

# SAFETY / OSHA UPDATE

A Newsletter from High Safety Consulting Services, Ltd.

Information on Safety & Health in Your Workplace



## MARCH ISSUE

### **ARE YOU ON THE 'NAUGHTY' LIST?**

Once again OSHA's naughty list has been published. 14,000 employers have been notified that injury and illness rates at their worksites are higher than average and that assistance is available to help them fix safety and health hazards. Unlike prior years, OSHA has indicated that these companies are not necessarily more likely to have an inspection. OSHA's targeted inspection process will be issued on a future date and then we will understand how this list may be used.

Establishments with the nation's highest workplace injury and illness rates were identified by employer-reported data from a 2004 survey. The workplaces identified had 6.5 or more injuries or illnesses resulting in days away from work, restricted work activity, or job transfer (DART) for every 100 full-time workers. The national average during 2003 was 2.6 DART instances per 100 workers.

Here's my beef on this one! The 2.6 number is an average rate. This could mean (assuming a normal distribution) that approximately 50% the industry segments will have accident rates higher than 2.6 and 50% will have rates lower than the 2.6.

Therefore, a certain group of the companies NOT identified on the "bad" list may in fact be performing at DART rates well above their industry segment! While others, whose industry segment average is well above for 6.5 are included on the list, even though they are out-performing their industry significantly.

For instance the bottled water industry has an average DART rate of 11.9 – one of the highest of all industries! If a bottled water company is performing at 6.5, they are out-performing the industry...but still end up on the DART list. This approach does not consider the inherent risk of the industry involved. Likewise, personal care services have an average industry DART rate of 0.9. A service operating with a DART rate of 2.5 is severely over the average rate for their industry, but isn't included on the list. Want to see if your company is "listed" as a hazard? Click: [http://www.osha.gov/as/opa/foia/hot\\_11.html](http://www.osha.gov/as/opa/foia/hot_11.html)

### **OSHA NAMES SEVEN INDUSTRIES TO RECEIVE THEIR ATTENTION**

In his first public speech as the new administrator of OSHA, Jonathan Snare, Esq. identified seven industries in which OSHA intends to place a special focus in enforcement. The seven priority industries include 1) Landscaping, 2) Oil and Gas field Services, 3) Fruit and Vegetable Processing, 4) Concrete and Concrete Products, 5) Steel Works, 6) Ship Building & Repair and 7) Warehousing. If your company is on this list, you might want to make sure that you have your ducks aligned (in a row). Mock OSHA inspections can achieve this goal.

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## **NO DR. PHIL**

Okay I am stretching for this headline! I'm NOT referring to the somewhat spacey-eyed, shiny-headed psychologist that pumps out solutions to everyone's problems on OPRAH. What I am referring to is a break-through in Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) by Phillips -- a well-known and well-respected manufacturer of medical devices. Phillips has created a new AED which has been approved by the FDA to be sold without a prescription (No Dr). While medical oversight is a required aspect for nearly all AED programs, the Phillips unit is the first on the market which is specifically approved to be used without a prescription. High Safety has taken on the Phillips line of AED's and has this unit available for delivery.

In addition we still carry Cardiac Science AED's. Personally, I still like the concept of increasing energy shocks. The Phillip's model we are offering will not provide increasing shock levels. The Cardiac Science units do. Each unit has its own benefits and features. Either device can save your life. They are an important addition to your workplace. I am still amazed at company officials (most of whom are over the age of 45 and at which point heart disease is the number one cause of death!) who have not made the \$2000 investment which can do so much to save themselves or their co-workers!

An effective AED program includes: 1) Maintenance, 2) Training, and 3) Response Planning. We can assist with all phases of implementation of an AED program. We can assist in setting up and critiquing an AED drill event. This is the best way to find out what needs to be improved and to maintain your response capability at its peak efficiency.

If you would like to see a demonstration of the Phillips or Cardiac Science AED's, give Kevin Keith a call at 717-293-4482. We also have a special purchase opportunity for PA Chamber members! So, No doctor prescription required with Phillips AEDs. I have a brand new Cardiac Science First Save Unit available which retailed at \$2995 available to the first company that calls and provides a method of payment for only \$ 995! I am only offering one at this price, so if you want it, call now!

