



CSSSP

California Society of Safety & Security Professionals
Los Angeles County Chapter

Volume 17

June 2006

June Speaker

Since we are meeting at the Toyota Motor Museum, our President – Jeff Malek will try to get someone at the museum to give us a talk on what goes on here and give us a history of the museum. So come out and join us for an exciting and different luncheon meeting.

Please do call to reserve your spot! This will help us determine how much food to cater in for this event.

April Speaker

Ms. Joannette Alpert, MS, PT, CIE, CPE, Registered Ergonomist. She discussed "Recent research in ergonomics and their practical applications".

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.

As our second term President has suggested, please submit articles to me for inclusion in future newsletters.

Memberships

Our newest Professional Members are:

Jaime J. Camacho
Fernando Benitez
Daniel Benitez
Kenny Hollis

RSSP recipient is Raul "Butch" Diaz

President's Message

Dear Fellow members:

June is on us, and our June meeting promises to be a wonderful event. We will have our meeting at the Toyota Motor Museum. With the start of June we will also have some new programs, and some old news. The board decided in its infinite wisdom to saddle you with me as your president for one more year.

For the new, I want to change the newsletter to include articles written by members of the society. This will allow any of you to highlight your professional endeavors, and at the same time educate our fellow members. I encourage all of you to write at least one article during the coming year. We should be able to include at least 2 articles per issue.

In the coming year I hope to have speakers on the bird flu issue, and other OSHA and safety updates. Please let me know of any additional programs that you may be interested in hearing.

I hope to see all of you at our June meeting. Bring your co-workers, it will be an event not to be missed. The museum is not generally open to the public, so it will be a great opportunity to see some wonderful cars.

I look forward to seeing all of you.

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President

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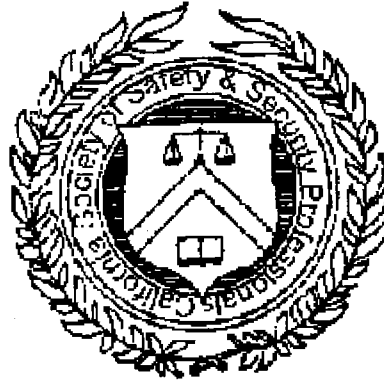
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June 2, 2006 Lunch Meeting 12 Noon

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Powder-actuated tools - Who can do the required training?

When I was a teenager, many moons ago, I was always one of the curious ones and when there was no one around a construction jobsite, and the security was non-existent, I would always check it out. I was fascinated with wire installation trimmings, nails with two heads, and especially the casings. I would always wonder why shell casings were lying around a construction jobsite. Well, now I know. I also know that using a powder-actuated tool with a .22 caliber load is not the same as a hammer and a nail. So does OSHA and that is why they have specific rules and requirements regarding powder-actuated tools at 29 CFR §1926.302(e) Powder-actuated tools.

Training requirements

The first requirement under the OSHA regulations for power-actuated tools says: Only employees who have been trained in the operation of the particular tool in use shall be allowed to operate a powder-actuated tool.

An employer recently asked the following question from OSHA regarding who can train employees to properly use a powder-actuated tool:

Question: To meet the training requirement in §1926.302(e)(1) for use of powder-actuated tools, must the manufacturer's representative conduct the training, or may any competent person provide it?

Answer: The OSHA requirement does not specify particular qualifications for the person conducting such training. However, to meet the requirement that the employees be "trained in" the tool's operation, as a practical matter, the trainer would need to have both sufficient knowledge regarding the tool and sufficient training ability to successfully convey the information to the employees. Therefore, the standard does not require that the trainer necessarily be the manufacturer's representative.

You refer in your question to a "competent person." That term is defined in §1926.32(f) as follows: One who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.

To meet the requirements of §1926.302(e)(1), the trainer need not necessarily meet the criteria of a competent person, since, for example, the trainer would not need to have "authorization to take prompt corrective measures" to eliminate hazards. The trainer would, however, have to be able to identify and explain the hazards associated with use of the tool, and how to safely use the tool and avoid such hazards.

Do you have a recall team?

A product recall is a frightening prospect. It can be disruptive to a firm's operations and threaten the business. These threats include legal costs and liabilities resulting from customer claims, loss of market share, and damage to your brand name and corporate image. There are several steps that a food company can take to minimize this disruption, however.

One way is to have a recall team in place to enable your company to effectively and efficiently remove product from the marketplace.

One person should be identified as the recall coordinator to prepare for and coordinate all activities related to recalls. The recall coordinator should be knowledgeable about every aspect of your company's operations. This individual should be authorized to make decisions in carrying out a recall and should report to top management at regular, specified intervals.

