

Lake County Contractors Association

Safety News

March, 2000

Safety Training

Upcoming Classes:

March 7 & 9 OSHA 10-hour Course - Noon - 5:00 p.m.

March 14 First Aid/ CPR - 8:30 - 3:00 p.m.

April 8 OSHA 10-hour Course - 7:00 - 5:00 p.m.

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

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.

Safety Manual – After almost a year, the LCCA Safety Manual is ready to go. On behalf of Safety Committee Co-Chair Fred Rodheim, Abbott Laboratories, we apologize for the time it has taken but the committee wanted to make sure the product was accurate and usable before letting it go.

The new 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 deliver the finished product in paper form. The cost of a finished manual is \$195 and available for members only.

JULIE Proposes Changes – The Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators (JULIE), Illinois One-Call utility locating system, is proposing changes in the Illinois Underground Utility Facilities Damage Prevention Act. This act provides the legislative authority to enforce the One-Call system. Some of the suggested changes include:

Require special care within "tolerance zone." The "Tolerance Zone" is defined as a strip at least three feet wide but no less than the width of the utility plus 1-1/2 feet on both sides. Until now, you only needed to exercise care within this zone. The new law specifies "utilizing precautions that include, but are not limited to, hand excavation, vacuum excavation methods, and visually inspecting the excavation while in progress until clear of the marked utility."

Exceptions to 48 hour locating rule. The proposed legislation would add the following language: "Conditions may exist making it unreasonable to request that locations be marked within 48 hours. It is unreasonable to request owners and operators of underground utility facilities and CATS facilities to locate all of their facilities in an affected area upon short notice in advance of a large or extensive non-emergency project, or to request extensive locates in excess of a reasonable excavation or demolition work schedule, or to request locates under conditions where a repeat request is likely to be made because of the passage of time or adverse job conditions." This will keep the attorneys busy!

Penalties to increase. Currently contractors who fail to call and damage a utility is subject to a \$200 fine. The proposed bill will provide penalties up to \$5,000 for just failing to call! For the utility owners, the current act provides a \$200 for the failure to properly mark the location. The new bill will raise the penalty to \$5,000 but removes the requirement to "properly mark" so all they need to is stick a flag and they are covered.

Removes protection from damage if unmarked. Currently, if you call and wait the 48 hours, you assume no liability for unmarked or mismarked utilities. The proposed change would eliminate this blanket protection and presumably subject you to liability for the utility no matter what. The paragraph is replaced with a requirement that you make a second call if "the excavator observes clear evidence of the presence of an unmarked utility or CATS facility in the area of the proposed excavation."

While this is just a proposed bill, we have been asked to support this bill. Unfortunately, in my opinion, this will be just another "attorney full employment act"!

Tragedy Marks End of Millennium for Many - The fourth quarter of 1999 has seen more Chicago area construction fatalities than any time span in recent history. In contrast to 1998, a year which boasted the lowest fatality count in over 10 years (19 worker deaths on the job), this last quarter of 1999 saw at least 14 workers killed on projects in the Chicagoland area alone. Here are the details:

- While placing decking a worker fell to his death on 10/12;
- Worker electrocuted when equipment touched overhead power line 10/16;
- Drywall worker killed in a fall 10/18;
- Roofer slid off roof with 5/12 pitch, fell and died 10/18;
- Worker fell from 4th floor balcony causing fatal injuries 10/20;
- Another worker died in a 25 ft. fall from a pipe rack 10/26;
- An employee of a black topping contractor died on the job 10/26;
- A worker building a sign was crushed on 11/16;
- A fall from a plank in an elevator shaft claimed a worker on 11/27;
- Another fall claimed the life of an electrical worker in the loop on 12/8;
- A deep tunnel worker was crushed on 12/9;
- A plumber was decapitated when he looked into an elevator shaft on 12/14;
- A wooden beam struck a worker fatally injuring him on 12/22;
- While working on an electrical transmission tower a worker was electrocuted on 12/28;

All of these deaths had causes and were not "acts of God". Whether poor planning, momentary lapse of attention, poor judgment, or all of the above, these people could have lived to enjoy the dawning of the new Millennium.

OSHA Publishes Steel Erection Directive – In August of 1998, OSHA published "Proposed Rules" to amend the Steel Erection Standard (29 CFR 1926.750) As of today, debate continues on the proposed rule. While a "Final Rule" is still a few months (years?) away, OSHA will now permit contractors to work under either the existing or the proposed standard. WITH ONE EXCEPTION – while the proposed standard raises the height where the standard takes effect from 25' to 30', contractors must comply with the 25' height requirement.

A copy of the directive is available from the LCCA Office or from the OSHA Website at www.osha-slc.gov. Look for OSHA Directive 00-03(CPL 2-1) – Steel Erection.

Assured Equipment Grounding Conductor Program - Green is next quarter's color for contractors following the assured equipment grounding conductor program. As of April 1, 2000, contractors should be using **Green** tape when marking cords.

The assured 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.