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Lake County Contractors Association Safety News

January, 2004

Safety Training –For information on classes scheduled, or to register on-line go to www.lcca-il.org/events. The easiest way to get your employees trained is to let us schedule a class specifically for you. We will make sure the content is tailored to your employees and your industry.

Call Lisa at the LCCA Office for all your safety training needs.

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 your class 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 LCCA Safety & Education Fund subsidizes the cost, the price is hard to beat.

Training dates are subject to our instructors' schedules, so if you want a particular date, call the LCCA Office as soon as possible.

Safety Award Applications Due – Applications for LCCA's 2003 Safety Awards are due into the LCCA Office no later than January 31. Awards will be presented at the February Membership Meeting.

Remember, you do not need to be "perfect" to apply. We do expect no fatalities during the year. Since your results are measured against **national averages**, you are not competing with other members, but rather your results are judged against all contractors across the country.

OSHA 300A Annual Posting - The OSHA 300A form must be posted during the months of February and March 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 300A form must be completed, posted and retained even if you had no recordable incidents!

Looking For a New Safety Manual? Think

LCCA! – The LCCA Safety Manual is getting rave reviews. Do you have your copy?

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

Planning Safety Meetings? Think of LCCA! –

About this time of year, many companies begin planning for a return to work – and the annual safety meeting. If so, remember that LCCA can be of help. We have an extensive list of safety videos available for loan. Call LCCA to get a list or just log on to the LCCA Web Site at www.lcca-il.org for the complete list.

We can also help with AV equipment. LCD projectors, laptop computers, screens, slide projectors, overhead projector. If you need it, and we have it, you can borrow it!

Forklift Emphasis Program - Due to the number of forklift-related fatalities observed in Illinois, the federal OSHA offices in Illinois have recently initiated an inspection program on forklift training and maintenance. Forklift fatality inspections in Illinois for calendar years 1997-2002 included:

Struck by industrial truck	6 deaths	27% of total
Fall from elevated platform	5	23%
Raised load fell on worker	5	23%
Truck overturned on employee	4	18%
Drove off dock	1	5%
Fell getting off industrial truck	1	5%
Total	22	100%

- ***Struck By** - The number of struck by incidents was surprising; there is a need to keep industrial trucks and workers on foot separated via driver training, pedestrian training, horns, aisle markings and other means.
- ***Falls** - We continue to see employees lifted on pallets and other unsafe homemade contraptions! Please get proper lifting devices with guardrails/tie offs.
- ***Raised Loads** - Keeping employees from under raised loads is obvious. Also consider the dangers of driving backward with a raised load and making a quick turn, causing the load to fall.

- *Overturns - Loading, training, safe surfaces, seat belts. I'm going to get preachy and raise some hackles with my personal opinion: Trucks overturning on employees shows the fallacy of the argument of employees jumping out of harm's way because they are not wearing a seat belt. How many of us are athletic enough to (1) react that quickly and (2) have the musculature to propel us far enough from an overturning industrial truck? The Aurora OSHA office investigated one recent case where a forklift overturned with a seat belted employee; the employee was a little banged up but experienced no treatable injuries. This was a life saved.

Illinois matches some of the leading forklift fatality causes published by NIOSH. Compared to NIOSH national statistics, Illinois appears to be doing a poor job in controlling struck by incidents, falls from elevated lift platforms, and loads falling on workers.

NIOSH data:

Forklift overturns	22% of total victims
Worker on foot struck by forklift	20% of total victims
Victim crushed by forklift	16% of total victims
Fall from forklift	9% of total victims

OSHA Action - Forklift Emphasis Program - In a nutshell here's what the Illinois OSHA offices are doing for both construction and general industry worksites:

- activating complaints and referrals alleging powered industrial truck violations
- where powered industrial trucks are present, expanding scope of inspections to include powered industrial truck training and maintenance

If you use forklifts, pay special attention to training of your operators and maintenance of your forklifts. OSHA will be paying attention!

Young Workers Cannot Operate Forklifts -

Most workers under the age of 18 are prohibited from operating forklifts, according to a new Safety and Health Information Bulletin issued by OSHA and the Wage and Hour Division. Federal regulations prohibit **most** workers in non-agricultural employment under the age of 18 from operating forklifts.

The new bulletin was developed jointly by OSHA and Wage and Hour to inform employers that the Fair Labor Standards Act prohibits workers under the age of 18 from operating forklifts for non-agricultural operations. The bulletin also reminds employers OSHA's Powered Industrial Truck standard requires that forklift operators who are 18 or older must be trained and certified as competent to operate forklifts.

The bulletin cites two recent fatal forklift accidents that occurred in warehouses in Georgia and Massachusetts. Both operators were under 18 years of age.

Additional information on federal child labor laws is available on the Internet at www.youthrules.dol.gov or through the department's toll-free number at 1-866-4USWAGE (1-866-487-9243).

Company Cannot Be Cited on "Per-Employee Basis

- The Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (OSHRC) recently said OSHA cannot cite an employer on a per-employee basis for training and respirator violations under the 1926 construction regulations, changing an earlier decision from an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ).

In this case, OSHA charged an employer with multiple violations of the respirator and training provisions of the asbestos standard. Specifically, OSHA alleged eleven willful violations of the respirator standard, on a per-employee basis, and eleven willful violations of the asbestos training standard, also on a per-employee basis.

The employer did not challenge the ALJ's decision affirming these items but argued that the respirator items should be grouped into one item and the training items likewise grouped into one item. OSHRC agreed with the employer and affirmed one violation for the company's failure to comply with 1926.1101(h)(i) and one violation for failure to comply with 1926.1101(k)(9).

For more information see:

www.oshrc.gov/decisions/html_2003/98-1645.html