

CASE STUDY

Stanley Black & Decker

Manufacturing Plant Experiences a 30% Decrease in Overall Encounters Within the First Three Weeks of Implementing Contact Tracing and Proximity Management Solution



At A Glance

- STANLEY FATMAX® Tape Measure Manufacturing Plant
- Headquartered in New Britain, CT
- 360 employees
- Two buildings (approximately 300,000 square feet combined)

Solutions Implemented

- Contact Tracing
- Proximity Management

“Our badges have become an essential piece of safety equipment like our masks and safety glasses.”

NICHOLAS GOUIN

ASSEMBLY VALUE STREAM MANAGER
STANLEY BLACK & DECKER

Responding to a New Reality

Less than six feet apart for at least 15 minutes. That’s how the U.S Centers for Disease Control & Prevention defined an “encounter” that could result in the spread of COVID-19.

To prevent spread in the workplace, reduce the number of encounters among employees. To ensure accurate contact tracing, keep records of every encounter that does occur. All of that is easier said than done—and it’s a challenge facing many employers, including manufacturers and other industrial facilities.

Stanley Black & Decker’s plant in New Britain, Connecticut, is no exception.

At the beginning of the pandemic, the plant was relying on the memory of team members for weekly self-reports of all encounters—the information written and filed on paper. Plant management recognized an immediate need to automate contact tracing allowing for real-time accuracy and a rapid, data informed response should an outbreak occur. They also saw an opportunity to encourage proactive and consistent social distancing behaviors between team members in the workplace.

The solution was found within the Stanley Black & Decker enterprise.

Protecting Employees with Automation

Over summer 2020, the SBD New Britain plant ran a six-week pilot of STANLEY’s Contact Tracing and Proximity Management solution. The solution combines wireless badges—one assigned to and worn by each team member—with gateways placed in the facility to enable communication and data transfer. The plant has since adopted the solution as a permanent part of its workplace safety practices.

How It Works

1. Upon arriving for their shift, employees receive their RTLS badge and check in with a safety monitor who performs a standard screening, checks their mask and ensures their assigned badge is powered on.
2. When wearing the badge, team members will receive a three-part alert—light, beep and vibration—if they are too close for too long.
3. At the end of their shift, employees deposit their badges into a smart drop box outfitted with an exciter. The exciter powers off the badges.
4. A designated team member retrieves all badges, sanitizes them and returns them to their charging station—where a gateway transmits the day's data from the badge into the cloud.
5. Should someone at the plant become ill or test positive for COVID-19, a designated admin following company privacy guidelines can quickly generate a report to ascertain who, if anyone, came into contact with the affected individual and notify them immediately.

As for reception of the solution, there were some initial questions from employees who had wondered if the badges could be used to track more than proximity. However, once the team understood exactly how the solution works—and how it will benefit all in preventing an outbreak—everyone accepted the program as a critical safety measure.

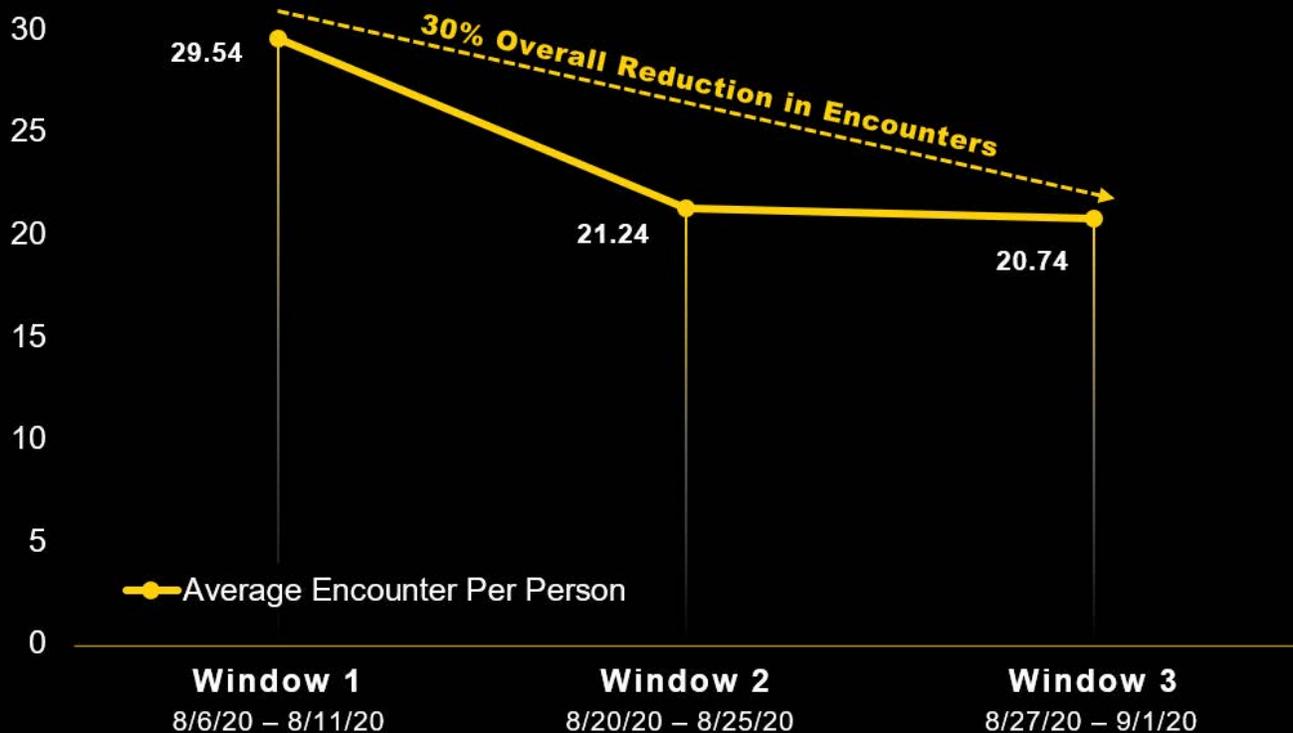
“We power on our badge and just go about our day,” says Assembly Value Stream Manager Nicholas Gouin, who was instrumental in rolling out the solution.

