

# Lake County Contractors Association

## Safety News

September, 2000

**LCCA Safety Training** - Safety Classes will resume next month and the price to enroll has been reduced again. All classes will be \$5 cheaper this year and, we will continue to offer classes for members who enroll from 10 to 24 for a single class for just the cost of 10. You could have as many as 14 or more free!

And, like last year, we will come to you. We have a published schedule if that works for you. But if it doesn't, call and we will arrange a special class just for you – at your office if you wish, or a suitable location nearby. If we can get an instructor to come, we will put the class together.

Here are just some of the courses available:

**First Aid/CPR** – The six-hour First Aid/CPR course is just \$35 per person or \$350 for up to 20 in one course. OSHA requires every crew to have someone trained in First Aid/CPR and cards are only good for three years.

**OSHA 10-Hour Course** – This hazard recognition course should be a requirement of every employee! This year the cost is just \$45 per person or \$450 for up to 24 in one class (and we may be able to accommodate more depending on facility size and instructor preference.) OSHA requires every employee to be trained in recognizing hazards and this course was developed by OSHA and participants receive a card from OSHA that recognizes their completion.

**Powerline Hazard Awareness** – This two-hour course is provided by the Chicagoland Construction Safety Council **FREE** to LCCA members.

**Excavation Competent Person** - A must for employees on sewer, water and other underground operations. \$45 per person, \$450 max per class.

**Fall Protection Safety** – A 4-hour course for employees working under OSHA's Fall Protection standards. \$20 per person, \$200 max per class.

**Scaffold Users Safety** – A 4-hour course for employees required to work on scaffolds. \$20 per person, \$200 max per class.

(Please note that all prices above are for **LCCA Members only**. Non-member rates are available from the LCCA Office.) 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.

**Did You Know** - Over \$300,000 in penalties has been issued for lack of guardrails on scaffolds in Illinois so far this fiscal year. The lack of guardrails is the number 1 cited violation in Illinois and the most penalized.

Over 3/4 of a million dollars in penalties was issued for lack of cave-in protection for Region 5 (Illinois, Ohio, and Wisconsin) so far this fiscal year. Of the 144 total violations found, 6 Willful and 19 Repeat violations were issued.

The Chicago Area Offices have been surprised by an increase in accidents involving employees working on transmission lines. Two fatalities occurred within 3 months of each other, relating to overhead transmission lines. Items to check: make sure the lines are de-energized (lockout), test the lines prior to working on them, and if needed, install grounds. Only qualified employees should be doing this type of work.

To help protect outdoor workers exposed to sunlight, OSHA issued suggestions to safeguard employees from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation. OSHA's pocket card recommends that workers who spend time outdoors protect themselves from UV radiation by wearing protective clothing that does not transmit visible light and UV ray-blocking sunglasses.

Workers also should frequently apply sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor of 15 or higher. Sunlight is the main source of UV radiation, which can cause eye damage, premature aging of the skin, and skin cancers, such as melanoma. Skin

cancers and deaths resulting from melanoma are increasing rapidly in the U.S. even though fewer cases of most other cancers are being reported. The pocket card is available at the OSHA web site under publications. OSHA's web page: [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

Source: *Aurora OSHA Construction News, Vol. 4, Issue 2*

**OSHA Issues Forklift Directive** – OSHA has issued guidance to its safety and health inspection officers on enforcing the powered industrial truck operator training standard. In addition, the guidance provides an easy way for users to evaluate their own programs. The standard was issued Dec. 1, 1998, and applies to more than 1.5 million workers who operate forklifts and other powered industrial trucks in all industries except agricultural operations.

The standard requires employers to ensure that each powered industrial truck operator is competent to operate a powered industrial truck safely, as demonstrated by successful completion of a training program and evaluation. The training program includes truck-related topics, workplace related topics and the requirements of the standard. It also requires a periodic evaluation of each operator's performance, along with refresher training if circumstances warrant (such as unsafe operation; an accident or near miss incident; an evaluation that reveals unsafe operation; new or different equipment; or a change on workplace conditions).

The compliance directive provides the following guidelines to assist compliance officers in enforcing the standard:

- Inquire about the employer's training approach (formal instruction and practical training), and ensure all training is conducted by an experienced and knowledgeable person.
- Ensure that operators have received training in operating instructions, warnings, or precautions listed in the operator's manual (including instruction, warnings, or precautions regarding seat belt use) for the vehicles they will operate.
- Observe forklifts in operation and interview the employer and employees.
- Ensure the employer certifies that all required training and evaluations have been conducted.

Almost one million powered industrial trucks are currently in use. OSHA estimates the training standard will prevent 11 deaths and 9,500 injuries each year, and save employers \$135 million in costs associated with powered industrial truck-related accidents. The directive can be accessed from the OSHA home page (<http://www.osha.gov>) under "Directives."

**OSHA Introduces New "Plain Language" Poster** – OSHA has introduced a new workplace poster for informing workers of their rights to a safe workplace. The posters are free and may be downloaded from the OSHA Web site.

"Making sure workers are safe on the job is a top priority of the Department of Labor, and OSHA's new poster is another way we do that," Secretary of Labor Alexis M. Herman said. "Re-designed as part of President Clinton's and Vice President Gore's plain language initiative, it gives workers and employers information they need to make sure their workplace is a safe workplace."

Employers are not obligated to replace the posters they already have, but they are required to post an OSHA notice of employee rights in a prominent location. In keeping with the goals of the National Partnership of Reinventing Government, the new poster tells workers in plain language that they have the right to a safe workplace, how they may file a complaint, report an emergency, or seek advice, and that they have a right to confidentiality.

To get copies of the poster: download from the Web site at [www.osha.gov.oshpubs/poster.html](http://www.osha.gov.oshpubs/poster.html), or write the OSHA publications office, Room N3101, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20210; or call any OSHA office, usually listed under Federal Government on local telephone directories.

**Assured Equipment Grounding Conductor Program - Orange** is this quarter's color for contractors following the assured equipment grounding conductor program. As of October 1, 2000, contractors should be using **Orange** 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.