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EUFMC 2026 Safety Speaker to Focus on the Dangers of Distracted, Impaired & Unsafe Driving



Mike Lutzenkirchen, Executive Director of the Lutzie 43 Foundation, will address EUFMC 2026 as the Safety Speaker during the conference educational program. His presentation— Philip's Legacy...what legacy are you leaving?— will focus on the foundation's mission to end distracted, impaired, and unsafe driving.

The Lutzie 43 Foundation was established in memory of Philip Lutzenkirchen, shortly after his death in 2014 at the age of 23. The former Auburn University student-athlete and star football player was killed in a single-vehicle crash. Mike Lutzenkirchen, the father of the late Philip Lutzenkirchen, founded the Lutzie 43 Foundation to encourage safe driving by using Philip's life and legacy to inspire change.

During the safety presentation, Lutzenkirchen will detail the Lutzie 43 Foundation's 43 Key Seconds to Educate and Reinforce Safe Driving Behaviors. Companies can take advantage of the customizable program to help make sure employees arrive to work each day and return home again safely. Each EUFMC attendee will receive the Lutzie 43 Foundation 43 Key Seconds Essential Package.

Registration for EUFMC 2026 is now open.

Make plans today to attend the 73rd annual EUFMC in Williamsburg, Virginia. In 2026, the conference will take place as the 250th anniversary of the United States of America draws near, in the same Historic Triangle where the nation's story began and its independence was won. Coinciding with the 100th anniversary of Colonial Williamsburg, the 18th-century town and world's largest U.S. history museum, EUFMC 2026 will feature special events and celebrations.

In 2025, EUFMC attendees included 177 fleet representatives from 107 investor-owned utilities, 34 utility contractors, 10 utility cooperatives, 12 municipal operations, and 14 other fleets that operate, manage and maintain utility equipment. Included were 62 new fleet attendees and 4 new companies. Joining the fleets were 350 supplier representatives from 97 companies.

EUFMC Highlights

Driving Safety, Sustainability & Technical Expertise, the conference educational program featuring presentations by fleet executives, manufacturers, and industry experts, and Roundtables where fleet representatives and suppliers find solutions to mutual challenges.

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SAVE THE DATE: EUFMC will be held May 31 - June 3, 2026, at the Williamsburg Lodge and Conference Center in Williamsburg, Virginia.

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Our Story: Failure, Friendship & Perseverance



You've heard stories of startups that made millions overnight. Businesses that can't fail. Companies so perfectly timed, their luck seems like fate.

That isn't the story of VMAC.

In the fall of 1986, Jim Hogan had the opportunity to build disposable jet engines for drones for the Canadian Department of National Defense, but he didn't have the project off the ground. He needed help. Jim thought of his university friend, Tony Menard, who had the natural enthusiasm and instincts of an entrepreneur.

"If I did something smart that day, it was to think of Tony," said Jim. "I called him up and asked him how he was. Tony said he wasn't great. He had been laid off the day before and the company he was working for closed its doors. I said, 'That's great news,' and Tony didn't hang up on me..."

Soon after, Tony and his family packed their bags and moved across the country to Kitchener, Ontario, ready to pursue Jim's exciting new opportunity. Just as they began to make significant progress, the same recession that claimed Tony's former employer cost the men their military contract.

But all wasn't lost. The pair had a tenacious work ethic and a complete machine shop, conveniently located in the heartland of Canadian manufacturing. Jim and Tony began to produce tooling, automation, prototypes, and low volume parts for local businesses, quickly earning a reputation for their high-quality craftsmanship.



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In 1988, Parker Sturdy Manufacturing—a service truck builder who had become a loyal customer—needed new air compressor mounting brackets. The brackets PSM was using kept breaking and air compressors were falling off their trucks on the highway.

Tony was instantly excited by the opportunity, but Jim wasn't convinced.

"I told him not to worry about it," said Jim. "We were already busy and had never made brackets like that. Tony said, 'Well, I'll go and meet with them. What harm can it do?' ...He came back, and we were designing brackets."

Tony and Jim renamed their company VMAC, an acronym for Vehicle Mounted Auxiliary Components, later adjusted to Vehicle Mounted Air Compressors. Business was good to them for a while.

In 1990, Tony bought Jim out and moved the company to his hometown, Nanaimo, BC. But Nanaimo didn't have the same manufacturing spirit as Kitchener, and VMAC inevitably hit hard times. The business was failing, Tony was struggling, and he had two sons and a daughter to provide for. Tony decided to shut VMAC down.

Before he did, a visit to the VMAC office changed everything. A local salesman dropped by VMAC and caught wind of the plans to shutter the business. Impressed with VMAC's products, he wouldn't have it and refused to leave until Tony agreed to persevere.

