



Lake County Contractors Association Safety News

January, 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.

Construction Foreman Gets Jail Sentence – A Michigan Circuit Court sentenced the foreman of a concrete construction company to 360 days in jail and three years probation for a jobsite fatality. The judge also sentenced the company to five years probation. This is the first time a supervisory employee has been sentenced to jail for a workplace fatality.

The concrete company contracted to have gravel delivered to a strip mall jobsite. A 7600-volt power line ran across the entire east end of the site. The foreman had received notification and several warnings that no work was to be conducted under the power line until it was deenergized and moved.

Without regard to the warnings, the foreman directed several truck loads of gravel into the east end of the project. The victim, a 24-year-old driver, was directed under the line and died when his raised bed made contact.

Who was at fault? The foreman – absolutely, but he was not the only one. What about the driver of the truck, or his employer who did not train him to not dump his loads under power lines. How about the project manager who would never tell the foreman to do anything so reckless – but may have accomplished the same thing by telling him he had better be finished by (fill in the date) or he may be looking for another job.

Accidents do not happen in a vacuum. So look beyond the obvious to find other reasons. Many people could have prevented this accident.

Who's in charge of the oxygen-fuel for cutting?

OSHA requires that the workmen in charge of oxygen or fuel gas supply equipment be instructed and judged competent by their employers before being left in charge, according to 29 CFR 1910.253(a)(4). However, this paragraph raises many questions. One of the more frequent questions regards whether this applies in a maintenance shop or in the field.

OSHA answers this question in a letter of interpretation by stating that the "workman in charge" requirement is applicable in a maintenance shop, in the field, and in other workplaces where a portable oxygen-fuel gas welder or cutting system is used by more than one employee. It also applies where an oxygen-fuel gas welding or cutting system is installed.

Another question often asked is: Who is considered competent?

OSHA answers this question as well. Any workman who is trained and demonstrates proficiency in following the rules and instructions required under paragraph 1910.253(a)(4) would be considered competent to perform the duties of a workman in charge of an oxygen-fuel gas welding or cutting system.

In addition, under paragraph 1910.252(a)(2)(xiii)(C), cutters, welders, and their supervisors must be suitably trained in the safe operation of their equipment and the safe use of the process. The personnel requirements under paragraph 1910.253(a)(4) are applicable to a workman in charge of an oxygen-fuel gas welding or cutting system to which welders or welding operators connect and use equipment.

The workman in charge of a system may perform as a welder and welding operator to the extent that welding or cutting does not interfere with his or her responsibilities for safe operation of the system in accordance with 1910.253(a)(4).

Safety Award Applications Due – Applications for LCCA's 2002 Safety Awards are due into the LCCA Office no later than January 31. Awards will be presented at the February Membership Meeting.

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.

OSHA 300A Annual Posting - The OSHA 300A form must be posted during the months of February and March each year at every work site of the employer. **In addition, it must be kept for 5 years for inspection** by OSHA, union representatives and injured employees.

The data from the log may also be requested by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for compilation of the annual survey of illnesses and injuries in industry.

Remember: The OSHA 300A form must be completed, posted and retained even if you had no recordable incidents!

2001 Injury & Illness Rates Decline – According to U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, “Workplace injuries and illnesses have dropped for the ninth consecutive year, reaching an all-time low. Construction injuries are down. And there has been a 10% reduction in repeated trauma injuries, such as carpal tunnel syndrome and other musculoskeletal disorders.”

There were 500,000 fewer job related injuries in 2001 than the year before. This year’s rate of 5.7 injuries per 100 full time employees reflects an 8% drop in cases from the previous year.

Roadway Construction Zone Fatalities Hit Record – Before we pat ourselves on the back for declining injury and illness rates, we need to face the reality that some areas are not doing so well. One is road construction zone fatalities.

A total of 1,079 people were killed during 2001 in roadway construction zone accidents. This is 53 more fatalities than in 2000, a 4.9% increase! Over the past 5 years, deaths in roadway work zones have increased 65%. Some of this may be due to increased exposure due to increased work, but this surely cannot account for the entire increase.

Leading the way was Texas (140) followed by California (112), Georgia (82), Florida (56) and Maryland (53). Illinois checks in at 36 fatalities, down two from 2000. Other neighboring states fatality totals include, Indiana (25), Missouri (30) and Wisconsin (7). More information is available on the Internet at <http://wzsafety.tamu.edu>.

Planning Safety Meetings? Think of LCCA! –

About this time of year, many companies begin planning for a return to work – and the annual safety meeting. If so, remember that LCCA can be of help. We have an extensive list of safety videos available for loan. Call LCCA to get a list or just log on to the LCCA Web Site at www.lcca-il.org for the complete list.

We can also help with AV equipment. LCD projectors, laptop computers, screens, slide projectors, overhead projector. If you need it, and we have it, you can borrow it!

Looking For a New Safety Manual? Think LCCA! – The LCCA Safety Manual is getting rave reviews. Do you have your copy?

The new manual is available on disk making it very easy to personalize to fit your company exactly. The cost is just \$95 for members and \$175 for non-members for the manual in this form. If you wish, we will also assist you in personalizing the program and will deliver the finished product in disk or paper form. The cost of a finished manual is \$195 and available for members only.

CCSC Safety Conference Planned – The Chicagoland Construction Safety Council has scheduled the 13th Annual Construction Safety Conference & Exposition for February 11-13, 2003 at the Donald Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois.

The theme this year will be “Building a Safer Nation” and will feature over 70 educational sessions along with the Expo that features everything in safety. Assistant Secretary of Labor John Henshaw has been invited to deliver the keynote address. The third day of the event will feature professional development with new topics and some high energy presenters.

The cost of the conference is \$345 for two days or \$445 for all three days. The price includes registration materials, lunch and much more!

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

Assured Equipment Grounding Conductor Program - White is this quarter's color for contractors following the assured equipment grounding conductor program. As of January 1, 2003, 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.