

SAFETY / OSHA UPDATE

A Newsletter from High Safety Consulting Services, Ltd.

Information on Safety & Health in Your Workplace



SAFETY / OSHA UPDATE – New Year's Eve Edition

THEY KEEP ROLLING BY!

I can't believe we've reached the end of another year already! When I think about the progression of safety over my brief career of 17 years, it is interesting to see the improvements that have been made in workplace safety. Perhaps this is most dramatic in the construction world. It was rare to find a scaffold with railings in 1987 – Today it is common practice with most construction contractors.

It seems that each generation needs to learn about hazards the “hard way”. Personal experience or knowledge of an injury or fatality is usually the best motivator for preventing it in the future. As you develop corrective actions for worksite improvements consider the “staying power” of the correction. How long will it last and how effective is it? When people lose sight of the “why” behind company procedures or actions, they are often abandoned without a realization of the impact it may have in the future. Generally, the staying power of a procedure or training is very limited. When is the last time one of your employees picked up a policy manual to determine the correct method to perform their job? Training and procedures must be supplemented by a vigorous monitoring process to assure that the procedures match the practices. Engineering controls, while more expensive in the front-end, often pay dividends in future years when work practices or training could wane. Accident Reports with corrective actions of “be more careful” should be returned to supervisors for a more definitive and effective correction!

The staff of High Safety Consulting Services, Ltd. wishes you a HAPPY and SAFE New Year!

DIAMOND PLATE IS NOT SLIP-RESISTANT

I had the recent opportunity to walk through a facility in which diamond plate steel was used for a step tread. It was clear that the users found that the diamond-plate is a hazardous walking surface, and they applied an abrasive grip-tape to the surface to attempt to improve their slip-resistance. My guess: the tape was applied AFTER someone slipped. Diamond plate should not be used for walking surfaces and provides really no more slip-resistance than smooth steel. The raised profile is not sharp enough to provide slip-resistance. The best product I've found for these situations is ALGRIP™ manufactured by Ross Technology in Leola, PA. It has the most slip-resistance of any surface that I've ever tested! See their website at: <http://rosstechnology.com/>. They show slip resistance results under ASTM C-1028, but I tested for them under ASTM F-1679 which is the valid test method for this product. This product is also acceptable for food grade installations as well, I believe.

DO WE REALLY NEED TO WEAR A HARDHAT?

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is the last line of defense. That is, it is one of the last choices used by safety professionals to control a hazard. Many lay persons equate safety with wearing PPE. While we know that engineering controls are a much better option in most cases, PPE can provide an extra level of protection for the unseen, unknown, and the what ifs. Most of you have probably been asked the above question at some point in your career. Often construction employees do not see a need for a hardhat when no obvious overhead hazards are present on a job site and pose 'the' question.

HIGH SAFETY CONSULTING SERVICES, LTD.

1853 WILLIAM PENN WAY ☐ P.O. BOX 10008 ☐ LANCASTER, PA 17605-0008 ☐ 1-877-285-1129

- 1) OSHA requires hardhats for not only overhead hazards, but also to protect from the potential for impact (struck-by), flying objects incidents and electrical shock or burn exposures. (1926.100(a), 1926.951 (b)). Are there things on the site that could strike the employee in the head? (another co-worker with a shovel, a released spring, etc.). If any ladders are on site, there are likely overhead hazards from individuals working above others.
- 2) We had a construction supervisor years ago walking on a site. He had his hands in his pockets. He fell and the hardhat brim absorbed most of his fall, versus his face! We had a forklift operator wearing a hardhat drive into a steel beam at head level. It glanced off his hardhat on the way through the windshield. We had an employee whose head was caught between a metal rack and a forklift. His hardhat saved his life. How many times have I bumped my head on something with my hardhat in place – too many to count! Most of these types of events are never reported so we really don't know the true value of a safety practice until it is removed and injuries result.
- 3) Intermittent enforcement of PPE use based on a hazard being present is difficult to manage from an administrative standpoint. Can we rely on our perceptions and our employees to identify every potential hazard present within our work environment at all times? Probably not.

Class E (old B) hardhats are rated for voltage exposure (20,000 volt test). Class G (Old A) provide some voltage protection, but limited. (2000 volt test).

FREE CONSULTATION

High Safety Consulting offers our clients and others limited free consultations. Members of the Keystone Chapter of ABC have the opportunity to receive up to 1 hour of free consultation through an agreement with the Keystone Chapter. We also are available to answer your questions regarding safety and health issues in the workplace. Our staff includes a group of well-qualified individuals. Don't hesitate to call or e-mail us!

See: <http://www.highsafety.com/hsl/AboutUs/OurPeople/default.html>

END OF YEAR CLEAR OUT!

We have some OSHA Construction and General Industry Standards which were printed in February of 2003. A few rules changed in these books, but not many. If you want to replace your 1974 version of the OSHA book, but didn't want to spend the money – Here's an inexpensive way to get updated. Construction Standard Books: \$ 7, General Industry Books: \$ 10. We need to add postage cost and sales tax. (While supplies last). If you want to order a new standard they will be available late February, 2004.

OSHA on AEDs:

OSHA issued a new publication supporting the use of AED's in the workplace. This is the second such publication issued. It can be viewed at: <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/aed/recognition.html> (First Document).

Also see: www.highaed.com

UPCOMING TRAINING PROGRAMS presented by HSCSL:

OSHA 30-Hour Course for Supervisors and Construction Managers. This course includes specialized topics for the construction supervisor and project manager. Presented at Keystone ABC in Manheim, PA. Call to register 717-653-8106. Cost: \$650 for Members. \$970 for non-members. Includes OSHA Standard, comprehensive manuals and food.

OSHA 510 30-Hour Course Construction. This course is the official OSHA 30 Hour Course provided by the OSHA Training Institute. This is not an instructor's course. The course is provided by the Keystone Occupational Safety and Health (KOSH) Center. You must bring your own OSHA Standards and lunch on your own. Presented at McCall Golf and Country Club in Upper Darby, PA. Cost: \$695

OSHA Instructor's Course for Construction (Sept, 2004) Week of the 20th.

This program will be offered through the Keystone Occupational Safety and Health Center (KOSH) – an Authorized OSHA Training Institute.

See our training page: <http://www.highsafety.com/hsl/Resources/Courses/Public%20Courses/default.html>

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

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An Affiliate of High Industries, Inc.

1853 William Penn Way
P.O. Box 10008
Lancaster, PA 17605-0008
(717) 209-4045
1-877-285-1129 (toll-free)
FAX (717) 293-4470
www.highsafety.com