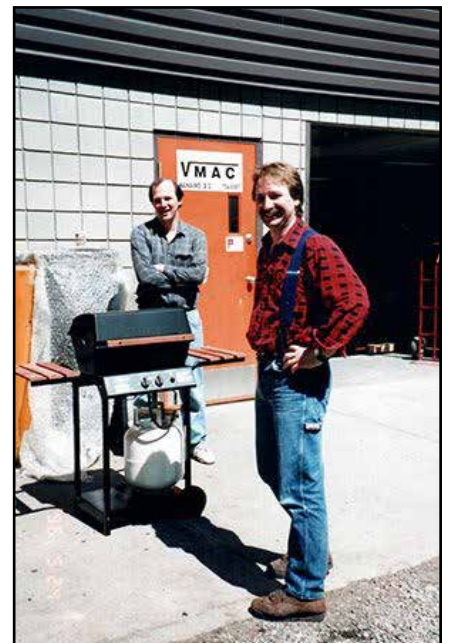


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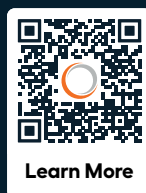
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A few days later, IMT called and asked Tony to design and manufacture engine mounted air compressor brackets and installation kits for their company. This single deal gave VMAC the consistent revenue needed to pay the bills and ignite the company's growth.

Tony made it his mission to find hard-working people with good character for the new VMAC. Jim also returned in 1996, helping VMAC with engineering research and development—his true passion.

VMAC invented the first vehicle-mounted rotary screw air compressor, then developed several new product lines including UNDERHOOD®, endured the global recession, and gained a reputation for world-class mobile air compressors. Things were going well.

Then, on July 4, 2010, the company endured a tragedy no one was prepared for: Tony passed away in an accident.

The loss of a founder is difficult for any company and VMAC was no exception. But Tony built a strong company with employees who shared his family values, innovative spirit, and unrelenting perseverance. Standing together, VMAC's employees found the way forward.

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The Importance of Proper Lighting in Construction



In the world of construction, lighting is not merely an afterthought; it is a critical component that can significantly influence the efficiency and safety of a project. Portable construction lights have emerged as an essential tool for lighting contractors, providing flexibility and adaptability in various work environments. This article explores how portable construction lights impact lighting contractors' projects, enhancing productivity, safety, and overall project quality.

The Importance of Proper Lighting in Construction

Effective lighting plays a pivotal role in construction sites, where visibility can directly affect the quality of work and the safety of workers. Poor lighting can lead to mistakes, accidents, and even injuries. Therefore, understanding the importance of proper lighting is crucial for lighting contractors.

Enhancing Safety on Site

Safety is paramount in any construction project. Well-lit areas reduce the risk of accidents by allowing workers to see potential hazards clearly. Portable construction lights can be strategically placed to illuminate dark corners, uneven surfaces, and areas where heavy machinery operates. This proactive approach to safety not only protects workers but also minimizes liability for contractors. Furthermore, the use of high-visibility lighting, such as LED floodlights, can enhance the overall awareness of the site, making it easier for workers to navigate and for supervisors to monitor activities. This is especially critical during nighttime operations or in low-light conditions, where the risk of accidents can increase significantly.

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-James "Jim" Bonner
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Improving Work Quality

Good lighting can significantly enhance the quality of work performed on-site. When workers can see their tasks clearly, they are more likely to execute them accurately. This is particularly important for tasks that require precision, such as electrical installations or finishing work. Portable lights allow contractors to create optimal lighting conditions tailored to specific tasks, ensuring that work is completed to the highest standards. Additionally, proper lighting can reduce eye strain and fatigue among workers, which can lead to increased productivity and morale. By utilizing adjustable lighting solutions, contractors can adapt to changing conditions throughout the day, ensuring that every aspect of the project receives the attention it deserves. Moreover, the psychological effects of good lighting should not be overlooked; a well-lit environment can foster a sense of professionalism and pride in workmanship, motivating teams to perform at their best.

Types of Portable Construction Lights

There is a wide variety of portable construction lights available, each designed to meet different needs and preferences. Understanding the various types can help lighting contractors select the most suitable options for their projects.

LED Work Lights

LED work lights have gained immense popularity due to their energy efficiency and long lifespan. They provide bright, focused illumination while consuming less power compared to traditional lighting options. This makes them an ideal choice for contractors looking to reduce energy costs while maintaining high-quality lighting on-site. Additionally, many LED work lights come with adjustable brightness settings and color temperature options, allowing users to customize the lighting to suit specific tasks or preferences. Their durability is another significant advantage, as they are often built to withstand harsh conditions, including moisture and impact, making them perfect for outdoor construction sites.

