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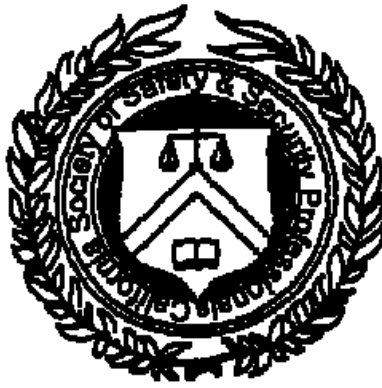
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December 2, 2005 Lunch Meeting 12 Noon

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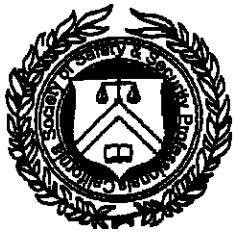
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C S S S P

California Society of Safety & Security Professionals Los Angeles County Chapter

Volume 38

December 2005

December Speaker

Our speaker this month is Special Agent Regina Miles. She has worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) since 1990. She began her Bureau career in Buffalo, New York working undercover, surveillance, bank robberies and drugs. She moved to California in 1995 and is the InfraGard Coordinator for the Los Angeles Field Office.

October Speaker

Dan Leiner, CAL/OSHA Consultation stepped in to discuss Emergency Action Plans.

New Lunch Meeting Prices

Members in good standing (paid memberships) - \$15.00;
Members with unpaid memberships - \$20.00; Visitors - \$20.00.

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.

Prize	Winner
Emergency Flash Light	Butch Diaz
Plush Dog	Violet Pisani
Socket/Screw Bit Set	Bob Puhl
Photo Frame w/Calendar	Harlen Lamb
T-Square	Dan Leiner
Portable Fan	Lori Newman
Flash Camera	Crist Wagner
Vince Takas Prints	Colleen Von Flotow

Officer Changes

Dale Leuer has taken on the duties of being our Student Liaison.

Jim Weidner is our new Placement Chair. He will be coordinating the listing of job opportunities for the Chapter. If you have any job openings and want him to post one, contact him directly at: (626) 523 - 6053 or jjweidner@comcast.net.

Dear Fellow members:

As we continue to progress to the end of 2005, let's not drop our guard and let safety and security take a break. As we travel, as we plan and enjoy the holidays, as we spend time with our families, take a moment to make sure all the necessary precautions are done.

Putting on our seat belts, locking doors when we leave, pay attention to those who have had one too many and offer to drive them home. It is all of our responsibility to ensure safety and well being during the holiday season.

Come join us for the December meeting as we continue to discuss about terrorism and what we can do to be alert and aware of the safety within our country.

Our president was very busy not able to get me his message in time for our newsletter, so I filled in to get this newsletter out.

Peter Gin
Newsletter Editor

Forklift Update

A recent OSHA Letter of Interpretation (LOI) clarified 1910.178(l) (4) (iii), which requires that an evaluation of each powered industrial truck operator's performance be conducted at least once every three years.

The evaluation of performance required by the standard cannot be met by a written exam alone, OSHA said. "A written exam by itself does not indicate whether the operator is operating the powered industrial truck safely."

According to OSHA, in most cases, the person conducting the evaluation would do two things:

- Observe the powered industrial truck operator during normal operations to determine if the operator is performing safely, and
- Ask pertinent questions to ensure that the operator has the knowledge or experience needed to operate a truck safely.

"The triennial evaluation ensures that the operator has retained the necessary knowledge and *skills* for safe operation of the vehicle. Therefore, a written exam alone would not be adequate to ensure that the operator has retained the necessary *skills* for safe vehicle operation."

HASTE NOT, HURT NOT

During and following a catastrophe such as Hurricane Katrina, most people's emotions are running into the red zone.

Even those who are professionally trained to respond to such emergencies frequently find their adrenaline surging – leaving them at risk for making unsafe decisions.

“It's pretty common to see these things happen anytime we're stressed,” states Gary Higbee, CSP. “People who are responding to emergencies – particularly rescues where seconds count – are vulnerable to serious injury because their emotions are running the show.”

“During disasters, we do not have many specific learned safety skills to deal with the situation. You're under tremendous stress. You'll make decisions that perhaps aren't the best,” he said. “Our judgment is impaired by the situation and our lack of experience to deal with it.”

People don't deliberately try to make errors, but when they are under stress there's plenty of opportunity for committing one of four critical errors, including:

- Not keeping your eyes on what you're doing.
- Not keeping your mind on task.
- Moving into the line of fire (harm's way).
- Placing yourself in a situation where you have poor balance, traction or grip.

“To get hurt you're going to have to do one of these four things.”

Those critical errors are triggered by:

- Rushing – either working too quickly or trying to juggle too many tasks at once.
- Frustration (in responding to a disaster, this might stem from a lack of essential equipment, personnel or supplies).
- Fatigue.
- Complacency about hazards.

Additionally, those responding to disasters may experience depression from observing overwhelming loss of life or destruction, or elation, such as finding people alive in seemingly non-survivable situations. Those states also may lead to mistakes being made, as may working while sick. From the time they can talk, people are told “be careful,” but that's not enough to keep them focused on staying safe.

