

HISTORY OF TRMA

90th Anniversary
1933-2023

1933



It all began during the peak of the Great Depression. Thousands of banks had failed, and millions of Americans were out of work. Here in Joliet things were so bad that schools could not afford to pay their teachers.

1933



Local industrialists led by Frank Turk Sr. underwrote scrip, a form of currency, so that teachers could buy food and pay the rent. In 1933, this group created the Will County Manufacturers' Association to unite industry and advocate for legislative matters.

1940



By the 1940's the economy began to recover as the nation prepared for World War II. Thousands of jobs were created when the government built the Joliet Arsenal....

1940



and even more when Caterpillar came to town.

1950



Once the war ended and through the 1950's, pent-up consumer demand fueled an era of industrial expansion, and our association officially incorporated as a not-for-profit and became the Greater Will County Manufacturers' Association.

1954



Pure Oil (now CITGO)

1957



Amocco Plant

1960



The 1960's ushered in more government regulation for industry, which our association helped its members navigate with the creation of the "Clean Air" and "Clean Water" committees.

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1960



US Steel 1960

1960



Joliet Electric Motors

1960



Northern Petrochemical Company (now LyondellBasell)

1970



In the 1970s, two mutual aid response groups were established. The Three Rivers Spill-Coop aimed to prevent and prepare for accidental industrial spills in nearby waterways, while the NIAIMA group was created to prevent and plan effective responses to industrial fires and emergency situations.

1970



Poehner & Dillman known today as PDM

1970



MEADE employee working on the Mobil Oil Expansion

1980



In 1980, we renamed our organization to Three Rivers Manufacturers' Association, just as the Will and Grundy County region faced the worst recession since the Great Depression.

1990



By the early 1990's the Three Rivers Education Partnership was formalized to create student awareness for career opportunities in manufacturing, and in 1993, the Three Rivers Safety Council was created to train and certify contractors to perform work at member plants.

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2000



As the new millennium began, TRMA embraced digital technology with online registration, training, and verification. With the rapid growth and popularity of computer-based training members soon began requesting streaming from safety councils across the country.

2010's



The end of the 2010's proved to be pivotal for defining the future of TRMA, as we changed our not-for-profit status to a 501c3

2012



In 2012 we began hosting MFG Day for high school students. This annual event expands knowledge and awareness about manufacturing.

2019



Became a member of the Association of Reciprocal Safety Councils (ARSC) and started providing Basic Orientation Plus.

2020



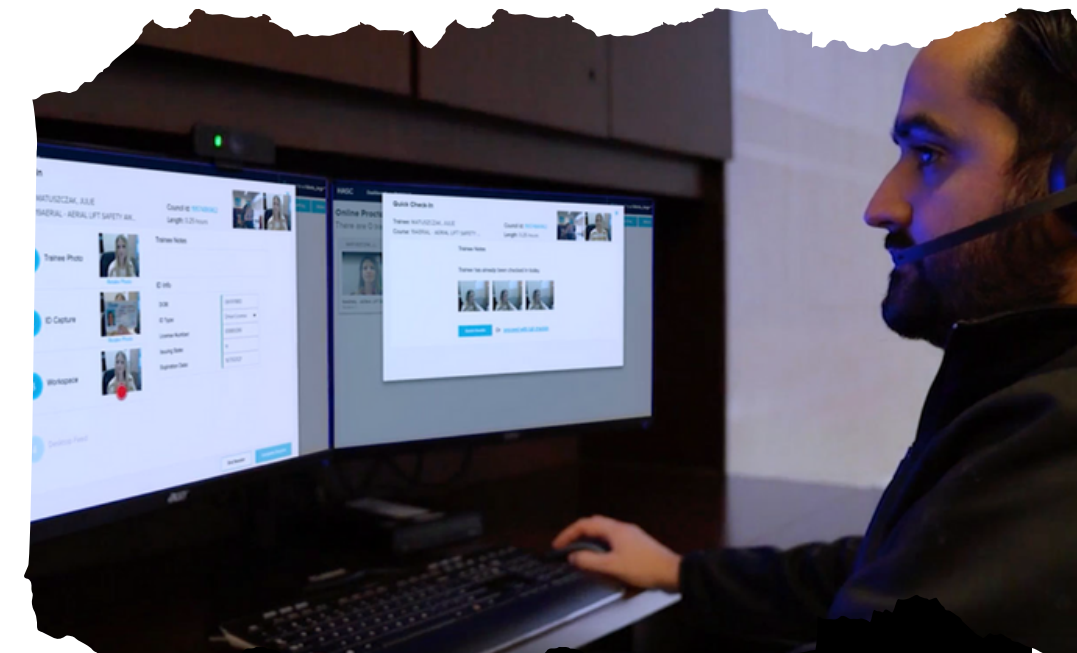
The 2020 pandemic was a challenge, but it resulted in a healthier facility with improved indoor air quality and expanded virtual meeting and training options.

2021



Held our first Break Clay with TRMA event at the Downers Grove Sportsman Club in Morris, IL.

2022



Today you have opportunities for live-on-line proctoring that is secure and maintains integrity while allowing you to train at your home, or virtually anywhere.

2023



We are now an authorized test center, offering assessments, certifications, and licensure exams. And through NCCER we can offer our members complete entry and journey-level written assessments.