

Lake County Contractors Association

Safety News

May, 2000

Safety Training

Safety Training - - A copy of the registration form covering May - June is enclosed for your information. Please be sure to make copies of the form and submit a separate form for each course you are interested in. **For the remainder of the summer, we will only offer classes sponsored by a member.**

Upcoming Classes:

- May 3** **Excavating Competent Person - 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**
- May 9 & 11** **OSHA 10-hour Course - Noon - 5:00 p.m.**
- May 16** **First Aid/ CPR - 8:30 - 3:00 p.m.**
- June 10 -** **Scaffold Competent Person – 8:00 a.m.**

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 the training 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 cost is subsidized by the LCCA Safety & Education Fund, 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.

Thanks to the following members who have already sponsored courses this year:

Abbott Laboratories

Boller Construction

D.L. Franzen

Glenbrook Excavating

Waukegan Roofing

OSHA Issues Multi-Employer Worksite Policy - According to a policy issued by OSHA on December 10, OSHA inspectors who identify a hazard on a multi-employer worksite will follow a two-step process to determine whether more than one employer will be cited. The first step is to determine whether the employer is a creating, exposing, correcting, and /or controlling employer. Once the employer category is determined, step two is to determine whether appropriate action was taken.

All citations are fact and situation specific. The examples provided in the citation policy, however, indicate that employers who take the following steps are less likely to receive citations.

First, implement a strong safety program for your workers, promptly correct all identified hazards over which you have control, protect your employees and all others on the jobsite from the hazard, and keep copious notes of all proactive and preventive safety measures taken throughout the duration of the job.

Second, reasonably watch out for and immediately alert other employers of safety hazards they create, and take all reasonable steps to protect your employees from the hazard.

Finally, contractually limit your safety responsibilities to the activities you reasonably control and then act accordingly. Ask your subcontractors to make affirmative statements in the subcontract about their safety programs and records.

The citation policy defines the four categories and offers examples of situations where citations should or should not be issued to more than one employer on a multi-employer worksite.

How to survive a heart attack when alone - Many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack; what can you do? Without help, a person whose heart stops beating properly begins to feel faint and has about ten seconds before losing consciousness. However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest. A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements apply a squeezing pressure on the heart that keeps the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can get to a phone, and between breaths, call for help. You'll be giving yourself CPR with this technique.

Tell as many other people as possible about this, it could save their life!

(The above information was taken from Health Care's Roschester General Hospital via Chapter 240's newsletter "And the Beat Goes On." Reprint from The Mended Hearts, Inc. publication, Heart Response).

11th Annual Construction Safety Conference & Expo - The dates and location have been set for the 11th Annual Construction Safety Conference. The conference will be held February 6 - 8, 2001 and is sponsored by the Chicagoland Construction Safety Council and the Construction Safety Council. It will be held at the Rosemont Convention Center, Rosemont, Illinois.

With nearly 80 sessions scheduled on the first two days, and professional development seminars on the third day, this is the premier safety event that should not be missed!

The Construction Safety Expo held in conjunction with the conference will accommodate up to 1200 booth spaces.

Registration information for exhibitors is now available, and may be obtained by calling Marie Fogo, Exhibits Coordinator, at (800) 552-7744 or e-mail at mfogo@buildsafe.org. Agenda information for the sessions will be available in the summer. Make sure you are on the mailing list so that you don't miss out on the nation's largest construction safety and health conference.

ASSE Issues Oxygen Cylinder Warning - As the result of a fatal accident that occurred in Channelview, Texas, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating the whereabouts of potentially deadly cylinders of class D breathing air often used when working in a confined space.

On March 21 two painters died while wearing sandblast hoods connected to compressed air cylinders. Following the accident OSHA's preliminary tests found that cylinders did have a low level of oxygen. As a result, OSHA and the Houston-based manufacturer of the cylinders, Aeriform, are requesting that any and all air cylinders marked "compressed air - breathing" that were purchased within the last three months be tested for oxygen content prior to being used.

According to ASSE, the cylinders, although purchased and currently only found in Texas, could be anywhere in the country at this time and should be checked for an oxygen level between 19 and 23 percent by volume.

OSHA Rushing to Judgment on Ergonomics Standard - The House Small Business Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform will consider the announced schedule for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to take final action on its controversial proposal for an ergonomics standard. Despite Chairwoman Kelly's earnest effort to require serious consideration for the proposals impact on small businesses, OSHA Administrator Charles Jeffress has declared that his agency will rush the rule into final form by the end of the year.

Stephen E. Sandherr, AGC executive vice president and CEO said "OSHA cannot finalize the proposal this year without disregarding many and perhaps most of the public comments. It is impossible for the agency to conduct proper hearings and to seriously consider all 7,000+ comments in just seven or eight months. The standard took OSHA more that eight years to develop.

OSHA head Charles Jeffress said that the agency was proceeding with its plan to finalize the ergonomics rule by the end of the year. If implemented, in anything close to its proposed form, that rule would have a wide ranging impact on a number of industries including construction. While AGC shares OSHA's commitment to safety, AGC opposes the proposed ergonomics standard and has submitted comments to OSHA detailing the reasons for that opposition. AGC will participate in each of the OSHA hearings to be held in Washington, D.C., Portland, OR, and Chicago, IL.

Summing up AGC's concern, Sandherr questioned, "What's the rush?" He added, "At some point people will begin to question whether OSHA is committed to the rulemaking process or simply going through the motions. We had to move mountains just to get three months to prepare and submit our comments. Now the agency denies itself the time to give those comments anything more than a cursory review. With so much at stake, shouldn't OSHA at least consider the possibility that it may be headed in the wrong direction?"

The standard - which would take businesses many years and as much as \$100 billion annually to implement - has repeatedly come under fire. OSHA is also refusing to wait for the National Academy of Sciences to complete a congressionally mandated study on musculoskeletal disorders (MSD's)."

Battery Packs For Cordless Tools Recalled - DeWalt Industrial Tool Co. is recalling about 775,000 faulty 18-volt battery packs used to power its line of cordless tools. The clips on the 2.2 pound battery packs, model DW9095, can come loose and fall off, possibly injuring workers. Since 1999, Baltimore-based DeWalt has received at least 53 reports of falling packs resulting in five injuries. "The clips vibrate loose," says Joan H. Mellott, DeWalt spokesperson. If owners call (877) 457-0478, the company will send a new cap, which can be easily changed, she says.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, the packs were sold nationwide between May 1997 and June 1998 for about \$80 and have date codes from 9719 to 9810 on the top of the pack.