



Lake County Contractors Association Safety News

March, 2003

Safety Training – For scheduled classes, check the enclosed 2003 Safety Training Reservation Form. 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 Grosskopf 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.

Cell Phone Hazards - Motorists are more accident-prone and slower to react when they talk on cellular telephones - even hands-free models - because "inattention blindness" makes the drivers less able to process visual information, University of Utah researchers found.

"Even when participants (drivers) are directing their gaze at objects in the driving environment, they may fail to 'see' them because attention is directed elsewhere," says the new study by psychologists David Strayer, Frank Drews, and William A. Johnston. "Phone conversations impair driving performance by withdrawing attention from the visual scene, yielding a form of inattention blindness."

The study concludes that inattention blindness explains the researchers' widely publicized 2001 findings that users of hands-free and hand-held cell phones are equally impaired, missing more traffic signals and reacting to signals more slowly than motorists who do not use cell phones.

Julie Receives Record Number of Locate Requests in 2002 - Representatives of the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators (JULIE, Inc.) announced today that the Illinois One-Call System received and processed a record 1,069,651 underground utility locate requests from excavators in 2002. In addition, 509 new members joined JULIE, Inc., increasing total membership to 1,478. These totals represent

significant increases of approximately 7 percent and 52 percent, respectively.

"In 2002, Julie representatives implemented a successful public safety campaign to build awareness and educate excavators about the importance of safe-digging practices in Illinois," said Mark Frost, executive director of JULIE, Inc. "The record number of underground utility locate requests and significant increase in membership are both strong indications that our ongoing campaign has been effective. As we move forward, we will continue to focus on safety-related issues and expand outreach of our education campaign through a variety of proactive methods."

The following is a list of the top 20 counties in Illinois for locate requests from excavators in 2002: Cook; Will; DuPage; Lake; Kane; McHenry; St. Clair; Madison; Winnebago; Sangamon; McLean; Champaign; Peoria; Kendall; Tazewell; Rock Island; LaSalle; Kankakee; Macon; and DeKalb.

"Amendatory language to the Illinois Underground Utility Facilities Damage Prevention Act went into effect last year that creates a true one-call process by daily penalizing all non-participating underground facility operators who were not members of JULIE, Inc. by January 1, 2003," continued Frost. "Unfortunately, there were utility facility owners and operators that did not comply with the state law before the deadline. We expect membership to continue to grow during the first quarter of the year."

OSHA Reminds Employers to Post Injury / Illness Summaries - It is posting requirement time according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Beginning in 2003, employers with 11 or more employees need to post the new OSHA 300A Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses. The summary is based on the total number of job-related injuries and illnesses that occurred in 2002 and were logged on the OSHA 300 form. Companies with no injuries and illnesses in 2002 should post the form with zeros on the total line.

Summaries should remain posted from February 1 to April 30, 2003, and be displayed in a common area.

The summary includes information on type of injury and illness, extent and outcome and alerts employees to possible hazards. Employment information regarding annual average number of employees and total hours worked during the calendar year is also required to assist in calculating incidence rates.

OSHA Exceeds 2002 Inspection Targets

- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) made good on its promise to deliver strong, fair and effective enforcement this past year by exceeding its inspection goals and increasing both the number of serious violations and the penalties assessed for them, U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao announced. "One of my priorities has been and will continue to be strong, fair, effective enforcement, and these figures bear that out," said Chao. "Inspections of workplaces are up, and we are more effectively targeting where the hazards exist. We will continue to make improvements as we progress toward our bottom line-reducing injuries, illness and fatalities in the workplace."

The increased enforcement activity came during a year when the agency also dedicated unprecedented resources to ensuring the safety and health of workers at the World Trade Center site in New York. Over a ten-month period, more than 1,000 inspectors from state, consultation, and Federal OSHA offices around the country were sent to assist in the New York effort.

