

# Lake County Contractors Association

## Safety News

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May, 1999

**Scaffold – Fall Protection Double Header Offered** – May 19, LCCA will present a safety double header. At 8:00 a.m., we will present a 4-hour Scaffold Hazard Awareness course designed to teach employees how to recognize and avoid hazards associated with scaffolds. This course is designed for employees who work on scaffolds and their supervision. It is not for those responsible for erecting scaffold systems.

At 1:00 p.m., we feature Fall Protection. OSHA has complicated fall protection with changing standards and multiple options. This course is for users of fall protection and their supervision. Mike Barnhart will teach both classes.

**OSHA's Revised Fall Protection Standards** - Employers must determine whether walking/working surfaces are structurally capable of supporting workers safety.

Workers on walking/working surfaces with unprotected side or edges six feet or higher above a lower level must be protected from falling by the use of guardrails, nets or fall arrest systems.

Workers constructing or working near leading edges at six feet or higher above a lower level must be protected from falls by guardrails, nets or fall arrest systems.

Workers in hoist areas must be protected from falling more than six feet by guardrails or personal fall arrest systems.

Workers must be protected from falling more than six feet through holes (including skylights) by hole covers, guardrails or personal fall arrest systems.

Workers on the face of formwork or reinforcing steel must be protected from falling six feet or more by personal fall arrest systems, nets or positioning devices.

Workers on the edge of excavations deeper than six feet must be protected from falling by guardrails, fences or barricades when excavations are not easily visible.

Workers less than six feet above dangerous equipment must be protected from falling into or onto the equipment by guardrails or equipment guards

Workers six feet or higher above dangerous equipment must be protected from fall hazards by guardrails, personal fall arrest systems or nets.

Safety nets must be installed as close as possible, but not more than 30 feet below the walking/working surface.

Safety nets must extend outward from the outermost projection of the work surface (see regulations for distances).

Drop tests must be performed on safety nets by dropping a 400 pound 30-32 inch diameter bag of sand into the net from the highest walking/working surface (but not less than 42 inches).

When it is unreasonable to perform a drop test on a net, the employer or a designated competent person must certify that the net and net installation are in compliance with this standard.

Nets must be inspected at least once a week and defective nets and parts must be removed from service. Effective January 1, 1998, body belts are not accepted as part of a fall arrest system.

Lanyards and vertical life lines must have a minimum breaking strength of 5,000 pounds.

Personal fall arrest systems when stopping a fall must limit the maximum arresting force on the worker to 1,800 pounds when used with a body harness. Personal fall arrest systems when stopping a fall must limit the maximum arresting force

on the worker to 900 pounds when used with a body belt.

Personal fall arrest systems must be rigged so that the worker can neither fall more than six feet nor contact any lower level.

Positioning devices must be rigged to prevent free falls more than two feet.

Warning lines must be erected around all sides of a roof work area.

Controlled access zones must be defined by a control line or other means that restrict access.

When using safety monitoring systems a competent person must be used to monitor the safety of workers.

The employer must provide training for each worker that may be exposed to fall hazards.

The employer must keep a written certification record to verify compliance with training requirements.

The employer must provide retraining when workers do not have the understanding and skills required by initial training.

**Hazcom Heads OSHA Penalty List** – OSHA inspectors target Hazcom violations because it is very easy to check. All they have to do is check out your written program and ask a few questions. OSHA inspectors use a simple checklist to determine compliance. Using the following key points, see if your program will pass.

**Labeling** - First, they'll check out the section on labeling hazardous material. Make sure your program:  
Spells out who is responsible for labeling containers.

Describes the labeling system used.

Spells out procedures to review and updates label information.

**Material Safety Data Sheets** - Next, make sure you cover all the bases for Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs). You need to:

Designate someone responsible for obtaining and maintaining MSDSs.

Describe how the MSDSs are maintained (electronically or on paper).

Spell out what procedures to follow when MSDSs are not received at the time of shipment.

**Training** - The section on general hazard communication training says who is responsible for training, lists elements of the program and describes the format (videos, lectures). When inspectors interview employees, they'll try to find out if:

The employees are aware of the hazards they're exposed to,

They know how to obtain MSDSs and info on labels, and

They know and follow procedures for handling hazardous chemicals.

**Hazard Communication Directive Issued** - OSHA has issued a new directive to aid employers in meeting the requirements of the hazard communication standard. While most of the directive is not significant, one item is of note. The directive suggests that citations for consumer products will be issued only when the use of the product is inconsistent with the manufacturers intentions or the frequency of use or duration of use exceeds that expected of an ordinary consumer (whatever that means!). At least there is some recognition that consumer goods are not that hazardous (or they would be restricted in their use.)

**Forklift Training** – We have received many questions regarding Forklift Training. Due to the changing rules, LCCA cancelled the training scheduled for the beginning of the month. We will be putting together a more complete program to offer later in the year.

In the meantime, YOU can do the training just as well as someone else and comply with the OSHA standards. In fact, the standards require the operator to be trained on the piece of equipment they will be operating.

All OSHA is looking for is some documentation that a competent instructor (someone who has experience with the equipment and knows the regulations), has trained every forklift operator. According to OSHA "Training shall consist of a combination of formal instruction (e.g. lecture, discussion, interactive computer learning, video tape, written material), practical training (demonstrations performed by the trainer and practical exercises performed by the trainee), and evaluation of the operator's performance in the workplace.

Do you need expensive video? No. Fancy workbooks? No. The OSHA regulations also tell you what you should teach. And all the subjects to be covered are very elementary. This is not rocket science. And if your instructor needs a copy of the OSHA regulations, or help to do the training, call Gary at the LCCA Office, and we will get you going in the right direction.

**Safety News is published by the Lake County Contractors Association's Safety Committee, 1312 Washington St., Waukegan, IL – Mike Barnhart, Chairman, Gary L. Dowty, Executive Vice President. Many articles are submitted for publication and while every effort is made to assure the accuracy of the information, LCCA cannot be held liable for any information presented.**