

Lake County Contractors Association

Safety News

April, 2000

Safety Training

Upcoming Classes:

April 1 - OSHA - 7:00 - 5:00 p.m.
(Glenbrook Excavating)

April 6 - First Aid/CPR - 7:30 - 2:00 p.m.
(D.L. Franzen Construction)

April 8 - OSHA 10-hour Course - 7:00 - 5:00 p.m.
(Waukegan Roofing)

April 18 - First Aid/ CPR - 8:30 - 3:00 p.m.

April 22 - CPR - 8:00 – Noon
(Boller Construction Company)

May 9 & 11 - OSHA 10-hour Course - Noon - 5:00 p.m.

May 16 - First Aid/ CPR - 8:30 - 3:00 p.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.

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One-Call Color Coding - Across the country, **One -Call Centers** have been using six standard color coding symbols to identify certain types of underground utilities. Two "new" colors have been added to the internationally used color coding system, as follows:

White: - Proposed Excavation

Red: - Electrical Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cable

Blue: - Potable (Drinking Water)

Green: - Sewers and Drain Lines

Orange: - Communications, Fiber Optic

***Pink (New):** - Temporary Survey Markings

Yellow: - Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum Gaseous

Materials

***Purple (New):** - Reclaimed Water, Irrigation and Slurry Lines

Area **One-Call Centers** are in the process of distributing wallet-size cards illustrating (in color) the revised series of utility color codes.

Workers' Comp Fraud - Workers' compensation insurance fraud can be committed by employees, employers, insurers, agents, doctors, lawyers or anyone else involved in the workers; compensation cycle.

Here are some "red flags" that raise warning signs. When claimants:

- Present conflicting medical information
- Change the frequency of communication with claims adjusters
- Claim injuries that are not easily detected
- Have prior workers' compensation claims history
- Present claims for non-labor intensive injuries
- Present pain-related injuries but refuse to undergo surgery
- Present claims related to mental health
- Are uncooperative and argumentative'
- Present diagnosis changes
- Fail to keep scheduled medical exams
- Are experiencing financial difficulties
- Have records of excessive absenteeism
- Move out of state following an accident
- Are bored with job
- Are never home when called

CCSC Safety Conference - The 10th Annual Construction Safety Conference held February 15-17, 2000 was a huge success! The Conference and Expo was once again held at the Rosemont Convention Center near Chicago.

Over 1,300 people attended the three-day conference, a significant increase over previous years. Participants represented 44 states, including Alaska and Hawaii. The event also drew an international audience with participants from Guam and Puerto Rico, several provinces of Canada, Mexico and Columbia.

Attendees had the opportunity to choose from 79 classes, ranging from short 1 1/4 hour mini-sessions to half and full day professional development seminars. Session topics ranged

from fall protection to excavations; crisis management to behavior based safety; ladder safety to planning safe helicopter lifts. Participants in the helicopter lift session worked together to plan a lift and then went to O'Hare International Airport to actually witness the execution of the planned lift.

Participants had the opportunity to view the latest in construction safety and health products and services in **Safety Expo 2000**. Over 120 exhibitors displayed products and services such as personal protective equipment, fall protection/prevention devices, health and first aid services, and the national crane operation certification program.

George Yoksas, OSHA's Milwaukee Area Office keynoted the conference with a discussion of the crane accident at Miller Park in Milwaukee last summer that resulted in three fatalities and massive damage to the structure. Mr. Yoksas discussed OSHA's investigation and showed gripping video footage of the actual collapse.

Dan Murphy, Vice President of Risk Control for The St. Paul Construction, addressed the group during lunch on the first day. Dan's inspirational message presented the human side of construction safety and the tragic results of inadequate safety-training for the work force.

Another highlight of the event was the keynote address delivered on the 2nd day of the conference by Charles N. Jeffress, Assistant Secretary of Labor - OSHA. Mr. Jeffress served up some positive feedback about the Construction Safety Council and the 10th Annual Construction Safety Conference. He started his talk by stating "As we begin the next Millennium, what could be more appropriate than a conference entitled, Protecting Our Future 2000"? That's what occupational safety and health is all about - protecting lives today to ensure our future tomorrow."

Jeffress went on to issue praise for the steady decline in injury rates in construction (nearly 30% since 1993), but indicated that the picture for construction fatalities is not so rosy. In fact, the construction industry employs about 6% of the U.S. workforce but "nearly 20% of American workers who lost their lives in the workplace last year died on construction sites." Construction deaths have increased by 25% over the last seven years. OSHA's strategic goal is to reduce construction deaths by 15% by the year 2002.

Indicating that "safety pays", Jeffress pointed to the favorable economics of implementing an effective safety and health program. Even average companies can reduce worker injuries by 20-40%. For every \$1 invested in safety and health programs, contractors can save \$4-6 in costs of workplace injuries and illnesses. It's an investment that makes sense. Yet only 30% of employers have put safety and health programs into place. And that makes no sense at all.

In concluding, Secretary Jeffress told attendees, "We can't claim victory until we eliminate the high death toll at construction sites. I can promise you that OSHA will work with the Construction Safety Council to achieve these goals. We will work in partnership with employers and employees across the country toward this end. Let's affirm our commitment to get the job done safely. And let's remember - even one death out there is one death too many."