COVID-19 the Obscure

It is time for the continuation and hopefully the completion of Leading Off related to COVID-19. I must be truthful and tell you that I didn’t want to write about it, talk about it, see any news about it, or even think about it. However, this COVID-19 is affecting us locally where we live as well as most of the world that we live in. Its consequences are far reaching extending to health, finance, business, and our personal peace of mind. Through this difficult trial we must “Endeavor to Persevere.”

When I say “Obscure” I mean hidden and sometimes unexpected consequences so keep that in mind as you continue to read.

I was talking with Vern Sanderson (RETA President) a few of weeks ago and we began talking about some of the issues caused by this pandemic. Vern’s specialty is design, installation, and service of large industrial NH3 refrigeration systems. Many of his clients are in the food-processing business, he began talking about the stress the equipment was under because it was being run beyond its normal design envelope and this would be detrimental to the equipment.

He felt maintenance issues and potential equipment failure could be on the horizon in this market area. We also talked about the education and ongoing training for our techs. Vern made the distant learning products that he and his staff had developed made available to RSES Chapters at no charge. A big thank you Vern, you saw a need and took proactive steps to match a solution to a need.

Who would have ever thought that our internet speed would go back to the speed of dial-up modem? Our Monitoring and Controls Director, Tim Sutton, CM, has several methods for our systems to communicate with our clients, but when the communication route is clogged it slows everything down. Issues like this have caused us to rethink practically everything we do and create work-arounds for problems that may crop up.

Keeping our techs separated is a big issue. I have heard about issues from contractors that rely heavily on mobile computing causing them to have data-transfer problems. Think about it how you would handle some of these issues like: fuel, parts, vehicle maintenance, payroll, getting equipment, lodging, customer access, getting paid, and the list gets bigger every day. Each one of these issues has caused us to create work-arounds so that we could continue doing business. I am thankful that I have great staff that works to overcome these obstacles.

Our International RSES staff has been fighting the headwind of a stringent “shelter in place” order. Many of them have been rotating their time in headquarters and then diligently completing their work from home. Lori has done a great job of keeping the wheels on the cart at International. I think the RSES and ESCO association will prove meaningful and productive for both organizations.

Many positive things will come from this crisis. I can’t think of any real positive movement in my life that didn’t come through adversity.

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