



**DRIVING THE  
POINT ACROSS:  
BREAK-FIX ISN'T  
A STRATEGY**



*Reprinted with permission from author, Bob Vavra, Editor, Plant Engineering August 2008 Issue*

My car provides basic transportation, which is all I really ask of it. It is pleasant enough to drive. It gets reasonably good gas mileage. It has needed minimal major repairs. It has had very little unscheduled downtime – that accident a few years back being the prime culprit.

I have managed to successfully coax my car through six Chicago winters. Now that it's August, the decision faces me again – do I dip into my capital improvement budget for a new model, or perform the scheduled maintenance needed to secure another year of service?

In the interim, though, I have to keep changing the oil and keeping the car running well. Running the car into the ground isn't an option.

It shouldn't be an option on the plant floor, either, but that message is slow in getting out. **Plant Engineering** participated in a study with the Aberdeen Group, as readers discussed how Enterprise Asset Management can maximize the return on equipment. Some of the basic findings:

Best-in-class manufacturers are 50% more likely to standardize asset management and reliability processes across the enterprise

Best-in-class manufacturers are three times more likely to focus on condition- and Reliability-Centered Maintenance by establishing continuous improvement teams.

One of the key recommendations from Aberdeen Group/Plant Engineering Study was this one – and don't stop me even if you've heard this before: "Move from a break-fix maintenance approach to a more predictive approach by adopting advanced capabilities such as RCM."

Costs in every manufacturing facility are on the rise from factors we cannot easily control – from regulatory requirements to the price of oil on the market. Why are we so reluctant to deal with the costs we *can* control?

Maintenance isn't easy. It takes a plan. It takes commitment. It takes a clear understanding of the costs and benefits – even if

some of the costs involve taking one of your production lines off-line for two hours to ensure that it runs smoothly the rest of the time. Some managers measure only the costs of those two hours of downtime. Best-in-class managers, as the study shows, know better. They know when something breaks beyond repair, it will cost far more than those two hours to put things right again.

Smart manufacturers already get one more season out of their equipment through a solid maintenance program. They do it season after season. They've started long before it became a business imperative. They know that break-fix isn't a strategy, as much as it is a plan for disaster.

They probably take good care of their cars, too.

**RECYCLE YOUR NOMEX  
COUNTERBAND AND TIE-DOWN TAPE!**



Leigh Fibers shreds Nomex, Kevlar and similar fibers into a blend which is sold to make a wide variety of fire retardant goods. They are interested in helping you with recycling your used material.

Please contact Mr. Paul Lehner, Leigh Fibers, 1101 Syphrit Road, Wellford, SC 29385 (Telephone 864-439-4111, Fax 864-439-4116 or email: plehner@leighfibers.com) for further information. The minimum requirement is 50 pounds.

**NEW ADDITIONS FOR VOLKMANN 05 BA3,BA4**

Remember to call and inquire about your latest spare parts needs. We are always adding new items! Featured here are two recent new items for Volkmann.



EE440438	EE440416
Foot Brake Assembly Complete, 05, BA3	Foot Brake Assembly Complete, 05, BA4
OEM Ref 143685, 217810	OEM Ref 214692



FEBRATEX 2008 - Brazilian Textile Industry Fair, was recently held in Blumenau, Santa Catarina, approximately 680 kilometers from Sao Paulo, in the new Vila Germanica Convention Center, on August 12-15, 2008. Epic was represented by its agent for Brazil, Rivitex Comércio Importação e Exportação Ltda. Mark Warren, of Epic, attended the fair, with Guillermo, Thomas, and Margarita Schwarzbach of Rivitex.

The show covered all the sectors of the textile chain, including cutting, sewing, trim, labeling, packaging, finishing, dye-house, printing, raw materials, and industrial automation and information technology.

Epic thanks our Brazilian customers for stopping by the Rivitex booth, and we look forward to working with the new contacts that were made at the show.

### EPIC CONTINUES TO BE A UNITED WAY PACESETTER



Linda from United Way of Moore County presented Ed Crenshaw, owner of Epic Enterprises, Inc. with this trophy on June 26, 2008 to honor Epic as a Pace Setter for their 2008 Campaign. Epic and its employees contribute every year to United Way Funds. The following is inscribed on the trophy: "United Way of Moore County PaceSetter Award 2007 Campaign Epic Enterprises, Inc."

### Epic Enterprises, Inc.

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### EPIC SOFTBALL TEAM HAS WINNING SEASON



Epic recently sponsored a softball team in the Pinehurst Parks and Recreation Co-Ed League. The league consisted of two, eight team divisions. The team battled top competitors from around Moore County over a six week period that commenced in July and ended in a double elimination tournament during the second week of September.

The team of employees, relatives and friends placed second in its division for the overall season, and second in their division tournament- out of eight teams.

### CUSTOMER TESTIMONIALS

One customer recently had rave reviews for the Epic stainless steel cabler caps for Volkmann 05 BA3, BA4, BA5 & BA8. She shared that she, and all of the operators love them. She said that she has been getting requests from all of the operators to get them put on their Volkmann machines!



EE440110  
 Cabler Cap, Stainless,  
 05C/050C, BA3-BA5, BA8,  
 (Large Window)

The information herein falls within the normal range of product properties and is based on typical usage results within the industry of the products. Epic assumes no obligation or liability for any advice or information supplied by Epic. The user assumes all responsibility for determining the results and suitability of the products within the user's plant. All such information is provided gratis and user assumes sole responsibility for results obtained.

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