Halogen Lights

Halogen lights are known for their intense brightness and ability to create a warm light that closely resembles natural daylight. They are often used in situations where high visibility is a priority. However, they tend to consume more energy and generate more heat than LED options, which can be a consideration for contractors. Despite these drawbacks, halogen lights are favored for their excellent color rendering capabilities, which can be crucial for tasks requiring precise color differentiation, such as painting or electrical work. Furthermore, many halogen models are designed with portable stands and protective casings, making them easy to set up and move around the job site as needed.

Fluorescent Lights

Fluorescent lights are another option for portable construction lighting. They are energy-efficient and can provide a broad spectrum of light. While they may not be as bright as halogen or LED lights, they are often used in larger areas where even illumination is required. Their lightweight design makes them easy to transport and set up. Additionally, fluorescent lights are available in various configurations, including tube lights and compact designs, allowing for versatility in different work environments. Some models even feature built-in diffusers that help to soften the light output, reducing glare and creating a more comfortable working atmosphere. This can be particularly beneficial for extended work periods, where eye strain might be a concern for workers on-site.

Key Features to Consider

When selecting portable construction lights, several key features should be taken into account to ensure they meet the specific needs of a project. Understanding these features can help lighting contractors make informed decisions.

Brightness and Lumens

The brightness of a light is measured in lumens, and



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it is crucial for contractors to choose lights that provide adequate illumination for their specific tasks. A higher lumen output is generally preferred for construction sites, as it ensures that all areas are well-lit, reducing shadows and enhancing visibility.

Portability and Weight

Given the nature of construction work, lights need to be easily transportable. Lightweight designs that can be quickly set up and repositioned are essential. This flexibility allows contractors to adapt to changing work conditions and requirements without wasting time.

Durability and Weather Resistance

Construction sites can be harsh environments, so durability is a must. Portable lights should be built to withstand rough handling, dust, and moisture. Weather-resistant features ensure that lights remain functional even in adverse conditions, allowing projects to continue uninterrupted.

Benefits of Using Portable Construction Lights

Incorporating portable construction lights into projects offers numerous advantages that can enhance overall efficiency and effectiveness. These benefits extend beyond mere illumination, impacting various aspects of project management.

Flexibility in Lighting Solutions

One of the primary benefits of portable construction lights is their flexibility. They can be easily moved and adjusted to suit different tasks and areas on-site. This adaptability allows contractors to create customized lighting solutions that cater to the unique needs of each project, ensuring optimal working conditions.

Cost-Effectiveness

Investing in portable construction lights can lead to significant cost savings over time. Energy-efficient options, such as LED lights, reduce electricity bills, while their longevity minimizes the need for frequent replacements. Additionally, improved visibility can lead to fewer mistakes and accidents, ultimately

saving money on rework and liability claims.

Enhanced Productivity

When workers can see clearly, they can work more efficiently. Portable construction lights contribute to enhanced productivity by providing consistent and adequate lighting throughout the workday. This results in faster project completion times and improved overall performance.

Challenges and Considerations

While portable construction lights offer numerous benefits, there are also challenges and considerations that lighting contractors must keep in mind. Addressing these issues can help ensure a successful lighting strategy.

Power Supply and Management

One of the challenges associated with portable lights is ensuring a reliable power supply. Many portable lights require electricity, which may not always be readily available on-site. Contractors must plan for power management, including the use of generators or battery-operated options, to ensure uninterrupted lighting.

Light Placement and Setup

Effective lighting requires careful planning regarding placement and setup. Poorly positioned lights can create shadows or glare, negating the benefits of increased visibility. Contractors must take the time to assess the site and strategically position lights to maximize their effectiveness.

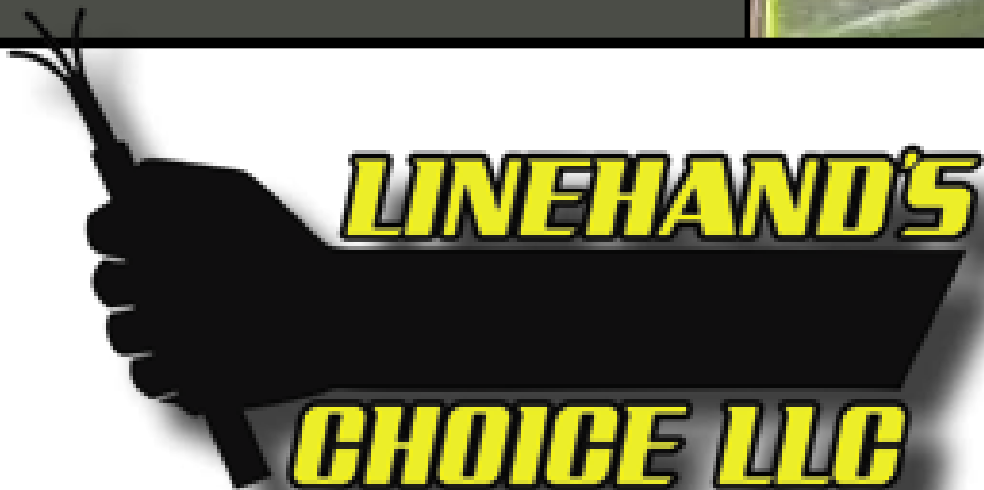
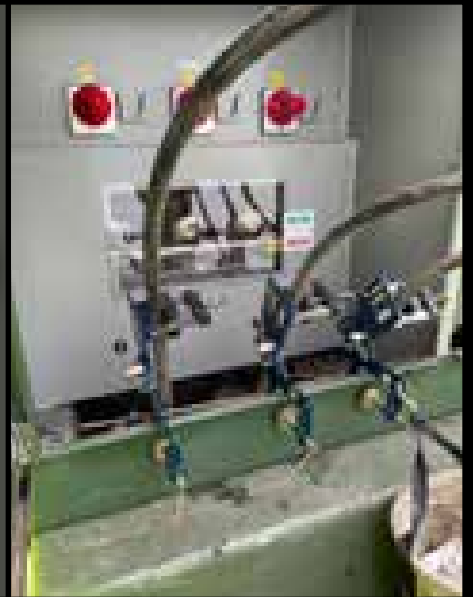
Best Practices for Using Portable Construction Lights