The recall coordinator should select people to form a recall team. Each team member's responsibilities should be clearly defined and be based upon their respective areas of knowledge, such as quality control, sales, receiving, shipping, production, etc. Be specific in assignments and consider responsibilities for:

- Traceability to determine where raw materials were used, quantity of product produced, production dates, distribution information, etc.;
- Risk assessment and hazard evaluation;
- Communications with media and government;
- Physical containment of the product; and
- Disposal of the product.

Develop a contact list identifying team member's telephone (both work and home) and pager numbers, work hours, email addresses, etc. Also, identify alternates for each team member. Keep all of this information readily accessible to assist members who must rapidly respond to a recall.

Also outline in your recall plan the specific training, if necessary, that team members receive as a result of their participation.

Remember, advance planning and preparation can minimize the effects of a product recall because the time to begin is *not* when the crisis hits.

Can caps be worn under hard hats?

"Not unless specifically designed for compatibility," OSHA states.

In an April 17, 2006, Letter of Interpretation (LOI), OSHA responded to a question as to whether an employee may wear a cap, scarf, or other item on his/her head, for purposes of cold weather protection, while wearing a hard hat? The question was focused on construction activities.

OSHA indicates, in the LOI, that neither the regulatory text of §1926.100(b) and 1926.100(c) nor the ANSI standards they incorporate contain provisions specifically prohibiting the use of cold weather head garments under hard hats. However, ANSI Z89.1-1969 and Z89.2-1971 contain recommendations and a requirement regarding "winter liners."

ANSI standards permit the use of cold weather liners that are specifically designed for use with hard hats — that is, specifically designed to be compatible with the protective properties of the helmets. Therefore, use of a "winter liner" specifically designed to be compatible with the hard hat's protective properties is not prohibited.

In contrast, if the use of a garment were to detract from the hard hat's protective properties, it may no longer meet the specification requirements in these ANSI standards. If that were the case, its use would violate §1926.100, OSHA's construction standard on head protection.

OSHA says that it is unlikely that an employer would be able to determine whether a garment not specifically designed to be compatible with a hard hat's protective properties, in fact, compromised those properties. Consequently, as a practical matter, OSHA says an employer typically would not be able to ascertain if its use violated §1926.100. Therefore, the Agency recommends that employers permit only liners that are specifically designed to be compatible with the protective properties of the hard hat.

Why wear a seat belt?

Seat belt use is the single most effective way to save lives and reduce injuries on America's roadways. It's been estimated that seat belts currently save some 10,000 lives a year. If even just 90 percent of drivers buckled up, more than 5,000 deaths and well over 100,000 injuries could be prevented every year. One of those lives could be yours or that of someone you love.

Stress on the job: Something employees can handle

Where might people find the greatest source of stress in their lives? The answer is . . . on the job. No matter how healthy they are to begin with, a stressful job can burn them out. Stress, of course, is a physical and/or mental response to pressures—good or bad. These responses can seriously damage employees' health, their relationships, and their productivity. Fortunately, employees can manage job-related stress. Plus, scientists are learning that some stress can be a good thing.

Biology of stress

When stress occurs, the body releases hormones that accelerate breathing and heart rate, increase blood sugar levels and blood pressure, and improve blood clotting. The body readies itself for a physical emergency. This can be a good thing. The energy and mental agility employees get from stress can help them meet a critical deadline, solve a problem, face new technology, and perform well.

Health hazards of stress

Some stress adds challenge, opportunity, and variety to employees lives. However, if stress goes on for prolonged periods of time, their bodies fail to adjust and wear out, weakening their defenses to disease. Medically, employees can suffer from high blood pressure and heart disease, pain, breathing trouble, digestive disorders, fatigue, and other conditions. Anger, guilt, worry, and violence can also result.

Handling stress

The best way to handle stress is to reduce or eliminate its source. Perhaps an employee can get a deadline extended, delegate work to others, or obtain a more flexible work schedule. However, because employees will not be able to control all stressors, it is important they watch for the signs of stress. Once they are aware of their stress, they can find ways to manage it by:

- Talking to someone about their stress;
- Taking breaks;
- Maintaining proper rest and diet;
- Exercising to release stress;
- Practicing deep breathing;
- Setting goals, priorities, and limits;
- Analyzing their strengths and blessings;
- Sharing their work if they can't do it all;
- Participating, helping others, and cooperating;
- Not taking medication just to eliminate stress; and
- Laughing and doing something they enjoy.