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Lake County Contractors Association Safety News

July, 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 Day Planned - The LCCA Safety Committee is planning a Safety Day to be held on **Friday, October 8.** Chairman **Fred Rodheim, Abbot Laboratories**, has announced the theme will be "Get a Lift From Safety" and feature speakers on Fall Protection, Scaffolds and Lift Safety. Assisting Fred in planning the seminar will be **Dave Grum, Jos. J. Henderson & Son; Rob Schiller, Pickus Construction & Equipment; Mark Warnecke, Riley Construction and Gary Coleman, Chicagoland Construction Safety Council.** Details are still being developed but mark the date on your calendar.

Safety Webpage - The LCCA Board of Directors has approved a Safety Committee proposal. to fund the creation of a Safety Page on the LCCA Website. The webpage will be in the "Members Only" section of the website and will include many features including:

- A Hot Topics page to highlight current safety issues.
- "Ask the Expert" bulletin board where LCCA Safety Professionals will answer your questions about safety issues.
- You will be able to order any LCCA video for your safety meetings. Titles and descriptions will be included.
- Training schedules, course descriptions and training requirements.
- An archive of Safety News to find past articles that might be of interest.
- Toolbox Talks that can be downloaded as you need them.

- Links to many safety websites that can provide valuable information.

We expect the site to be ready to go in September. The entire webpage has undergone a facelift and if you have not visited the new, improved website, do so soon. Go to <https://www.lcca-il.org/> to see what is new. The Members Only password will be changing on July 1. The new password has been sent to all LCCA Members who renewed this year. If you have any questions on the website or the password, call the LCCA Office.

Tool Box Talks – Your Best Defense – The OSHA inspector has just shown up on your job and you are now on the defensive. If he finds a violation that occurred because an employee did not do their job, you will pay the price unless you can prove:

1. You have a rule
2. The rule was distributed to the employee
3. The employee was trained, and
4. You enforced the rule.

Tool Box Talks are the best way to document that an employee has been trained in a specific rule. Use them!

Worker Fraud – Workers Comp Fraud results in billions of dollars in false claims. The following are some indicators that a more in-depth look is needed.

- Claim is made just before a strike, layoff or termination.
- Injury not reported promptly.
- No witnesses to the injury.
- Accident occurs late Friday or on Monday.
- Accident report is inconsistent with facts.
- Type of injury unusual for the type of job.
- Accident occurs in an area where the employee would not normally go.
- Employee is difficult to reach at home.
- Employee has a record of numerous suspicious claims.

Hispanic Workers At Risk - From 1992 to 2002, Hispanic construction workers were nearly twice as likely to die on the job as non-Hispanics, according to a study published in the January issue of the American Journal of Industrial Medicine (Vol. 45, No. 1).

In this same report it stated, "in 2000, Hispanics constituted less than 16 percent of the construction workforce, yet suffered 23.5 percent of fatal injuries," researchers said.

The study further found the number of Hispanics working in construction has risen exponentially - from 8.5 percent in 1990 to 15 percent in 2000. One-third of these Hispanic construction workers reported that they spoke only Spanish.

"This reflects profound changes in typical construction work site communication, worksite culture, organization of work, and ultimately safety on the worksite," researchers further said.

The study also found Hispanics are exposed to greater risks than non-Hispanics. Falls were responsible for 37 percent of the fatalities among Hispanic workers.

OSHA Offers Hot Weather Tips – The sun and warm weather of summer can also bring special hazards for those working outdoors. To help employers and workers stay safe throughout the summer months, OSHA offers tips that can help prevent many heat-related deaths, illnesses, and injuries.

"The hot weather can present additional hazards to those who work outdoors or in very hot environments," said OSHA Administrator John Henshaw. "It's important that employers and workers know how to reduce heat related illnesses and fatalities. Simple precautions can often save lives."

The combination of heat, humidity and physical labor can lead to fatalities. The two most serious forms of heat related illnesses are heat exhaustion (primarily from dehydration) and heat stroke, which could be fatal. Signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke need immediate attention. Recognizing those warning signs and taking quick action can make a difference in preventing a fatality.

Protecting Yourself in the Sun is a revised pocket card that explains how to perform self-examinations to detect early stages of skin cancer. The card also describes common physical features of skin cancer that can be caused by exposure to the sun.

Working Outdoors is an OSHA fact sheet that offers advice on ways to protect against exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UV), precautions to take if working in extreme heat, and how to protect against Lyme Disease and the West Nile Virus. The fact sheet also offers links for teenagers working at summer jobs.

OSHA's ***Heat Stress Card*** lists tips and precautions to prevent many heat-related deaths and injuries. Available in English and Spanish, this laminated fold-up card is free to employers to distribute to their workers. It offers a quick reference about heat-related injuries, including warning signs, symptoms and early treatment.

These OSHA publications can be downloaded from the agency's website www.osha.gov or obtained from the OSHA publications office, Rm. N3101, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20210.

Assured Equipment Grounding Conductor Program - Red is next quarter's color for contractors following the assured equipment grounding conductor program. As of July 1, 2004, contractors should be using **Red** 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.

