



Lake County Contractors Association

Safety News

November, 2004

Safety Training –For information on classes scheduled, or to register on-line go to <http://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.

Frostbite – Cold weather is just around the corner and all personnel working outdoors in winter conditions should be aware of frostbite risk. Frostbite is the freezing of the skin and underlying tissue. Ice crystals form in the cells, which kill the cells. Frostbite damage can go from the superficial surface of the skin to deeper tissue loss, which could result in amputation. Exposed skin and the extremities (fingers, toes, ears and nose) are most commonly affected.

The first warning sign is often frostnip, a painful tingling feeling that follows feeling cold. If the area becomes numb, frostbite has started. The skin will have a hard, pale and cold quality. When the area thaws, the flesh becomes red and painful.

If you experience any of the warning symptoms, get out of the cold. If you cannot, warm your hands by tucking them into your armpits. Cover your nose, ears or face with your dry gloved hands. If after warming, the affected area remains numb, you should seek medical attention immediately. If you are not able to get immediate professional medical care, warm frostbitten hands or feet in warm, **not hot**, (below 100 degrees F) water.

Never rub the affected area, put snow on it, or try to warm it over a dry heat source. Some precautions for working outdoors are listed.

- Limit your exposure by breaking up the job into shorter segments.
- Cover your head, ears and face.
- Wear mittens instead of gloves when possible.

- Don't overdress causing you to sweat excessively.
- Dress in layers with polypropylene or some other wicking material as your first layer and a wind proof, breathable barrier as your outer layer.
- Make sure you are well hydrated.
- Stay active but if you become fatigued, get out of the cold.
- Stay alert to the condition of your extremities and any exposed skin.

OSHA Forms On Line – The revised OSHA Form 300, Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses is available on OSHA's website at <http://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/new-osh300form1-1-04.pdf>. The forms, which are required for employers to use in recording injuries and illnesses, have changed in several important ways for 2004.

Foremost among the changes is the addition of an occupational hearing loss column to OSHA's Form 300, Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses. Other changes include:

- "days away from work" column now comes before the days "on job transfer or restriction"
- more clear formulas for calculating incidence rates
- new recording criteria for occupational hearing loss in the "Overview" section;
- more prominent column heading "Classify the Case" to make it clear that employers should mark only one selection among the four columns offered.

The new form has the date of revision (rev. 1/2004) located on the form next to the form number.

Save The Date – The Chicagoland Construction Safety Council's 15th Annual Construction Safety Conference and Exposition is scheduled for February, 15, 16 & 17, 2005. This year the theme is "**Safety, From the Ground Up.**" Once again the conference will be held at the Rosemont Convention Center and will feature over 70 construction safety sessions.

In addition, the Safety Expo will be open on February 15 & 16 and feature exhibitors on all the latest safety and health technology. For exhibitor information, call Beverlee Carrick at (800) 552-7744 x202.

Cordless Drill Recall – Wagner Spray Tech Corp., of Plymouth, MN is recalling 180,000 Wagner cordless drill charger bases. A defective battery can cause the charger base to overheat, causing the base to melt and possibly burn nearby objects.

This recall includes 9.6-volt, 10.8-volt, 12-volt, 14.4-

volt, and 180-volt Wagner drill charger bases. The drills were sold in black and gray, and have the name "Wagner" printed on them. Model numbers involved in the recall are: W96DK, W108DK, W120DK, WB96, WB120, WB144, and WB180K. The model numbers are located on a label on the side of the drill.

The charger bases were sold at department and hardware stores and through mail-order sales from January 1996 through December 2003 from between \$40 and \$100. For more information, go to www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml04/04091.html.

OSHA Reminds Staff - Guidelines not Basis for Citation

- Richard Fairfax, Director of OSHA's Directorate for Enforcement Programs recently sent a memo to the Agency's regional administrators reminding them that guidelines are not new standards or regulations and do not create any new OSHA duties for employers. An employer's failure to implement a guideline is, therefore, not a violation, or evidence of a violation of the general duty clause of the OSH Act, Fairfax points out in the memo.

Furthermore, the fact that OSHA has developed industry-specific guidelines is not evidence of an employer's obligations under the general duty clause; and the fact that a measure is recommended in any OSHA guideline document but not adopted by an employer is not evidence of a violation of the general duty clause.

Guidelines, according to the memo, are designed to increase employer and employee awareness of specific workplace hazards and to highlight ways in which employers and employees can work together to eliminate those hazards. Employers are encouraged to review and strengthen their overall safety and health practices and to guard against workplace accidents, injuries, and illnesses. The guidelines provide a general framework for action by employers and employees.

Quantitative Fit Testing Protocol Approved by OSHA

- OSHA is approving an additional quantitative fit testing protocol, the controlled negative pressure (CNP) REDON fit testing protocol, for inclusion in Appendix A of its Respiratory Protection Standard. The protocol affects, in addition to general industry, OSHA respiratory protection standards for shipyard employment and construction

The CNP REDON protocol requires the performance of three different test exercises followed by two redonnings of the respirator, while the CNP protocol approved previously specifies eight test exercises, including one redonning of the respirator. In addition to adding the CNP REDON protocol, OSHA made several editorial and non-substantive technical revisions to the standard associated with the CNP REDON protocol and the previously approved CNP protocol.