



Lake County Contractors Association Safety News

April, 2005

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.

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 A/V equipment. LCD projectors, laptop computers, screens, slide projectors or overhead projector. If you need it and we have it, you can borrow it!

Assured Equipment Grounding Conductor Program

Green is this quarter's color for contractors following the assured equipment grounding conductor program. As of April 1, 2005, contractors should be using **Green** tape when marking cords.

The assured equipment 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.

Fall Protection Seminar Planned

Safety Committee Chair Fred Rodheim has announced that LCCA, in cooperation with Abbott Laboratories and OSHA, will host a Safety Seminar on Fall Protection on June 22 at the Greenbelt Cultural Center. Tentatively the seminar will run from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and include lunch. Details are being finalized but mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Cell Phone Hazards

Motorists are more accident-prone and slower to react when they talk on cellular telephones - even hands-free models - because "inattention blindness" makes the drivers less able to process visual information, University of Utah researchers found.

"Even when participants (drivers) are directing their gaze at objects in the driving environment, they may fail to 'see' them because attention is directed elsewhere," says the new study by psychologists David Strayer, Frank Drews, and William A. Johnston. "Phone conversations impair driving performance by withdrawing attention from the visual scene, yielding a form of inattention blindness."

The study concludes that inattention blindness explains the researchers' widely publicized findings that users of hands-free and hand-held cell phones are equally impaired, missing more traffic signals and reacting to signals more slowly than motorists who do not use cell phones.

Do you have a policy for cell phone use in your company? You might want to consider one, and at the very least remind employees that they need to be especially careful when using cell phones while driving.

New Excavator Card Available

A new OSHA safety information pocket card, Safety in Excavations or Trenches, will help workers and employers understand safe trenching practices and the federal requirements for construction excavation safety. The cards are printed in English on one side and Spanish on the other.

The cards can be downloaded from OSHA's web site on the publications page or can be ordered by calling OSHA's publications office at (202) 693-1888.

"This new card provides practical, yet critically important, information that can help save lives," said Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA Jonathan L. Snare. "We know that construction excavation can be dangerous work and that's why it is important that we make every effort to provide these workers with the tools they need to stay safe on the job."

The new pocket-sized card explains that excavations or trenches five feet deep or greater require a protective system. It also highlights OSHA's requirements that excavation or trench walls must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Sloped for stability;
- Cut to create stepped or benched grades;
- Supported by a system made with posts, beams, shores or planking and hydraulic jacks;
- Supported by a trench box; or
- An exit ladder must be within 25 feet of workers.

Excavating is recognized as one of the most hazardous construction operations. OSHA recently revised construction excavation standards to make them easier to understand, permit the use of performance criteria where possible, and provide construction employers with options when classifying soil and selecting employee protection methods.

Employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthful workplace for their employees. OSHA's role is to assure the safety and health of America's workers by setting and enforcing standards; providing training, outreach, and education; establishing partnerships; and encouraging continual process improvement in workplace safety and health. For more information, visit www.osha.gov.

JULIE Sets New Record

Representatives of the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators (JULIE, Inc.) announced today that the Illinois One-Call System received a record 1.2 million underground utility locate requests from professional excavators and homeowners in 2004. In addition, 30 new members joined the not-for-profit organization, increasing total membership to 1,770. Compared to the previous year, these totals represent increases of 5 percent and 2 percent, respectively.

"Each year, more utility companies and municipalities that supply power, gas, water and telecommunications are delivering these services underground," said Mark Frost, executive director of JULIE, Inc. "One free call can truly make a difference. The far-reaching consequences of unsafe or careless digging practices can take a staggering toll, in terms of costly delays, environmental or property damage, liability, personal injury and even loss of life."

JULIE, Inc. reached another milestone by distributing over 7.7 million underground utility locate requests to members in 2004. In addition, approximately 37 percent of the locate requests were entered directly by professional excavators via Web Remote Ticket Entry, a unique service that allows access to the JULIE system for frequent users.

The following is a list of the top 20 counties in Illinois for locate requests from excavators in 2004: Cook; DuPage; Will; Lake; Kane; McHenry; St. Clair; Winnebago; Madison; Sangamon; Kendall; McLean; Champaign; Peoria; Tazewell; DeKalb; Kankakee; Rock Island; LaSalle; and Boone.

Aerial Lift Operator Qualification

By Paul Satti, Technical Director, Construction Safety Council - Only authorized persons shall operate an aerial lift. An authorized person is one who is approved or assigned by the employer to perform a specific type of duty or duties, in this case, operating an aerial lift.

Also, aerial lift operators must be qualified; meaning that the operator has successfully demonstrated the ability to solve or resolve problems relating to operating an aerial lift.

One term that is not used to describe the training of an aerial lift operator is "certified", meaning that a written document of proof of compliance is created, i.e. a physical card or jobsite file. An employer must certify that each operator of a forklift be trained and evaluated. No such certification is required for aerial lift operators, and so it is often not until an accident occurs that qualification is questioned.

A training program for aerial lift operators should include and stress, but not be limited to:

1. The purpose and use of manuals.
2. That operating manuals are an integral part of the aerial lift and must be stored properly in the weather resistant compartment when not in use.
3. A pre-start inspection.
4. Responsibilities associated with problems or malfunctions affecting the operation of the aerial lift.
5. Factors affecting stability.
6. The purpose of placards and decals.
7. Workplace inspection.
8. Safety rules and regulations.
9. Authorization to operate.
10. Operator warnings and instructions.
11. Actual operation of the aerial lift.

To help contractors show proof of compliance towards OSHA's training requirements and the need to have only authorized persons operate aerial lifts, CSC has developed an Aerial Lift Operator Authorization Record. This document is to serve as proof of compliance for the following OSHA requirements:

- Only authorized persons shall operate an aerial lift.
- Employees are instructed in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the regulations applicable to the work environment.

Copies of the Aerial Lift Operator Authorization Record are available from CSC by calling (800) 552-7744 or (708) 544-2082.