

Lake County Contractors Association

Safety News

February, 1999

OSHA 200 Annual Posting - The OSHA 200 form, with the injured employees names and other identifying dates and locations removed, must be posted during the month of February each year at every work site of the employer. **In addition, it must be kept for 5 years for inspection** by OSHA, union representatives and injured employees.

The data from the log may also be requested by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for compilation of the annual survey of illnesses and injuries in industry.

Remember: The OSHA 200 form must be completed, posted and retained even if you had no recordable incidents!

Sign Up Now For 1999 Training - Just a reminder that we will be holding OSHA 10-Hour and First Aid classes every month throughout the year. **And for members who need 10-Hour training for 10 or more employees, or the First Aid course for 8-10 people, LCCA will schedule the course anywhere you wish.** We will provide instructor, materials, equipment -- everything except a place and students and we might be able to help with those as well. We will also extend this offer to other courses we offer subject to instructor availability.

Look beyond your field employees for training. Everyone in every office should have the First Aid/CPR course. You never know when it will be you that has a heart attack. Immediate CPR may make the difference between living and your spouse collecting your life insurance.

In addition to OSHA 10-Hour and First Aid Courses, we will be offering training on Fall Protection, Scaffold Safety, Silica Hazard Awareness, Respiratory Protection and Power Line Safety.

A copy of the registration form covering January & February 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.

Falls Continue to Kill – In spite of OSHA regulations and enforcement, falls continue to kill. According to OSHA, in 1997 nearly 700 workers were killed in fall related accidents and thousands more suffered injuries and lost time from work. Fall fatalities are most common from roofs, followed by falls from scaffolds, ladders and other surfaces.

Three fatal falls occur each day and according to Labor Department statistics, workers between the ages of 33 and 44 were most likely to be killed followed by workers from 45 to 54. Together these groups include almost 50% of all fall related fatalities.

Falls are preventable but more attention is needed to compliance with OSHA's fall protection standards or engineering out the hazard. Either way, contractors with employees working at heights need to take fall protections seriously. It is a serious problem for the construction industry!

Court Says General Liable for Sub – The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit has ruled that a general contractor who failed to inspect a subcontractors safety & health program was liable for the subs failure to provide fall protection. This is just another in a line of cases holding that a general contractor may be responsible for other employers' safety violations if the general could reasonably have detected and abated the violation.

In this case, OSHA made an inspection in response to a complaint and observed two steel workers working without hooking their safety belts into their safety lines. The subcontractors safety manager told the OSHA inspectors they thought this work was exempt from the OSHA Fall Protections Standard.

The general contractor only had a superintendent on site who walked the job a couple times a day to look for hazards. He admitted he was not an expert on fall protections and left this to the subcontractor. According to the court, the general contractor may rely on a subcontractors expertise only after appraising itself as to what safety efforts the subcontractor has made.

So before you put your liability in the hands of a subcontractor, make sure they know what to do and be able to prove it!

OSHA Region V Fatality Report - The OSHA Fatalities Report for October, November and December of 1998 list no fatalities which occurred in the Chicago/Milwaukee area. It should be noted that for the Region which includes Wisconsin, Illinois, and Ohio, there were 15 fatalities during the period including 10 in Ohio. There was only one in Illinois. We must be doing something right – or are very lucky!

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.