Instead, people need skills to reduce their likelihood of making critical errors

Those skills include learning to self-trigger on one of the states that lead to critical errors, before the error occurs. For example, realizing that you are dangerously fatigued while driving and pulling over to take a nap could save your life.

Higbee said other critical error reduction techniques include:

- Learning from an “oops” moment by analyzing what we have done to cause a close call or small injury. This knowledge may help prevent a serious injury in future.
- Observing others' unsafe states. This allows us to avoid falling into similar states, prevents complacency and lets us help our co-workers by bringing our observations to their attention.
- Working on our habits and honing our personal safety skills. The more aware and knowledgeable we are, the less likely we are to become hurt on the job.

“Basic safety skills are learnable and transferable,” said Higbee.

MISSING GROUND PRONG ELECTROCUTES WORKER

A missing third prong from an electrical plug resulted in the electrocution death of a laborer. He was climbing a ladder to hand a power drill to another worker when he received a fatal shock.

Investigators found the extension cord was missing its grounding prong. The grounding wire and the frame of the drill were being electrified off and on by the energizing wire. The drill was not double insulated.

You probably have been told many times about the dangers of using defective electrical equipment. If you have used such equipment and got away with it, count yourself lucky. Your story could have turned out tragically, as it did for this worker.

Remember to inspect a power tool before you use it. If you find signs of damage or wear, discard it or turn it in for repair by a qualified person.

Don't attempt electrical repairs unless you are trained and qualified. And never make alterations such as removing the third prong so you can plug it into a two-prong outlet or extension cord.

ROOFING PROFESSIONALS PROMOTE SAFETY

In an industry with so many potential hazards, most roofing contractors strive to minimize accidents by providing frequent safety training for their workers and trying to ensure workers implement proper safety precautions. Unfortunately, statistics and occasional news headlines continue to tally the needless fatalities and injuries on roofing job sites each year.

Deaths and injuries resulting from falls remain the most serious safety issue. According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, 74 roofing workers were killed in fall-related accidents during 2004. How many of those fatalities could have been avoided?

Responsibility

No matter which fall-protection system you employ, no one working on a roof truly is protected if a system is used improperly. "I had my harness on, but I didn't want to adjust it." "Everyone is responsible not only for his own safety but also for the safety of others."

Although proper safety practices can be taught, those precautions are useless unless they are followed. And all too often, workers simply ignore the potential safety hazards of the job and focus on getting as much work done as possible, believing nothing bad will happen to them.

Call it machismo or recklessness. Either way, neglecting to take safety seriously results in accidents that wreak havoc among workers and their families, as well as employers.

"It's important for a new employee to understand he's in a dangerous industry."

"You have many jobs in a career but only one life."

Pay attention

"The problem is getting workers to understand there are things they need to do to prevent accidents."

"Most accidents are the result of people acting before thinking. You have to be aware of where you are and what you're doing at all times."

"I should have used a tagline."

"Proper lifting techniques can minimize or eliminate almost all back injuries from lifting heavy materials."

Fire safety

When there are torching activities, there should be an ABC-rated fire extinguisher nearby. Workers should be trained in proper use of fire extinguishers. The "PASS" system is an effective method for remembering how to use them: Pull the pin; from a safe distance, aim the nozzle at the base of the fire; squeeze the handle; and sweep the stream from side to side, covering the entire area.

Follow the rules

Whether a roofing job site involves a steep-or low-slope project, certain fall-protection regulations must be followed. On a steep-slope roofing project, you can choose from several fall-protection systems, including safety-net systems, guardrail systems and personal fall-arrest systems.

According to OSHA, any roof with a slope of 4-in-12 (18 degrees) or less is considered a low-slope roof. On a low-slope roof that is wider than 50 feet (15 m), there are four main types of fall-protection systems you can use: a safety-net system; personal fall-arrest system; guardrail system; or combination of a warning-line system with a safety-monitoring system, personal fall-arrest system, guardrail system or safety-net system.

Fall protection is required when a job site has unprotected sides and is at least 6 feet (2 m) above the ground or next lower level of the building.

Many roofing projects call for workers to wear personal fall-arrest systems, which consist of a body harness, lifeline, and lanyard or retractable cable. The lanyard or cable is attached to a roof-mounted base system or anchorage. A snap hook connects the harness to the lifeline. A personal fall-arrest system must limit the distance a worker can fall to 6 feet (2 m) and prevent him from contacting the surface below.

Wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) also is critical to safety during a roofing project.

Dos and Don'ts

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations require you to have medical attention available for all employees. On a job site, you are responsible for ensuring someone is certified in first-aid, and OSHA also requires a physician-approved first-aid kit be on a job site at all times. Following are some first-aid steps to take after an accident has occurred.

Falls

- If a worker has a bad fall, he should not be moved. Instead, do the following: Call 911 for emergency medical assistance.
- Keep the victim's head stationary—trying to turn his head could damage his spinal cord.
- If the victim is unconscious, open his airway by tilting his head back so his chin points up.

Peter Greenbaum is NRCA's manager of education programs.