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Weekly Safety Tip

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October 24, 2016

SCI Safety News: NSC 2016: Seven Common Mistakes When It Comes to Workplace Violence (Part 1)

By: Stefanie Valentic | *EHS Today*

Source: <http://ehstoday.com>

Date: *October 20, 2016*



Workplace violence and emergency preparedness arguably were the hottest topics at this year's National Safety Congress in Anaheim, Calif.

The definition of workplace violence does not encompass a violent shooter situation, but any communicated threat, harassment or bullying, said Carol Casteel, associate professor, department of occupational and environmental health at the University of Iowa.

Throughout the session, attendees were polled about workplace violence and live results were revealed. When asked if they had a workplace violence policy in place, just over half, 52 percent, of the audience indicated that they did.

Workers most at-risk of homicide include law enforcement, restaurant, convenience store, taxi service and gas station. Likewise, employees in customer service professions with close public interaction are at risk for violence. Healthcare and social workers are at five times greater risk than those in other industries to become a victim of workplace violence

SCI Safety Slogan



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because of negative patient interactions, said Kumari Armstrong, counsel, California's Department of Industrial Relations. The department is working on statewide recommendations for workplace violence prevention which will be released in the near future. With that standard definition established and common at-risk professions identified, Carol Cambridge, CEO, Violence Free told attendees about seven mistakes workplaces are making when it comes to developing a policy and how to go about correcting those mistakes.

1. Policies that are misunderstood or nonexistent

Policies are often too vague or too complex, Cambridge said. A document should be written at 8th grade level to accommodate all levels of workers.

“You want to make the policy clear, specific and easy to understand,” she said.

In cases of domestic violence that spill into an employee’s place of employment, management should take responsibility to ensure the worker takes protective measures before the situation escalates.

“Are you asking employees to come forward and make sure they have an order of protection?” she inquired.

SCI OSHA Update: Fall protection, hazard communication top OSHA violations list again (Part 1)

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

By: *Ana Ellington, Legal Editor*

Date: *October 19, 2016*

SCI's Team is committed to assisting companies with compliance, and safety culture. We continue to search for those organizations who want our services and are looking to increase safety awareness in their workplace. As you read today about OSHA's continued push for increased fines and enforcement, we fill a void for many who need and are looking to improve safety programs or are just starting the compliance process. Wherever you may fall, we want to help you succeed in SAFETY!

Patrick Kapust, Deputy Director of OSHA’s Directorate of Enforcement programs, announced the most frequently violated standards for fiscal year (FY) 2016 at the National Safety Council Congress & Expo 2016 in Anaheim, California.

Kapust reminded the audience that the following data is preliminary. The Agency will finalize the numbers the second week in November, which will become the official top 10 list. He also noted that the top 10 most violated standards vary little from year to year.

10. Electrical—general requirements: 1,704 violations

Common violations of the general industry rule include:

- Not guarding live parts
- Not protecting working space, maintain



Take 3 Actions to Fight the Flu Part 2

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says:

2. Stop Germs

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick with flu symptoms, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu.

3. Antiviral Drugs

- If you get the flu, antiviral drugs can treat your illness.
- Antiviral drugs are different from antibiotics. They are prescription medicines (pills, liquid or an inhaled powder).
- Antiviral drugs can shorten your illness and make it milder. They can also prevent serious flu complications, like pneumonia.
- It is very important that antiviral drugs be used early to treat people who are very sick with the flu and people who are sick with the flu and at high risk for serious flu complications. Other people also may be treated with antiviral drugs by their doctor. Most otherwise-healthy people who get the flu, however, do not need antiviral drugs.
- Flu-like symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue.

9. Electrical—wiring methods: 1,940 violations

Common violations of this general industry rule include:

- Using extensions/flexible cords as or instead of permanent wiring

8. Machine guarding: 2,451 violations

Common violations of this general industry rule include:

- Lack of guarding at point of operation/nip points
- Not anchoring fixed machinery

Amputations are a major hazard of insufficient machine guarding, for which OSHA has a National Emphasis Program. The reporting requirement that went into effect January 1, 2015, require employers to report to OSHA any amputation, including fingertip amputations with or without bone loss, within 24 hours of the incident.

7. Ladders: 2,639 violations

These construction rule violations include:

- Using ladders in ways not designed to be used
- Using top rung
- Using damaged ladders

6. Powered industrial trucks: 2,860 violations

These general industry standard violations include:

- Not operating trucks safely
- Not training workers operating trucks
- Not complying with recertification requirements
- Not providing refresher training when worker is observed operating unsafely
- Not maintaining trucks for safe use

According to Kapust, many of these violations involve fatalities.

5. Lockout/tagout: 3,414 violations

These general industry rule violations include:

- Workers not getting required training
- No lockout/tagout procedures

Kapust said these violations also involved fatalities.

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