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October 6, 2006 Lunch Meeting 12 Noon

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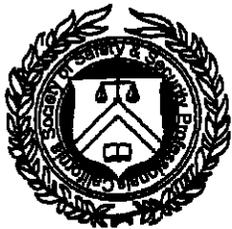
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C S S S P

California Society of Safety & Security Professionals Los Angeles County Chapter

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October Speaker

Mr. Mark Pisani, District Manager, Cal/OSHA, Monrovia compliance office will speak on: "Employee Independent Act Defense and how it is used by employers to appeal citations issued by the Division.

August Speaker

Special Agent Regina Canale-Miles, FBI talk about: Terrorism: The Next Step. She reviewed how terrorism is around us today in the United States and abroad. She reviewed some cases in California that may affect security in our local area and industry.

Calling for Articles

All members are encouraged to submit articles for inclusion into future newsletters. If you have a (n) topic for the newsletter, please submit them to Peter Gin at: petergin@earthlink.net.

Memberships

Our newest Members are:

Hassan M. Adan Vanessa Hernandez

Safety Challenge????

A contractor's employee suffers a recordable injury at your company's facility. Who is responsible for recording the injury?

- A) Always the contractor.
- B) Always your company.
- C) Both the contractor and your company.
- D) It depends on whether the contractor's employee is under the contractor's or your company's day-to-day supervision.

President's Message

Dear Colleague:

It seems as the election year approaches we are be set with an increase of terror alerts, and safety concerns. I recently was immensely impressed by a bus driver at an international airport who actually spent time making sure that the bags in her bus were lined up just so in order to prevent accidents. She counseled parents to hold on to their children. The extra few moments were not wasted and may have in fact made the trip safer. In our fast track life it is often difficult to think that we can slow down just a little to address safety issues, but as we all know a moment or two can make all the difference. This month we have wonderful speaker, whom I hope to make a member of our group. He is from OSHA, and will give us a good overview of what current state of the law and regulations overseen by OSHA.

Many of you may recall that I recently called for a fundraising effort to assist our scholarship fund. I that effort I have asked for all beneficiaries of our past scholarships, and corporate members to contribute to this effort. Our organization is a qualified charity, so there are tax advantages in making a contribution. To kick off this effort, your leadership has primed the pump: John O'Toole and I have each donated \$500.00, and Jim Weidner has donated \$100.00. This effort is critical to establish our goals; I look forward to your support.

I look forward to seeing you in October

Jeff Malek
President

Falls Top Fatal Injuries List

The number one cause of workplace deaths in the United States is falls — and unlike the victims, the numbers aren't dropping, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Fatal on-the-job falls increased by 17 percent in 2004 across the US.

Fatal falls from roofs increased by 39 percent in 2004 (to 178 from 128 in 2003), while deadly falls from ladders increased by 17 percent that year (to 133 in 2004 from 114 in 2003.)

Construction workers accounted for 88 percent of the victims of fatal falls from roofs and for 54 percent of fatal fall overall.

In Canada, an estimated 60,000 workers are injured every year in falls and a fatal workplace fall occurs about every three workdays. Falls at work there represent about 15 percent of all accepted time-loss injuries.

A recent study done by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) found that more than twice as many workers were injured in falls resulting from non-use or misuse of personal protective equipment, than from a lack of access to such equipment.

Unintentional Injury Deaths On the Rise

According to the National Safety Council, unintentional injuries continue to be the fifth-leading cause of death in the United States, behind heart disease, cancer, stroke and chronic lower respiratory disease.

Unintentional injury deaths, estimated at 111,000 in 2004, were up two percent over the previous year (108,900) and four percent compared to 2002's estimate of 106,742. The worst year on record was 1969, with 116,385 estimated unintentional injury deaths occurring. The "best" year was 1992, with 86,777 estimated unintentional injury deaths.

In 2004, motor vehicle fatalities accounted for more than 40 percent of the 111,000 unintentional injury deaths, with 43,900 occurring off-work and 2,086 classified as work-related.

When Is Full-Body Protection Needed?

