



# Lake County Contractors Association Safety News

**February, 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.

**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 the industry.

**Remember: The OSHA 300A form must be completed, posted and retained even if you had no recordable incidents!**

**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](http://www.lcca-il.org) for the complete list.

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

**Safety Conference Starts February 15** – The Chicagoland Construction Safety Council's 15<sup>th</sup> 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. Keynote speakers include the

Department of Labor's "Drug Czar" discussing the new Alliance between OSHA and the Building Trades to reduce the impact of drugs and alcohol on construction projects, The Duct Tape Guys and Michael Durant, the inspiration for the movie "Blackhawk Down."

In addition, the Safety Expo will be open on February 15 & 16 and feature exhibitors on all the latest safety and health technology.

**OSHA Inspection Goal Exceeded** – OSHA Chief John Henshaw has released the agency's annual enforcement statistics. Henshaw said the agency exceeded its inspection goal for FY 2004, completing 39,167 total inspections including more than 300 under the new Enhanced Enforcement Program (EEP) that focuses on employers who repeatedly ignore their safety and health obligations. OSHA also completed nearly 3,000 inspections within industries identified with high injury and illness rates.

Henshaw said the agency cited 86,708 violations of OSHA standards and regulations during FY 2004, an increase of 3.8 percent over the previous year and nearly 10 percent over the last five years. Of particular significance was the increase in serious and willful violations issued during FY 2004 (3 and 14 percent, respectively, over FY 2003). Henshaw said the increase demonstrates that OSHA is targeting the right workplaces for inspections by accurately identifying employers who repeatedly or willfully violate the law.

Henshaw also noted that injury and illness rates continue to decline and that fatality rates held their downward trend. Over the past five years, the rate has decreased 11 percent.

**Utility Vehicles Recalled** – Deere & Company, of Moline, IL is recalling 14,476 John Deere Gator HPX Utility Vehicles. Loss of brake system pressure can decrease the effectiveness of the brakes. Deere is aware of 14 instances of replacement of the master brake cylinder due to this problem. There have been no reported injuries. Authorized John Deere dealers sold the vehicles from December 2003 to October 2004 for between \$8,000 and \$10,600. For more information go to <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml05/05508.html>

**Brake Cleaner Recalled** – The Valvoline Company, a Division of Ashland Inc., of Lexington, KY is recalling 2.8 million cans of Pyroil® Brake Parts Cleaner and NAPA® Brake Cleaner. The effected aerosol cans contain a defective spray valve that might stick when depressed, possibly emptying the can's flammable contents. Valvoline has received nine complaints about sticking spray valves. One consumer was injured when

the product sprayed in his eye. The recall involves 13-ounce cans of Pyroil® Non-Chlorinated Brake Parts Cleaner and NAPA® Non-Chlorinated Brake Cleaner. This product is used by professional mechanics as well as “do-it-yourself” consumers who perform brake repairs on their own vehicles. Auto parts retail stores nationwide sold the product from March 2004 through September 2004 for about \$2.00. To learn more, go to <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml105/05037.html>

**Life Jackets Required Over Streams?** – Life Jackets are required on construction sites even when employees are working over water that is less than two feet deep, according to a standard interpretation letter released October 4<sup>th</sup> by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Life jackets are required “where the danger of drowning exists” since even over shallow water, a worker could be knocked unconscious and drown, if they are not wearing a life jacket or buoyant work vest, said the letter from OSHA to Lynn Raper, safety director of Cape Romain Constructors Inc., Wando S.C.

A second question in the same letter asked whether a lifesaving skiff is also required in water that is less than two feet deep.

While the rule does not state a minimum depth of water is required, “if water were so shallow that rescuers could simply run in (and a skiff would foul on the bottom anyway), a skiff would not be required,” according to the agency’s response, signed by Bruce Swanson of the OSHA Construction Directorate.

**Compressive Strength Testing of Mortar and Concrete** – Recently OSHA was asked about its standard requiring compressive strength testing in mortar and concrete in a masonry wall. OSHA said in 1991 that because the materials testing group ASTM International had no standard test method to test the compressive strength of field-cured mortar, OSHA would not enforce requirements of its steel erection standard in that area until this method is developed.

However, there is a standard test method for testing concrete’s compressive strength in footings, piers, and walls, OSHA said. For that reason, employers must continue to test concrete in the footings, piers, and walls on the basis of an appropriate test method, the agency said.

OSHA also clarified that concrete used to grout hollow concrete blocks when building a masonry wall is considered “concrete in the footings, piers, and walls” under the standard.

**NIOSH Unveils Eye Safety Webpage** – Each day about 2,000 U.S. workers have a job-related eye injury that requires medical treatment. About one third of the injuries are treated in hospital emergency departments and more than 100 of these result in one or more days of lost work. The majority of these injuries result from small particles or objects striking or abrading the eye. Examples include metal slivers, wood chips, dust, and cement chips that are ejected by tools, wind blown, or fall from above a worker. Some of these objects, such as nails, staples, or slivers of wood or metal penetrate the eyeball and result in a permanent loss of vision. Large objects may also strike the eye/face, or a worker may run into an object causing blunt force trauma to the eyeball or eye socket. Chemical burns to one or both eyes from splashing of industrial chemicals or cleaning products are common. Thermal burns to the eye occur as well. Among welders, their assistants, and nearby workers, UV radiation burns (welder’s flash) routinely damage a workers’ eye and surrounding tissue. NIOSH is addressing the occupational eye injury burden in conjunction with the Healthy Vision objectives of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Healthy People of 2010 program. NIOSH has just released two new eye safety web pages <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/eye/>. The main topic page on eye safety provides access to NIOSH eye safety resources, including a new general guidance web page on eye safety for infection control. The primary eye safety topic page also provides links to a variety of other eye safety resources including eye injury data sources, related bibliographic citations, and numerous other eye safety standards, regulations, and guidance materials.