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Posted March 09, 2009

Two Man Crew Reduces Auerbach Changover by 80%



Jeremy Paxton, Aaron Pilant

-Submitted by Eric Collins, Lean Manager, Sedalia

Last month, Aaron Pilant and Jeremy Paxton took it on themselves to try a two-man setup to reduce the 40 minute average changeover time on Machine 158 Auerbach. This machine, as is typical for all machines in the Sedalia plant ,change over with just one person, the operator. After Jeremy went through a successful SMED activity the week before, he took the training to heart and decided to try a Nascar Pit Crew approach to one of the machines in his area. With the help of his friend and fellow operator, Aaron and Jeremy divided up the work and gave it a shot. Through the use of two operators, they were able to split the tasks required to complete a setup including a jack and cutter change as well as a fixture move. One operator removed and replaced the cutter, while the other operator changed the jack and adjusted the fixture. They successfully completed the setup in less than ten minutes.

They soon brought their Supervisor over to time their setup. Mike Lyons, a supervisor on the 2nd Shift, was so pleased with their efforts that he asked them to document (standard work) their process and has made this two-man setup the standard for this machine while challenging them and others to do the same on other machines in the shop. "This improvement was outstanding. Jeremy and Aaron not only reduced their changeover by 80%, they demonstrated the culture we are trying to create - every employee in Sedalia driving improvement every day with the focus on our customers," stated Craig Freking.