

# SAFETY / OSHA UPDATE

A Newsletter from High Safety Consulting Services, Ltd.

Information on Safety & Health in Your Workplace



SEPTEMBER, 2007

## AN ANCIENT EYE ON SAFETY

While not being a great student of history, I did have the opportunity this summer to visit the Franklin Institute's Exhibit of King Tut's treasures. The gold-encrusted antiquities helped to conjure up an image of another time and another world. Security cameras were keeping close watch as the hoard of time-appointed-entrants slowly eased their way through the crowded exhibit. It occurred to me that the ancients were very concerned with the continuation of life. Their focus was most significantly on the after-life. With great precision they prepared the dead for the journey to the next realm. The book of the dead outlined the requirements for the hazardous journey. The above symbol (udjat), referred to as the Eye of Ra represents the sun and a protective force.

The udjat can be broken down into six different parts. Each individual part represents a different human sense as well as a fractional portion of measure. The fractional portions were used for mixing medicinal preparations. The SIX senses include the usual five plus thought. As safety and health professionals we are called upon to use our five senses to collect information, but it is the sixth sense that brings these together to conclusions that can provide an eye into potential injury causation and prevention. It is easy to be a Monday morning quarterback after an accident, the magic in safety is being able to perceive the potentials before an event occurs.

Recently, I wrote an article about the lack of common sense. It's not that individuals lack common sense, but rather that common sense is not clearly defined among everyone as common. It is this sixth sense that must be developed to achieve the perspective of common sense. [Click here to read more about common sense and safety.](#)

Developing an eye for safety is a process that takes years of experience and education. In 1968 x-ray showed an injury at the base of the skull of the boy king, although it is not thought that this injury killed him today. More recent examinations identified another fracture of the left thigh which may have lead to infection and his demise. Perhaps something as innocent as a slip and fall ended Tut's life as it did for Mr. Atkins (the founder of the Atkins diet). With all the focus on the safe passage of the soul (ka & ba) into the afterlife, perhaps a little more focus on the here and now would have provided Tut a longer earth-bound reign.

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## STATE OSHA LAW IN PENNSYLVANIA

The General Assembly has introduced House Bill 1325 which would establish Pennsylvania as an OSHA-state, but only for public employers. This law would establish requirements for all **public schools, colleges, cities, towns, municipalities, townships and other political sub-divisions of the state** to comply with the Federal OSHA standards. Currently, there are very few laws that offer safety and health protection to individuals working within these entities. Many of these groups have decided they would comply with basic OSHA requirements voluntarily, but many do not.

If this bill becomes law, it would result in the state establishing an agency which would provide for the inspection, enforcement and adjudication of safety and health law in the public venue. The state OSHA aspect would not apply to private industry which would remain under federal OSHA oversight. New York enacted similar legislation. From my perspective, I don't think this is a bad thing. Initially, it could drive up costs as these groups scramble to comply. This will be borne by the tax bases. Ultimately compliance with OSHA should help to drive down costs and provide a payback to the tax payer overtime. Excessive injury rates affect the tax burden on businesses that support these entities and result in negative societal impacts. The effectiveness of state government in implementing such a system is also an open question.

## YES, IT *HAS* BEEN AWHILE

We have been so busy with continuing record-breaking months, that I simply haven't had the time to develop a newsletter. Our newsletter is intended to be – but never promised to be a monthly publication. Thank you to all of our clients and customers who allow HSCSL to continue to grow. It's also been awhile since I originally got into this consulting gig. It's officially our tenth year of business as of October, 2007. Meghan Furr has joined High Safety Consulting last month as a Safety & Health Consultant.

## CORNERSTONES IN SAFETY EDUCATION

High Safety will be presenting several OSHA programs in the coming months. These programs provide the very basis of understanding on the OSHA rules and regulations in construction and general industry. Our [OSHA 30 Hour for General Industry](#) runs from October 8<sup>th</sup> to October 11<sup>th</sup>. This program provides an in-depth overview of the OSHA rules and regulations for fixed plant facilities. The program is recommended for Safety Managers, HR Managers, Plant Managers, Facilities Managers and Supervision.

We will also be presenting the [OSHA 30 Hour for Construction](#) on October 17, 18, 23 and 24. This program is similar to the General Industry program, but focuses on the Construction rules and requirements. This is a must-have course for anyone involved in construction at a managerial or supervisory level. If you aren't interested in the whole 30 hours (which is still too little time to cover many important topics)...consider the [OSHA 10 Hour class for Construction](#) which is being held on December 4 & 5. Every field person should have this program under their belt, err – harness.

Our construction courses are being held at the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) site. If you are an ABC member call ABC directly for the best price at **717-653-8106**. If you are not an ABC member, register on our website for the best pricing: [www.highsafety.com](http://www.highsafety.com) We are also offering focused programs on Ergonomics, Fall Protection, Rough Terrain Forklift Operations and others. See our website for a complete listing and more information. If you need specific site training, call for information and pricing.

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## SLIP-UP

The slip-resistance measurement world continues to evolve or perhaps dissolve. The ASTM F-1677 and F-1679 testing methods have been dropped from the books, as a result of these standards specifying proprietary equipment and not having a precision statement included. As a result the two best instruments (VIT – English XL and the PIAST – Mark II) do not have a current ASTM standard. The F-13 committee is in the process of developing a general standard for variable incidence tribometers, but this will be a long process. These methods are still preferred by most tribometrists, but we now need to explain to customers that there isn't a current ASTM standard for these testing devices. Since many customers like the concept of ASTM acceptance of a method, we can still do the old HPS or C-1028 methods. But these are flawed in many ways and will always come with a disclaimer when High Safety performs these tests. By the way, THERE IS NO CURRENT ADA STANDARD for slip-resistance, other than specification that the surface be slip-resistant. Yes – The meaningless 0.6 and 0.8 numbers were dropped years ago, although they can still be used as a benchmark for testing purposes.

## SAFETY COMMITTEE POINTERS

How's the safety committee going Joe? Well it seems like we talk about the same things month after month and we never make any progress. Some of the members don't seem engaged. We have stagnated. We spend a lot of time talking about issues that aren't important. Seeking improvement for your committee? Consider these options: The Safety Committee Report Card Process is self-perception assessment by the individual committee members. High Safety offers this assessment process as well as training support. We also offer regular participation on your company's safety committee as an expert resource. Here are a few suggestions: 1) Establish annual actionable goals for your committee; 2) Assure that your committee has a well-defined Charter; 3) Assure that committee members or others have resource time available to complete tasks between meetings; 4) Assure that the committee has participation from management; 5) Assure committee members are trained on their roles and responsibilities. Safety Committees can be a wonderful addition or a terrible drain on an organization. Sometimes Committees need little tweaks for improvement. If you believe your group needs a tweak, but you're not sure what it might be, call me....we can figure it out.

## JOIN US FOR A CUP OF JOE... WITH A MESSAGE

Everyone is busy and keeping up with the OSHA rules and regulations can be a daunting task. Keep up on important topics by participating in our monthly Monday Morning Message. You will receive a brief update on important OSHA changes as well as get the nuts and bolts of a safety and health topic. In October, we will be covering Fall Protection exposures. November's topic is NFPA 70E & Electrical Safety Work Practices. Personal Protective Equipment Rules will be the final session of the year in December. [Join us for a cup of "Joe", a donut, and the Monday Morning Message by registering today.](#)

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



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