“Our badges have become an essential piece of safety equipment like our masks and safety glasses,” he continues. “For me personally, the solution has helped me be more aware of safe social distancing.”

Immediate and Long-Term Impact

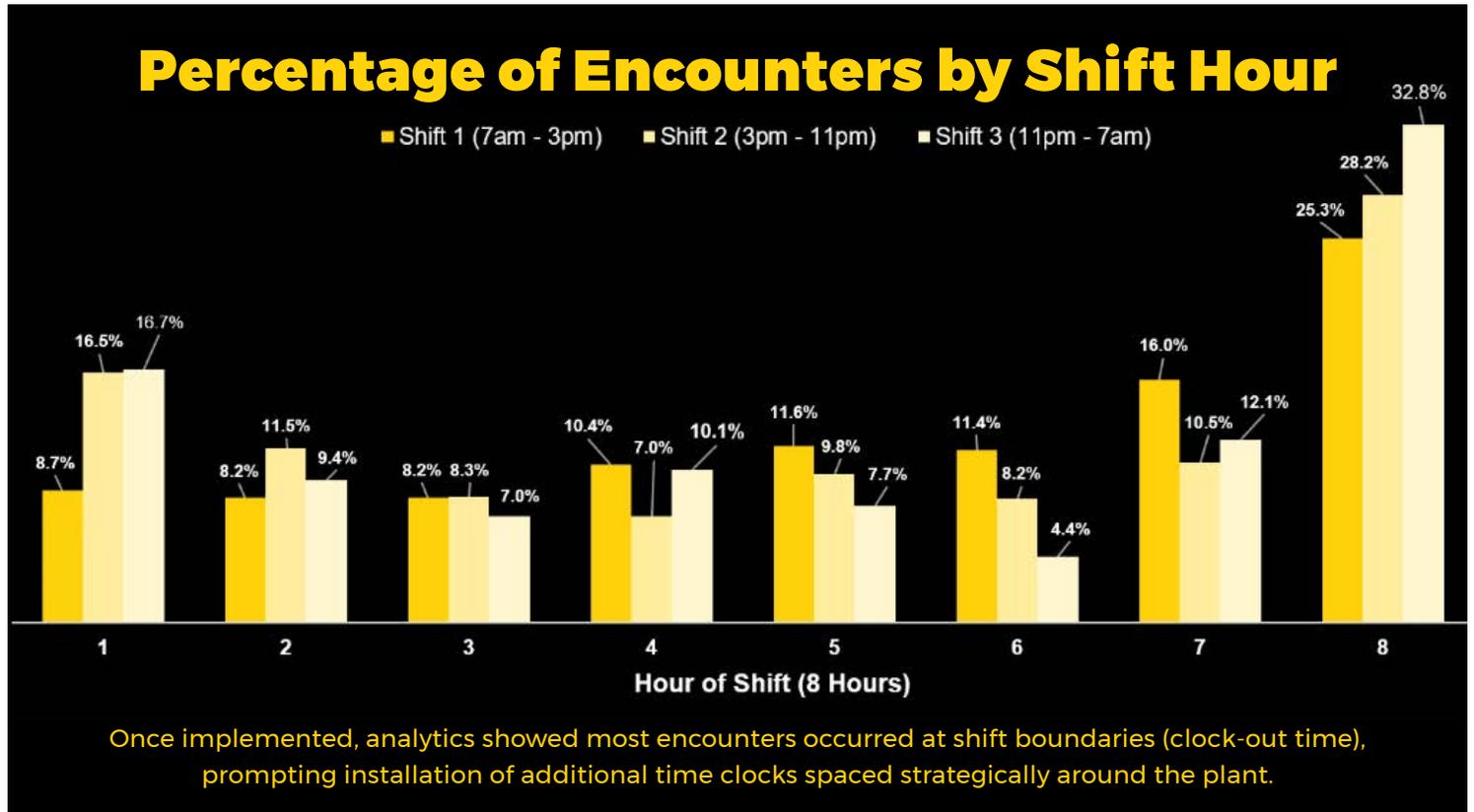
Within three weeks after implementation, the plant documented a 30% decrease in the number of encounters overall—a decline they attribute to the awareness generated by the badge's proximity alerting functionality. Now, when employees are within six feet of each other, interaction times have been reduced to a minute or less.

First Three Weeks: 30% Overall Reduction



Lessons Learned

Off to a great start, plant leadership began to leverage the solution’s analytics and reporting functionality to identify patterns that might inform simple workflow changes—further reducing encounter risk for team members. For instance, using the data, they quickly learned that the most encounters were occurring at the end of each shift—when team members were clocking out for the day. This realization allowed the New Britain team to take swift action by installing additional time clocks, spaced strategically throughout the facility, in order to solve the problem and reduce risk.



“When this first started, if one person got sick, we had to shut down the entire line as a precaution. Now we can precisely identify who may be affected, so we can notify those people and continue operations safely.”

BOB BROWNING

HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGER, STANLEY BLACK & DECKER



About STANLEY Security

We’re the leader in real-time visibility for the safe and productive workplace. Our commercial and industrial customers rely on our suite of RTLS solutions to protect people, assets and environments, and generate insights so they can work smarter. Learn more at stanleysecurity.com.