## **EGG ON FACE OPPORTUNITY FOR FACILITY MANAGERS**

If you are a facility manager, we are offering a FREE hot breakfast to you along with an opportunity to listen to a presentation on preventing HVAC and fungal contamination problems in your facilities. On April 8 from 7:30 AM to 10 AM, Curt Wittman, MS, CIH and Lisa Krug, BS of High Safety Consulting Services, Ltd. will share their experiences regarding fungal contamination events and how they can be prevented. The presentation will focus on school facilities and preparations for school closure but is open to others that are involved in maintaining building ventilation systems as well. Seating is limited and pre-registration is required. Call Toll Free 1-877-285-1129 to reserve your egg!

## **A CRY FOR HELP!**

High Safety is looking to add a staff member to our group. The individual we are seeking will have at least five years experience in safety and hold at least one of the following designations: BS or MS in Safety from an ABET accredited institution or hold the designation of CSP, ASP, CIH, OSH, ARM, ACLM, CPE. Potential candidates will have experience in general industry as well as construction OSHA requirements and be a dynamic presenter. If you know anyone that fits the bill, let us know! We offer the benefits of a larger company while providing the flexibility of a small organization.

## **GET OUT OF HERE!**

Check-Up Question: When was the last time you conducted a facility evacuation drill? Holding drills are an important aspect to facility readiness for emergencies. Drills help to facilitate a standard response and will help reduce panic if a real situation occurs. In addition, drills will identify problems

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in your emergency plan and allow you to assure it is working properly. While OSHA doesn't require evacuation drills, the State of Pennsylvania under the Department of Labor & Industry - Title 34 Chapter 50.57 (1) states that fire drills are to be held in facilities which are required to have fire alarm systems every 6 months and that alarm system is actuated. I am not aware of this rule ever being enforced, but holding a drill at least annually is a good idea.

Here are some thoughts on holding your drill:

- 1) Don't forget to call the alarm company and let them know you are having a "drill"
- 2) Time the drill – How long did it take for everyone to exit? Since fire spread can occur quickly, exit times should be within a few minutes. Did people take the right steps, shut-down, closing doors?
- 3) Have individuals check the alarms. Can they be heard throughout the building? Are they all working?
- 4) Was everyone accounted for? Including visitors or guests?
- 5) Was some assigned to call 911 (not actually done during the drill) to confirm response by FD?
- 6) Have a de-briefing with evacuation coordinators to determine any potential problems.

After you've had the drill a few times, add these complications:

- 5) Have a few people get "lost" and see if anyone realizes it!
- 6) Block an Exit with signage "This EXIT is blocked by Smoke & Fire – Use alternate route"
- 7) Enact the Emergency Plan for OTHER emergencies: Gas Leak, Bomb Threat, Etc.  
Your plan should address a different means of notification and response for each.

### **2005 OSHA STANDARDS ARRIVED**

We've received the most current print of the OSHA 2005 standards for construction and general industry. They are flying out the door. If you want a copy we still offer them at the same low price: \$45 – General Industry and \$28 – Construction. Order on-line from our website. If you are ordering more than three call us for potential discount on shipping.

### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS OFFERED BY HSCSL**

Our complete course listing can be found on our website <http://www.highsafety.com/hsl/resources/courses/>.

**OSHA 10-Hour Construction Course** (April 6 & 13, 2005) This course is being offered through the Keystone Chapter of Associated Builders & Contractors (ABC). Contact ABC to register at (717) 653-8106 or visit their website for more information [www.abckeystone.org](http://www.abckeystone.org).

**Introduction to Hazardous & Non-Hazardous Waste** (April 15, 2005) This workshop is designed as an overview of the basic responsibilities associated with waste generation. Click for more info or to register online <http://www.highsafety.com/hsl/resources/courses/course.cfm?id=32>

**Ergonomics – Programs & Assessment** (April 22, 2005) This program will review engineering tools as well as basic awareness issues related to ergonomic hazards. Visit our website for more information or to register <http://www.highsafety.com/hsl/resources/courses/course.cfm?id=20>

**Excavation Competent Person Training** (May 6, 2005) If you get involved in excavations of any type, this program will provide you with the tools you need to assure a safe operation. Click for more info or to register online <http://www.highsafety.com/hsl/resources/courses/course.cfm?id=28>

**NOTE: All of our prior newsletters are archived on our website under the "Contact Us" Tab**

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