive engagement with KPA Flex far surpasses what he experienced in the paper-based days. "For safety to be effective, it has to be run from the top down," said Cosgrave.

At the end of the day, though, the greatest value of the platform comes back to meeting safety goals for all employees.

"You can view existing items you've corrected, and you can also spot and acknowledge the good stuff. If we do need improvements, instead of telling your foreman, "Hey, the job site's messy, we need to get it cleaned up," you can pull up pictures to illustrate your point. That creates a whole new level of efficiency."

He goes on to add, "When it comes to incident avoidance, we can really get ahead of the curve because now we can see trends," Cosgrave said. "Now we can say, "What do we see during our hazard recognitions? What are we seeing that's not being resolved?"

So, what's next for GE Johnson and KPA?

"We plan to start using KPA Flex to communicate with people outside of our organization," said Cosgrave. "That gets our subcontractors and crews involved. When you get everybody together with skin in the game, the shared sense of importance makes it a team effort versus an individual one."