



Lake County Contractors Association Safety News

October, 2002

Safety Training – For scheduled classes, check the enclosed 2002 Safety Training Reservation Form for more information or register on-site at 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.

We are pleased to announce that Lisa Grosskopf at the LCCA Office will be handling all requests for safety training. If you need any assistance with safety training or any other safety problem, contact the LCCA Office.

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.

New Traffic Control Standards - A new construction standard for traffic control signs, signals, and barricades is expected to reduce fatalities and injuries at roadway worksites, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The final rule becomes effective December 11, 2002.

The rule requires compliance with either the 1993 or Millennium Edition version of Part VI of the Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), in place of the 1971 MUTCD.

Among the specific changes, the revised standard requires retro-reflective and illuminated devices at intermediate and long-term stationary temporary traffic control zones; warning devices for mobile operations at speeds above 20 mph; advance warning signs for certain closed paved shoulders; a transition area containing a merging taper when one lane is closed on a multi-lane road; temporary traffic control devices with traffic barriers that are immediately adjacent to an open lane; and temporary traffic barriers separating opposing traffic on a two-way roadway.

130-Hour Course Offered – The Construction Safety Council and CCSC will be offering the 130-Hour Construction Safety Coordinator Certificate Program beginning November 17, 2002. The course will meet every Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. from November 17, 2002 until April 17,

2003. The course will meet at the CCSC Offices in Hillside, Illinois.

Construction represents the largest single-purpose industry in the United States. Unfortunately, it is also one of the most hazardous industries. Rising insurance costs, increasing regulatory pressure from OSHA, and construction users' aggressive contractor requirements have created a significant demand for qualified site safety personnel.

The Construction Safety Coordinator Certificate has been created to help meet industry demands. Designed by seasoned construction safety and health professionals, the program includes instruction in key areas. The presenters are nationally known in their field.

The program is designed for serious working professionals who commit to attending two nights every week for 5 1/2 months to gain valuable information and practical skills. The content and field trip experiences of three integrated courses taking place within 130 hours of contact time will enable site safety coordinators to initiate and maintain a top-notch safety program.

The program of three integrated courses has been collaboratively designed by administrators and trainers of the Construction Safety Council and approved by safety faculty at Northern Illinois University. This carefully designed certificate offers up to 13.0 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and the opportunity to earn a variety of training cards, including the OSHA 10-Hour Construction Safety and Health Card and training completion cards and certificates in the areas of excavation, fall protection, and confined space. Topics such as safety program development, fall protection, excavation safety, hazard communication/HazCom, orientation and training, electrical hazards, and others will be included.

To register, call CCSC at (708) 554-2082.

Role of the Competent Person - Because of the complex nature of the construction industry, it's important that certain individuals who work at the jobsite are extremely knowledgeable about construction work practices. This type of worker is considered a "competent person." OSHA defines a competent person as "one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them."

At a typical construction jobsite, you could end up dealing with many different coworkers who are considered to be competent persons. Why? Because the term "competent person" is mentioned in 32 OSHA construction standards.

How does a competent person fit in with a jobsite safety and health program? Your company must have a comprehensive safety and health program that provides for frequent and regular inspections, by competent persons designated by your employer, of the:

- jobsite,
- materials, and
- equipment.

What work areas should be inspected by a competent person? The 29 CFR 1926 construction regulations require that a competent person inspect various work areas such as:

- scaffolding,
- excavations,
- stairways and ladders,
- asbestos abatement operations,
- welding and cutting zones, and
- steel erection sites.

In addition, some OSHA standards add additional specific requirements that must be met by the competent person. If you are involved in any activity that requires a competent person, make sure you have a trained competent person assigned for each activity on each job. For assistance with Competent Person Training, contact Lisa at the LCCA Office.

OSHA Grants Awarded - OSHA has awarded more than \$11 million in Susan Harwood Training Grants to 64 nonprofit organizations for safety and health training programs. Primary areas of emphasis for the grants are ergonomics, responding to workplace emergencies, and training for small businesses and non-English speaking workers. Many of the grants include development of training materials, which can be used by other organizations in their training programs.

"Education is the foundation for ensuring safety and health in the workplace," said U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao. "And these grants will help deliver that education -- through training and compliance assistance -- which contributes to our mission of protecting America's workers from being injured on the job."

This year OSHA awarded two categories of grants: Targeted Topic Grants support training in the recognition and prevention of ergonomic hazards in industries with high rates of ergonomic injuries; homeland security programs that train workers and employers on preparing to respond to emergency situations in the workplace; Institutional Competency Building Grants help nonprofit organizations to expand safety and health training, education and outreach to assist workers on an ongoing basis.

Of the 64 grants made, 20 of them are to new grantees that were selected through a national competition announced in May. The remaining 44 awards are one-year extensions of existing grants.

The Construction Safety Council, a subsidiary of the Chicagoland Construction Safety Council (CCSC), received \$169,000 to deliver hazard awareness classes on emergency response in the event of natural or man-made disaster. The council will develop a generalized planning tool for all types of disasters to be used as a framework for developing guidelines for preventing and mitigating airborne contaminant exposures. A training program will focus on hazards associated with rescue, recovery and demolition/removal activities.

Temporary Enclosure Hazards Addressed -

OSHA has issued a bulletin to alert workers and employers of the hazards involved while working in temporary enclosed spaces when those enclosures are in close proximity to hazardous substances. Construction companies often create temporary enclosures. One example would be when they build plastic enclosures in the wintertime to dry concrete. They often run heaters inside the plastic enclosures, which can cause a deadly buildup of carbon monoxide.

The purpose of the OSHA bulletin is to:

- Alert users that hazardous substances may be contained inside enclosures that are in contact with, or proximate to, equipment that has the potential to contain or generate hazardous atmospheres. Employers and employees should be aware of, and manage, hazards related to temporary enclosures;
- Provide guidance with respect to identifying and managing the hazards of such temporary enclosures; and
- Provide recommendations for all employers that use such temporary enclosures.

When work is to be performed in any type of enclosure or permit required confined space the following considerations are important:

- Temporary permit-required confined spaces must be addressed by the employer's permit required confined space program. Temporary enclosures are most often created during maintenance and construction activities. Construction companies working onsite at an industrial facility will have to comply with the facilities' permit required confined space program.
- Hazards such as oxygen deficiency, toxic atmospheres, and flammable atmospheres may exist in temporary enclosure and deserve particular attention.

The recognition and effective management of hazards associated with temporary enclosures should be conveyed through the confined space program and other employee training. For more information, go to:

www.osha.gov/dts/tib/tib_data/tib20020530.pdf.