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Weekly Safety Tip

Life Is All About Choices!®

November 6, 2017

SCI Safety Tip: Portable fireplaces

Source: <http://www.nfpa.org>

Date:

There is nothing like sitting by an open fire on a cold night. Indoor and outdoor portable ethanol burning fireplaces have become more popular in recent years. While these products provide ambiance and a little warmth, keep in mind the fuel, device and open flame can be dangerous.

Ethanol fuel smarts

Store ethanol fuel in a closed container, away from the fireplace and out of the reach of children. It may not be easy to see the ethanol fuel flame. Always close the lid or use a snuffer to be sure the flame is extinguished before refueling into a cooled fireplace. Use only fuel made specifically for the fireplace.



SCI Safety Slogan

**WHEN YOU
GAMBLE
WITH SAFETY,
YOU BET
YOUR LIFE.**

James Lehrke - SCI

Fireplace safety

- A portable ethanol burning fireplace, and the fuel, should only be used by adults.
- Clean up any fuel spillage and be sure all liquid has evaporated before lighting the fireplace.
- Light the fireplace using a utility lighter or long match.
- An adult should always be present when a portable fireplace is burning.
- Place the fireplace on a sturdy surface away from table edges.
- Never try to move a lit fireplace or one that is still hot.
- Don't pour ethanol fuel in a device that is lit or not completely cool. It may result in a fire or injury.
- Allow the device to cool down for at least 15 minutes before refueling.
- Extinguish the flame when you leave the room, home or go to sleep
- [Download NFPA's free safety tip sheet.](#)



SCI OSHA Compliance: Goodwill Fined For Willful Safety Violations That Led To Worker's Gruesome Death

Source: <http://www.rightinginjustice.com>

By: Natalie Cone

Date: April 14, 2017

Goodwill had been warned multiple times both verbally and by letter for **hazardous working conditions** at an outlet store it operated in California, particularly regarding the use of **dangerous equipment**. The warnings were ignored, and last September, a 26-year-old **employee at the store was killed** in a gruesome accident.

Cal-OSHA, the workplace safety agency for the state, has now fined **Goodwill Industries of Sacramento Valley & Northern Nevada** more than \$100,000 for six significant safety violations.

The *Sacramento Bee* reports that Dave Goudie, a **commercial driver** and employee of Goodwill on the **waste management team** at the time of the accident, had an "intuitive sense of urgency" several weeks prior to the fatal accident. He told the news outlet he began verbally expressing complaints about what he observed as the hazardous working conditions at the facility, pointing out the risks to untrained employees. On Aug. 25, Goudie wrote a **memo** to his supervisors titled "**Employee Workplace Safety Hazard Notification**," detailing the dangers he observed.

"Based on my personal observations, most employees now operating compactors at each plant have not received the required training," the memo stated. "This exposes Goodwill Industries to fines in the tens of thousands of dollars from Cal-OSHA and, **should an employee become injured or killed** as a result of this lack of training, civil damages could climb into the millions. All of that massive liability exposure is completely UNNECESSARY if the required training is made mandatory by company leadership and reporting supervisors are held accountable for failures to do so," he wrote. Five weeks later, Abraham Garza, 26, **died** when his **head was crushed** by the very equipment Goudie warned the company about.





Quick Tips for Healthy Living

Eat Smart

In November, the American Heart Association celebrates "Eat Smart Month". It seems fitting to focus on this since the Thanksgiving holiday is a time where many Americans tend to overeat.

Why is that? Many times it comes down to portions. Many of us don't know what a healthy portion is. A portion is what you eat, but it may not be a serving. A healthy portion, for example, is eating based on the manufacturers recommended serving size. The recommended serving size is often less than the amount we are used to eating. It is also less than most portions we are served, especially at restaurants.

Many packaged items contain more than one serving. Read the Nutritional Facts Label to learn the size of a single serving and the total number of servings per container. You don't have to overdo on your portions, you have to learn what the recommended serving size is and adjust your portions!

Another way to stay healthy this holiday season is to participate in a holiday walk or run. Start a new holiday tradition by getting out and being active together as a family!

Goudie had been checking the equipment's alignment when Garza appeared, asking to help. They had been acquainted merely minutes. Goudie asked Garza to check the alignment on the opposite side of the compactor. Goudie told the *Sacramento Bee* about the horror he felt when he witnessed Garza stick his head between the bin and compactor a second before the truck's driver released the cable securing the bin.

"I had to watch this poor kid's head get crushed," Goudie told the publication, and said he grieved even further after learning that Garza had a 7-year-old child. "It was very traumatic. As a father myself, I was outraged. On top of that, I had to witness the very thing I'd been dogging them about."

Cal-OSHA stated in its report, "None of the authorized employees including (Garza) were provided training in the safe operation of the compactors at the front and back loading dock areas."

Goodwill claims nothing was its fault, and even coldly blames Goudie for the death of Garza. "We did our own investigation and determined that this employee was negligent in the situation, and he was terminated," Goodwill spokeswoman Karen McClafin told the *Sacramento Bee*.

"Goodwill definitely grieves over the tragedy of this accident, but this was caused by the negligence of one employee." Goodwill has appealed the citations, saying "we operate very safely and efficiently here."

"We recognize the seriousness of the action, but we don't believe we deserve the citations that came along with it," McClafin defends.

Goudie believes being terminated and banned from the premises was a **retaliation** for his complaints, saying the company operates under the culture of "profits over people."

Source: [The Sacramento Bee](#)

We'd always like your feedback. Let us know what articles you'd like to see!

In Loving Memory... Jessica, Kristin a k



SAVE TOMORROW
THINK SAFETY TODAY