During fiscal year 2002, which ended on Sept. 30, 2002, the agency inspected 37,493 workplaces in the United States. That is 1,093 inspections more than the fiscal year target of 36,400 inspections. In addition, the average penalty for serious violations rose from \$930 in FY-2001 to \$977 in FY-2002, indicating that the violations OSHA found were more serious, with higher penalties attached. Serious violations of workplace safety and health laws accounted for 70% of all OSHA violations found. This figure, the highest ever, shows that the agency is directing its resources to the establishments most in need of enforcement action.

2001 Large Truck Crash Stats - The following information is from ai.volpe.dot.gov/, a website sponsored by the Federal Motor Carriers Administration. The Volpe Center is an innovative, federal, fee-for-service organization within the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). Some interesting, but deadly, facts from the year 2001:

- In 2001, there were 5,082 people killed and 131,000 injured in collisions involving a large truck. Fatalities from large truck crashes have declined each year since 1997, resulting in a 6 percent decrease - from 5,398 in 1997 to 5,082 in 2001.
- Of the 409,000 police-reported crashes involving a large truck in 2001, 4,431 resulted in at least one person being killed and another 86,000 resulted in at least one person being injured. The 4,431 fatal crashes represent the fewest number of fatal crashes involving a large truck since 1996.
- In 2001, large truck crashes accounted for 12 percent of people killed and 4 percent of people injured in all motor vehicle crashes. In 2001, 42,116 people were killed and another 3,033,000 injured on our Nation's highways. Since 1998, fatalities from all motor vehicle crashes have increased by 1 percent.
- Only 1 percent of large truck drivers in fatal crashes were intoxicated at or above the blood alcohol content (BAC)

level of 0.08 grams per deciliter, compared to 23 percent of car and light truck drivers and 29 percent of motorcycle drivers. The percentage of large truck drivers intoxicated at or above this level dropped from 1.5 percent in 2000 to 1.1 percent in 2001.

- About 5 percent of fatal crashes and 4 percent of nonfatal crashes involving large trucks occurred in a construction/maintenance work zone. However, 22 percent of all fatal crashes that occurred in a work zone involved a large truck.
- The majority of large truck crashes occurred in good weather (86 percent), on dry roads (83 percent), during the daytime (69 percent), and on weekdays (85 percent).
- The 10 States with the most fatalities from large truck crashes in 2001 were (in descending order): Texas, California, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Alabama and Missouri. [Eight of these States rank among the top 11 States in population. Only Alabama (23rd) and Missouri (17th) do not.]

OSHA Identifies Workplaces with Highest Injury and Illness Rates

- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is alerting 14,200 employers across the country that their injury and illness rates are higher than average and encouraged them to take steps to reduce hazards and protect their workers. This year marks the first time the construction industry was included in the notification.

"The purpose of the notification process is to alert employers that their injury and illness rates are above average," said OSHA Administrator John Henshaw, "and then offer assistance that will help reduce those rates. This process not only raises awareness among employers of their higher than average injury and illness rates, but it also affords them a golden opportunity to take steps to reduce those rates."

OSHA identified establishments with the nation's highest lost workday injury and illness rates based on data reported by 93,000 employers surveyed by the agency last year (that survey collected injury and illness data from calendar year 2001). This was the first year the data collection initiative included the construction industry (13,000 construction employers were surveyed). Workplaces receiving the alert letters had six or more injuries or illnesses resulting in lost workdays or restricted activity for every 100 full-time workers. Nationwide, the average U.S. workplace had just under three lost-time instances for every 100 workers.

Henshaw sent letters to all employers with high injury and illness rates, and provided copies of their injury and illness data, along with a list of the most frequently violated OSHA standard for their specific industry. While addressing his concerns for the high rates, Henshaw also offered the agency's help in turning those rates around, suggesting, among other things, the hiring of outside safety and health consultants, and using free safety and health consultation services provided by the agency through the states.