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Lake County Contractors Association Safety News

December, 2003

Safety Training –For information on classes scheduled, or to register on-line go to www.lcca-il.org/events. The easiest way to get your employees trained is to let us schedule a class specifically for you. We will make sure the content is tailored to your employees and your industry.

Call Lisa at the LCCA Office for all your safety training needs.

REMEMBER: If you have ten or more (or will pay for 10 students) **we will bring the training to your office**, or a site of your choice, or hold your class at the LCCA Office.

First Aid, CPR, OSHA 10-Hour, Excavation Competent Person, Power Line, Confined Space, Respiratory Safety/Silica, Scaffold User or Competent Person, and much more are available for you. Since the LCCA Safety & Education Fund subsidizes the cost, the price is hard to beat.

Training dates are subject to our instructors' schedules, so if you want a particular date, call the LCCA Office as soon as possible.

Safety Award Applications Mailed – Applications for LCCA's 2002 Safety Awards will be mailed to Contractor Members this week. If you do not receive yours, just call the LCCA Office and we will get you a copy. Remember, you do not need to be "perfect" to apply. We do expect no fatalities during the year. Since your results are measured against **national averages**, you are not competing with other members, but rather your results are judged against all contractors across the country, doing the same type of work.

Completed applications are due into the LCCA Office no later than the end of January. Awards will be presented at the February Membership Meeting.

CCSC Safety Conference Planned – The Chicagoland Construction Safety Council has scheduled the 14th Annual Construction Safety Conference & Exposition for February 10-12, 2004 at the Donald Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois.

SAFETY EXPO 2004 will be introducing the latest in safety and health technology and will feature over 70 exciting construction safety sessions. The third day of the event will feature professional development with new topics and some high-energy presenters.

If you are interested in **attending** or **exhibiting**, call 800-552-7744. For more information, visit the CCSC website at www.buildsafe.org.

Tilt-Up Panel Safety Bulletin – A new Safety and Health Information Bulletin from OSHA alerts workers and employers about the hazards of unsupported panels and provides practical recommendations on ways to prevent them from collapsing. The bulletin offers safety information for workers involved in tilt-up panel erection - a common method used to raise concrete wall panels during the construction of many types of buildings and structures.

The new bulletin was developed following an accident in North Carolina, in which three workers were fatally injured when a twenty-ton concrete wall panel (23 feet high by 19' 7" wide) collapsed. A summary of the accident investigation by the North Carolina Department of Labor, Division of Occupational Safety and Health identifies various hazards that contributed to the collapse, including a failure to install adequate bracing or removal of temporary braces prior to the completion of all permanent connections to the structure. The investigation also revealed that steel joists were not properly secured and that supervisors and employees did not receive proper training for tilt-up construction.

The bulletin recommends that employers take the following measures to prevent wall panels from toppling over:

- Maintain programs to provide frequent inspections of the job site;
- Instruct employees in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions, and OSHA regulations that are applicable to the work environment;
- Comply with all requirements for pre-cast concrete construction;
- Ensure that tilt-up panels are properly braced to resist wind and lateral forces;
- Instruct supervisors and employees not to remove temporary braces until roof structure and/or columns are in place to stabilize the building; and
- Use only certified welders when welding steel joists to embed on tilt-up wall panels.

Additional information on tilt-up construction can be obtained from OSHA's Directorate of Construction website www.osha.gov/doc/ or by contacting the Office of Construction Services at (202) 693-2020.

JULIE Schedules Safety Meetings – The Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators (JULIE, Inc.) announced recently that 22 safety meetings for excavators would be held across the state this winter. Over 5,000 contractors and representatives from member utilities are expected to attend these one-hour safety presentations that focus on underground damage prevention awareness and the latest industry issues.

“Our goal is to provide information that will help excavators do their jobs more safely and effectively. These safety meetings are designed to increase excavator awareness of the underground utility dangers that exist and encourage the continued use of Illinois’ utility notification system prior to the start of any project involving digging,” said Kevin Chmura, public relations manager of JULIE, Inc. “The presentation will also address misconceptions and frequently asked questions about changes to the Illinois Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act.”

The closest meetings to Lake County are:
January 9th – Mundelein – Crowne Plaza, 510 East Route 83
January 21st – Streamwood – The Seville, 700 Barrington Road

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., followed by the safety presentation at 8:15 a.m. Excavators interested in attending one of the meetings are encouraged to register online at www.illinois1call.com as soon as possible. Seating is limited.

First Duck Tape, Now Potassium Iodide? – When the *Office of Homeland Defense* declared America was at CODE RED this past summer, millions (if not trillions) of Americans went to their local hardware stores and purchased thousands of yards of duct tape (to seal off their windows and doors)...and thousands of yards of plastic sheeting (to cover these same windows and doors).

About this same time, this same agency encouraged these same Americans to purchase “potassium iodide pills” to protect your immune system from, horror of horrors, dirty bomb fall out.

But, guess what? This same Office of Homeland Defense put out a press release, suggesting to Americans that the duct tape, and the plastic sheeting, were worthless.

And, the week of April 21st, the *Journal of the American Medical Association* stated: “ingesting potassium iodide would protect against cancer after a nuclear explosion...but not after a *dirty bomb blast*.” Duct tape...Plastic Sheeting...Potassium Iodide...what next? (*The Washington Times*, 4/24/03)

HAZMAT Transportation Security – Companies trucking large quantities of hazardous materials such as bulk diesel fuel and liquid asphalt cement are running out of time to update security policies to guard against terrorism. On September 25, a new U.S. Department of Transportation rule hits the road, requiring that some firms document potential security risks or face hefty penalties.

Carriers across the county haul about 800,000 shipments of hazardous goods every day, according to DOT, which seeks to hold truckers responsible for protecting highway loads from terrorist activity. Called HM-232, the regulation was issued March 25 by DOT’s Research and Special Programs Administration.

The regulation has two main components that cover employee training and security planning. All businesses that transport hazardous materials – regardless of quantity – must complete “security awareness training” for current HAZMAT employees no later than March 24, 2006. Training for new hires must be done within 90 days of employment. (See, Inc. *Safety Gram*, Sept/Oct 2003)

Assured Equipment Grounding Conductor Program - White is this quarter's color for contractors following the assured equipment grounding conductor program. As of January 1, 2004, contractors should be using **White** tape when marking cords.

The assured equipment grounding conductor program simply requires you to test new or repaired power tools and extension cords before first use, after any suspected damage, and all electrical tools and cords at the three-month intervals, marking the cords with colored tape to indicate the month tested. In addition, all cords and power tools must be visually inspected before each use, and a written description of the program and test records must be kept on file at each jobsite.