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Lake County Contractors Association Safety News

November, 2003

Safety Training – For this month's scheduled classes, check the enclosed Safety Training insert. For more information 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.

Frostbite – Cold weather is just around the corner and all personnel working outdoors in winter conditions should be aware of frostbite risk. Frostbite is the freezing of the skin and underlying tissue. Ice crystals form in the cells, which kill the cells. Frostbite damage can go from the superficial surface of the skin to deeper tissue loss, which could result in amputation. Exposed skin and the extremities (fingers, toes, ears and nose) are most commonly affected.

The first warning sign is often frostnip, a painful tingling feeling that follows feeling cold. If the area becomes numb, frostbite has started. The skin will have a hard, pale and cold quality. When the area thaws, the flesh becomes red and painful.

If you experience any of the warning symptoms, get out of the cold. If you cannot, warm your hands by tucking them into your armpits. Cover your nose, ears or face with your dry gloved hands. If after warming, the affected area remains numb, you should seek medical attention immediately. If you are not able to get immediate professional medical care, warm frostbitten hands or feet in warm, **not hot**, (below 100 degrees F) water.

Never rub the affected area, put snow on it, or try to warm it over a dry heat source. Some precautions for working outdoors are listed.

- Limit your exposure by breaking up the job into shorter segments.
- Cover your head, ears and face.
- Wear mittens instead of gloves when possible.
- Don't overdress causing you to sweat excessively.

- Dress in layers with polypropylene or some other wicking material as your first layer and a wind proof, breathable barrier as your outer layer.
- Make sure you are well hydrated.
- Stay active but if you become fatigued, get out of the cold.
- Stay alert to the condition of your extremities and any exposed skin.

OSHA Forms On Line – The revised OSHA Form 300, Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses is now available on OSHA's website at <http://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/new-osh300form1-1-04.pdf>. The forms, which are required for employers to use in recording injuries and illnesses, have changed in several important ways for 2004.

Foremost among the changes is the addition of an occupational hearing loss column to OSHA's Form 300, Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses. Other changes include:

- "days away from work" column now comes before the days "on job transfer or restriction"
- more clear formulas for calculating incidence rates
- new recording criteria for occupational hearing loss in the "Overview" section;
- more prominent column heading "Classify the Case" to make it clear that employers should mark only one selection among the four columns offered.

Employers must begin to use the new OSHA Form 300 on January 1, 2004. The new form has the date of revision (rev. 1/2004) located on the form next to the form number.

Injuries and illnesses for years prior to 2004 should continue to be recorded on the appropriate form for that year (i.e., 2003 and 2002 injuries and illnesses should be recorded on the forms for those years). The forms for 2003 and 2002 will continue to be available on OSHA's website at

<http://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/OSHArecordkeepingforms.pdf>.

Additionally, employers should use the old OSHA 300A Summary Form (without the hearing loss column) to post as required in February 2004. The new 300A form that includes the hearing loss column should be used to post in February 2005.

Hard copies of the new OSHA 300 form will be available beginning in November 2003, and can be obtained using OSHA's on-line order form or by calling 1-800-321-OSHA.

Changes Coming In Utility Location – Beginning next year, there will be several changes to utility locating procedures. Here are some to get ready for:

- Currently, when you call JULIE for a Locate Request, there is no “end” to the locate. After February 29, 2004, if the excavation will extend past 28 days from the date of the notice, you will be required to provide a subsequent notice to JULIE.
- Owners of underground sewer facilities outside Chicago will only be required to mark the location if the depth of the proposed excavation is more than 7’ from the surface of the ground to the top of the sewer. They will be required to mark when: 1) directional boring is the type of construction, 2) the sewer facilities are pressurized force mains, or 3) the excavation will occur in the immediate proximity of sewers less than 7’ deep. This section also goes on to say that the owner of the sewer may not hold the excavator liable for damage if the sewer is not marked. (Editors note: You better be able to prove the sewer you hit is LESS than 7’ below the surface!)
- When marking “Proposed Excavations”, you will be required to use BLACK paint when snow is on the ground.

A copy of the new changes is available from LCCA or on the JULIE website at: www.illinois1call.com.

Workplace Fatalities Down – But Construction Fatalities Climb

– A total of 5,524 fatal work injuries were recorded in 2002, a decline of 6.6 percent from 2001, according to the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. The count for 2002 was the lowest ever recorded by the fatality census, which has been conducted yearly since 1992. The fatality rate also reached a new low of 4.0 fatal work injuries per 100,000 workers in 2002.

In 2001, 5,915 fatal work injuries occurred, excluding the 2,886 work-related fatalities that resulted from the September 11 terrorist attacks, which were tabulated separately. The comparisons in this release do not include the fatalities related to the terrorist attacks.

Fatal highway incidents were down 3 percent from 2001, but continued to be the most frequent type of fatal workplace event in 2002, accounting for about a quarter of all fatal work injuries. Other types of fatal transportation events also declined, including aircraft incidents (down 22 percent) and workers struck by vehicle or mobile equipment (down 7 percent). Overall, fatal work injuries from transportation incidents declined for the fourth year in a row, from 2,645 in 1998 to 2,381 in 2002.

Fatalities resulting from falls declined for the first time since 1998, from 810 in 2001 to 714 in 2002, a drop of 12 percent. Virtually all types of fatal falls declined in 2002, though falls from ladders and falls from nonmoving vehicles increased slightly.

Construction continued to record the highest number of fatal injuries of any major industry, although the total for construction was down 9 percent from the series high recorded in 2001. Truck drivers lead all categories accounting for over 800 fatalities or a Fatality rate of 25.0 per 100,000 employed. Although not exclusively construction related, many in this category are working on construction.

The highest category in construction is laborers who represent over 300 fatalities with a fatality rate per 100,000 of 27.7 – second only to Farm occupations! Electricians are next at 116 fatalities (13.5 Fatality Rate) followed by Carpenters with 108 fatalities (6.9 Fatality Rate).

The 682 fatal work injuries in the construction trades sub-group in 2002 were the highest ever recorded. Roofers, electricians, brick masons and painters were among the trades recording increases in fatalities. So while fatalities overall have decreased, construction still has the most fatalities and the third highest fatality rate. We have work to do!

Fatalities & Rates by Industry

Industry	Fatalities	Rate/100,000
Construction	1,121	12.2
Transportation	910	11.3
Agriculture	789	22.7
Services	680	1.7
Manufacturing	563	3.1
Government	554	2.7
Retail trade	487	2.1
Wholesale trade	205	4.0
Mining	121	23.5
Finance	87	1.0

Save The Date – The Chicagoland Construction Safety Council’s 14th Annual Construction Safety Conference and Exposition is scheduled for February, 10, 11, 12 & 13, 2004. Once again the conference will be held at the Rosemont Convention Center and will feature over 70 construction safety sessions. In addition, the Safety Expo will be open on February 10 & 11 and feature exhibitors on all the latest safety and health technology.