Knights of old wore their armor to work. Today, when everyday clothes can't protect your employees from workplace hazards, they, too, might need body protection on the job. Some jobs require full-body protection, while others require only special protective clothing for the parts of the body exposed to possible injury. Examples of workplace hazards that might require some type of body protection include:

- Extreme heat or cold
- Splashes from molten metals or other hot liquids
- Flames and sparks
- Impact from equipment and materials
- Exposure to hazardous chemicals
- Exposure to blood borne pathogens
- Exposure to radiation

The protection has to match the hazard.

Examples of body protection include coveralls, splash suits, aprons, jackets, vests, lab coats and surgical gowns, and full-body suits. Body protection comes in a variety of different materials suitable for different kinds of hazards. For example, protective clothing may be made of:

- Flame-resistant cotton or duck for moderate heat or sparks
- Flame-retardant and heat-resistant synthetic fabrics for working around open flames and hot liquids
- Tyvec® or NOMEX® suits for minimal chemical hazards
- PVC, neoprene, rubber, and similar materials for more serious chemical hazards and blood borne pathogens
- Leather to protect against impact

Fully encapsulating suits made of neoprene or butyl rubber--complete with boots, hard hat, and an air supply--are generally required when employees face exposure to toxic vapors or gases. These suits must be completely sealed (including zippers and seams) so that they do not allow any penetration of toxic materials.

How to keep cool. Wearing body protection, particularly fully encapsulating suits, can be heavy, awkward, and hot. Your employees need to be trained to deal with that. They must understand that they'll use more energy and oxygen while wearing this type of protective equipment and therefore can be more susceptible to heat stress and dehydration. Remember that when an employee is wearing protection that covers all or most of the body, normal circulation of air around the body is prevented, perspiration can't evaporate, and consequently, the body can't cool itself efficiently. That's why you need to carefully regulate and monitor work schedules of employees wearing body protection to provide adequate rest periods to cool down. Something as simple as placing a cool wet towel on the back of the neck can lower body temperature 2 or 3 degrees almost immediately. Also remind employees to drink plenty of water before starting a job that requires a lot of body protection. And for employees who wear fully encapsulating air-supplied suits, be sure to provide cooling units and ice packs.

Take the final step and ensure the effectiveness of body protection. When employees are required to wear body protection, make sure they:

- Understand the hazards and how the clothing will protect them from exposure
- Inspect body protection before each use.
- Get a good fit to ensure full protection.
- Wear the required protection the whole time they are at risk of exposure.
- Remove protective clothing safely to prevent contamination.
- Clean and maintain reusable equipment properly.

Empower Employees for Safety

Do employees have a role in safety rules? In the old-style model for safety programs, top management made and enforced safety rules (based largely on OSHA requirements), and employees were expected to follow the rules. A simple, straightforward system—but not one that did much to encourage teamwork, cooperation, or a sense of individual responsibility for safety. Today, many organizations recognize the importance of employees "buying in" to the safety program. It's no longer enough for employees just to follow the rules; they should feel that they are an integral part of the program, with a meaningful role in identifying potential safety

problems and actually improving safety.

Is "empowerment" a buzzword or a reality?

"Empowerment" is a popular human resources term, but it can be meaningless without a real commitment to back it up. Five reasons that so-called "employee empowerment" efforts fail:

1. No commitment or support—saying you want to "empower employees," but not really meaning it.
2. Misunderstanding what "empowerment" means—believing it means "having input," when it really means having the ability to make decisions that bring about change.
3. Lack of clarity—not letting employees know what the boundaries are: what they have and do not have the authority to change.
4. Micromanagement—allowing employees to make decisions, but then requiring that each decision be approved by a higher authority.
5. Second-guessing—allowing employees to make decisions, but then criticizing them or making further changes to "improve" the results.

Give employees the power to be safer. Keeping in mind the above list of ways to take the "power" out of "empowerment," try to identify opportunities to introduce meaningful ways for employees to create safer environments for themselves and their co-workers. Possible ideas include:

- Implement a formal "safety suggestion" system, by which employees may report potential hazards and suggest corrective action. (Make sure that all such suggestions are responded to.)
- Assign employee safety teams the responsibility for identifying and correcting hazards in specific areas. (Let their corrective actions stand, even if you think they could still be improved.)
- Publicly acknowledge and applaud good safety suggestions and any actions taken by employees to identify hazards and improve safety.

Safety Challenge Answer

D) It depends on whether the contractor's employee is under the contractor's or your company's day-to-day supervision.