To fully leverage the advantages of portable construction lights, contractors should adopt best practices that enhance their effectiveness and safety on-site.

Regular Maintenance and Inspection

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bulbs, and cleaning lenses can help maintain optimal performance. This proactive approach minimizes the risk of equipment failure during critical project phases.

Training Workers on Proper Use

Educating workers on the proper use of portable construction lights is crucial. Training should cover how to set up lights safely, adjust their positioning, and recognize when additional lighting is needed. This knowledge empowers workers to take responsibility for their safety and the quality of their work.

Utilizing Smart Technology

Incorporating smart technology into portable lighting solutions can enhance their functionality. Features such as remote control, dimming options, and integrated sensors can improve energy efficiency and ease of use. Lighting contractors should explore these advanced options to stay ahead in a competitive market.

Future Trends in Portable Construction Lighting

The landscape of portable construction lighting is continually evolving, with new technologies and trends emerging regularly. Staying informed about these developments can help lighting contractors remain competitive and meet the changing needs of their clients.

Advancements in LED Technology

LED technology continues to advance, offering even greater efficiency and brightness. Newer models are becoming more compact and lightweight while providing higher lumen outputs. As these advancements occur, lighting contractors should be prepared to adapt their lighting solutions to take advantage of the latest innovations.

Integration with Renewable Energy Sources

As sustainability becomes increasingly important in construction, the integration of portable lights with renewable energy sources, such as solar power, is

gaining traction. This approach not only reduces reliance on traditional power sources but also aligns with environmentally-friendly practices that clients are increasingly seeking.

Smart Lighting Solutions

The rise of smart technology in construction lighting is transforming how contractors approach lighting solutions. Smart lighting systems can be programmed to adjust brightness based on ambient light conditions or specific project needs, providing a more efficient and customizable lighting experience.

Conclusion

Portable construction lights are an invaluable asset for lighting contractors, significantly impacting the success of projects through enhanced safety, improved work quality, and increased productivity. By understanding the various types of lights, key features, and best practices, contractors can make informed decisions that benefit their projects. As technology continues to evolve, staying abreast of trends and advancements will ensure that lighting contractors remain at the forefront of the industry, ready to meet the challenges and demands of modern construction.

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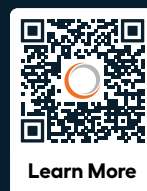
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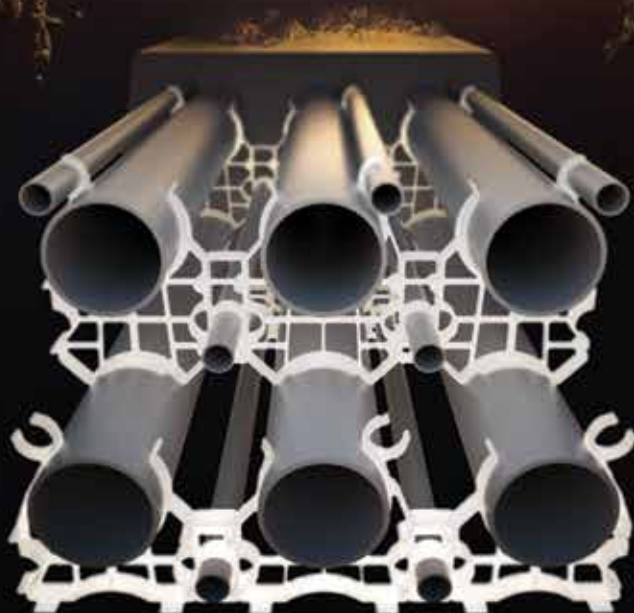
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