

SAFETY / OSHA UPDATE

A Newsletter from High Safety Consulting Services, Ltd.

Information on Safety & Health in Your Workplace



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GIVE THEM A BREAK!

Recently, a company was cited by OSHA for violation of the bloodborne disease policy (29 CFR 1910.1030). The company had a first aid room which was also an access through to a supervisor's office. The supervisor regularly ate and drank food in his office (Separate from the First Aid Room). OSHA determined that there was a reasonable likelihood of exposure to infectious material. This was a limited use first aid room – More serious injuries would be treated off-site. \$1000 fine! – Not a great practice, but serious penalty seems a bit much! – Do note however, that according to CDC, Hepatitis B can remain viable outside the body for a period of up to weeks, even when dried! Remember that OSHA requires annual training for those in general industry regulated by the 1910.1030 standard (Those individuals providing first aid treatment). This type of training must be conducted by someone properly qualified.

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY UPDATE:

Typically a distance of 14" is allowed between a scaffold and the face of a building without railings (at any height) – That's scary in my assessment! – I can fall through 14"! However for plastering and lathing operations, OSHA allows an 18" distance from the building face without railings – Okay now we're talking just plain crazy. Perhaps this is why construction workers have a high death rate when compared to other trades. And guess what the leading cause of death is? – Right-O – FALLS! (33% of the fatalities). Now OSHA has determined that the 18" distance should also apply to Drivit application as well. Remember: DO NOT RUN YOUR SAFETY PROGRAM BASED ON OSHA RULES! – Minimal Standards vs. Sensible Practice.

NEW TECHNOLOGY IS HERE FOR RESPIRATORY PROTECTION!

North Safety Products (no kickbacks here!) have introduced ESLI – End of Service Life Indicators on their respiratory protection gas cartridges. This is the first company I have heard of that has done this... There may be others, but I have not heard from them yet. The ESLI changes color when the cartridge can no longer absorb gases. This removes the requirement for calculating change-out schedules for respirator cartridges as is required when ESLI's are not used. Using change-out schedules is difficult with high variability exposures and this technology

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will provide a “real-time” gauge of usage. This is a good example of OSHA driving technology...rather than lagging behind it!

PAYING FOR TRAINING TIME...

A client recently asked the question, "Do I have to pay my employees to attend a safety training program?" I told him I was sure that he would have to pay the instructor (HSCSL). We contacted LMA Consulting Group, a human resource consulting firm, for the answer. -- The employee does not have to be paid for training time IF all of the following are true - 1) The activity is performed outside of the normal work hours, 2) The activity is voluntary, 3) The activity is not job-related, and 4) There is no work performed during the training. The bottom-line is that most training programs will require employees to be compensated. LMA offers human resources consultation, training, executive coaching, crisis response support counseling and Employee Assistance Programs. www.lmasystems.com

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE...

It is estimated that there are over 50,000 occupationally-related disease deaths each year! Compared to traumatic death (6000 deaths per year), this is a largely unrecognized problem. Because disease often shows up many years after exposure, these deaths are not captured in our current recordkeeping systems. Assuring your employees are not exposed to chemical hazards that exceed safe levels is the focus of our next 3-Day Industrial Hygiene training program. This is the ONLY program I am aware of that is conducted within a manufacturing environment! You will perform actual hygiene surveys with the guidance and direction of Curt Wittman MS, CIH. Spaces are still available: www.highsafety.com/course_schedule.asp

EARLY DEFIBRILLATION...

I was talking with a medic yesterday that I used to “run” with in my active EMS days. Now a medical student, he relayed his experience with Survivalink AED units. The police had arrived on-site where a middle-aged woman had collapsed. The AED had provided two shocks, when my friend’s unit arrived they supported the patient with advanced life support. Today she is alive and well. Fifteen years ago it was rare that a cardiac arrest patient would recover, especially without a defibrillator, today with AED’s...it is possible! We were talking with a company yesterday: They had two cardiac arrests deaths in their workplace in one year (a 38 year old and a 54 year old). Now they are looking to purchase AED’s. As I tell my OSHA class participant’s: Don’t wait for something bad to happen – That’s backwards-- Do something about workplace safety today! – As usual, call if you would like to have these units demonstrated at your company. At the cost of a laptop computer, it just makes sense!

If you know someone else that would like to receive our thoughts and updates in safety, let us know – we can add them to our e-mail list.



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