



# Lake County Contractors Association Safety News

January, 2002

**Safety Training** - Scheduled classes have begun again. Check the enclosed form for more information.

**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 Gloria at the LCCA Office as soon as possible.

**LCCA Safety Awards** - Applications for LCCA's 2001 Safety Awards were sent to Contractor Members in December. If you have not received yours, just call the LCCA Office and we will get you a copy. Remember, you do not need to be "perfect" to apply or be recognized. 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.

Awards are given in four divisions based on manhours worked. The divisions are:

Less than 20,000 manhours  
20,001 – 100,000 manhours  
100,001 – 500,000 manhours  
Over 500,000 manhours

Plaques are presented to the best lost workday ratio in each division and certificates are presented to all who better the national average for their division. Awards are presented at the February Membership Meeting, February 28, 2002 at Country Squire Banquets in Grayslake.

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

**OSHA 200 Annual Posting** - The OSHA 200 form, with the injured employees names and other identifying dates and locations removed, must be posted during the month of February 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 200 form must be completed, posted and retained even if you had no recordable incidents!**

**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](http://www.lcca-il.org) for the complete list.

**Looking For a New Safety Manual? Think**

**LCCA!** – The LCCA Safety Manual is getting rave reviews. Do you have your copy?

The 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 personalized manual is \$195 and available for members only.

**OSHA Unveils Crane Initiative in Chicago Area**

- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is launching a special initiative to focus more resources in assuring safe crane operation at construction sites in the Chicago area. The initiative will cover the greater Chicago area and will be a priority for all three OSHA offices.

OSHA Regional Administrator Michael Connors said investigations after loop area crane incidents in the past several months prompted the agency to look into causes and seek improved methods to prevent accidents. Statistics from the state of Illinois and the Bureau of Labor Statistics show there were 50 lost work time accidents involving cranes in Illinois, including one fatality, in 1999, the most recent year for which data are available.

OSHA began exploring how to combat the crane safety problem early this summer with a series of informal meetings including representatives of the City of Chicago, unions, contractors, associations (including LCCA) and crane rental companies. According to Connors, the discussions looked at several scenarios ranging from cranes owned by an on-site contractor to rental agreements that do not include the services of an operator.

He said that among OSHA's findings are problems arising when a contractor rents a crane and independently hires an

operator. These rental agreements often result in ambiguities regarding who is responsible for assuring the safe operation of the crane, Connors said. After an accident, contractors focus on the operator, but there are certainly management responsibilities that also must be addressed. OSHA inspections address basic on-site management principles that go beyond the duties of the crane operator.

Connors noted that OSHA worksite inspections where cranes are in use would include increased concentration on such critical management issues as selection and sizing of the crane; daily inspections; communications between the site management and the crane operator; and the supervision of the operator. OSHA will continue to apply its Multi-Employer Worksite policy through which general contractors and sub-contractors can be liable for violations cited during OSHA inspections.

Connors stated that a two-fold approach to safety should be addressed by the contractor's inspections.

- The first involves the competency and direct supervision of the crane operator. In this regard, Connors noted, we are fortunate that in the Chicago area the level of training and competency of crane operators is very good. Unfortunately, this high level of operator skill may have given individuals, including OSHA, a false sense of security regarding other, equally important aspects of the on-site management of cranes. Deficiencies in safety programs and on-site inspections by competent persons are violations that can be cited during OSHA inspections. These responsibilities go beyond the competency or qualifications of the individual operating the crane.
- The second element involves the management of the crane's activities at the site. Problems in this area can be magnified when the crane and the operator are brought to the site independently. Having little personal expertise in crane operation, contractors often assume they have and hired an expert when employing an operator. Even trained operators must be kept informed of variables such as load size, weight and other factors before the work becomes safe.

The need for careful consideration of all aspects of crane operations at a worksite is imperative, according to Connors. Large cranes are capable of lifting several tons of material at a time, and impact the safety of everyone at the site. This fact was reinforced by a study of 502 crane related construction fatalities between 1984 and 1994, which concluded the operators accounted for less than 15% of the fatalities.

He added that OSHA is confident general contractors and sub-contractors will develop the necessary safety programs to assure that management officials at the sites have the training and expertise necessary to properly evaluate and supervise crane operations at their worksites.

## **OSHA in Washington Looking At Cranes Also**

– OSHA has announced they are beginning the process to update the Crane Standards that have been essentially unchanged for 30 years. Taking a cue from the recent Steel Erection revision, OSHA will once again use “negotiated rule-making” to come up with a new standard. Given the time it took for the Steel Erection standard to be approved, we should expect changes in 2010!

## **Assured Equipment Grounding Conductor Program - White**

is this quarter's color for contractors following the assured equipment grounding conductor program. As of January 1, 2001, 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.