



# Weekly Safety Tip

“Your Connection for Workplace Safety”  
Phone: 920-208-7520

*We're about service, commitment, results, and accountability!*

*Our Weekly Safety Tip provides valuable and current safety information relevant for Work, Home & Play.*

*And, you will be kept current on the latest Safety Compliance issues.*



**SCI SAFETY NEWS OR TIP**



**SCI OSHA NEWS OR COMPLIANCE**



**SCI HEALTHYLIVING and WELLNESS NEWS**

**We want to hear from you! Send us your feedback and give us ideas for future safety topics.**

**Let us know how you feel about our new look!**

**Safety Slogan**

**Ice and Snow Take it Slow!**

**James Lehrke-SCI**

**of the week**

## SCI Safety Tip: Four Basic Rules of Firearm Safety

Source:<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/es/enforcement/safety/hu nttip.htm>

As you join thousands of hunters heading into the woods, fields and marshes during the fall hunting seasons, Wisconsin DNR safety experts remind you to review and think about firearm safety each and every time you head out.

Essential to any responsible hunting trip is an ironclad adherence to the four basic rules of firearm safety that can be easily remembered using the TAB-K formula.

**T = Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.** Never assume a firearm is unloaded and never treat it that way, even if you watch as it is unloaded. Make it a habit to treat guns like they are loaded all the time.

**A = Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.** About one third of all hunting incidents are self inflicted injuries. That means the muzzle was pointed at some part of the hunter's body. A safe direction is a direction where the bullet will travel and harm no one in the event of an unwanted discharge. There are no accidental discharges with firearms, only unwanted discharges.

**B = Be certain of your target and what's beyond it.** Positive target identification is a must. To shoot at something you only think is a legal target is gambling. In the case of human injury, that means gambling with human life. You must be absolutely certain and correct in judgment before deciding to shoot. Otherwise, it's reckless behavior. In addition to identifying the target, a hunter must know that a safe backstop for their bullet is present in every shooting situation. We don't always hit our target, and, in some cases, the bullet passes through the target. A safe backstop guarantees that no one will get hurt.

**K = Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.** If a hunter stumbles with a firearm in one hand and nothing in the other, whatever that person does with their free hand will automatically happen with the hand holding the gun. If a finger is inside the trigger guard, that hand is likely going to close around the pistol grip of the gun and on the trigger causing an unwanted discharge.

Blaze orange clothing that has faded over time, a jacket that doesn't fit right or a scope that isn't adjusted correctly can compromise your safety and the safety of others.

Have a safe and enjoyable hunt!

## SCI OSHA News: Preventing Silica Exposure: Engineering Controls vs. PPE

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

Date: November 8, 2013

*As we said in [yesterday's Advisor](#), OSHA is proposing to change the PELs for silica. The proposal would also require primary reliance on engineering controls and work practices.*

OSHA says that primary reliance on engineering controls and work practices rather than PPE to prevent silica exposure is consistent with long-established good industrial hygiene practice, with the agency's experience in ensuring that workers have a healthy workplace, and with the agency's traditional adherence to a hierarchy of preferred controls.

The argument for engineering controls maintains that they:

- Are reliable
- Provide consistent levels of protection to a large number of workers
- Can be monitored, allow for predictable performance levels
- Can efficiently remove a toxic substance from the workplace, and once removed, the toxic substance no longer poses a threat to employees

OSHA points out that the effectiveness of engineering controls does not generally depend on human behavior to the same extent as PPE does, and the operation of equipment is not as vulnerable to human error as PPE is.

### The Problem with Respirators

Regulators do not deny that respirators are an important means of protecting workers. But they emphasize that to be effective respirators must be:

- Individually selected
- Fitted and periodically refitted
- Conscientiously and properly worn
- Regularly maintained
- Replaced as necessary

In many workplaces, these conditions for effective respirator use are difficult to achieve, and the absence of any of these conditions can reduce or eliminate the protection that respirators provide to some or all of the employees who wear them.

In addition, says OSHA, use of respirators in the workplace presents other safety and health concerns. For example:

- Respirators impose substantial physiological burdens on some employees.
- Certain medical conditions can compromise an employee's ability to tolerate the physiological burdens imposed by respirator use, thereby placing the employee wearing the respirator at an increased risk of illness, injury, and even death.
- Psychological conditions, such as claustrophobia, can also impair the effective use of respirators by employees.

Safety problems created by respirators that limit vision and communication must also be considered. In some difficult or dangerous jobs, effective vision or communication is vital. Voice transmission through a respirator can be difficult and fatiguing.

Because respirators are less reliable than engineering and work practice controls and may create additional problems, OSHA believes that primary reliance on respirators to protect workers is generally inappropriate when feasible engineering and work practice controls are available.

## Be Informed

OSHA is increasing enforcement and hazard awareness efforts on silica exposure in oil and gas operations, construction and demolition, sandblasting operations of all kinds, foundries, and manufacturing of asphalt, abrasives, paints, soaps, and glass. Any employer involved in these industries or operations are targets for OSHA inspections.

OSHA's ongoing efforts include a proposed rule aimed at curbing lung cancer, silicosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and kidney disease in America's workers. OSHA, which published the proposed rule on August 23, 2013, reports that crystalline silica exposure kills hundreds and sickens thousands of workers annually who develop silicosis and other respiratory problems from inhaling silica dust, a known carcinogen.

Right now, the proposed rule is subject to a 90-day public comment period, which will be followed by public hearings. Safety managers that will be affected by the rule once it takes effect, should be strategically evaluating the next steps. For instance:

- Should you participate in the comment and public hearing phases?
- How will the proposed rule impact your operations?
- How best to provide senior management with an assessment of the rule and associated costs?

Join us for an in-depth webinar on November 18 that will address these questions and more. Our presenter, a seasoned safety lawyer who is the secretary of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) E34 committee, which wrote the E1132 and E2625 silica standards that are referenced in the OSHA proposal, will provide participants with a comprehensive strategy for participating in the comment and public hearings and/or developing a compliance strategy.

## HEALTHY BITES

### Quick Tips for Healthy Living



## Sports Safety

Playing sports can be fun, but they can also be dangerous if you are not careful. You can help prevent injuries by

- Getting a physical to make sure you are healthy before you start playing your sport
- Wearing the right shoes, gear and equipment
- Drinking lots of water
- Warming up and stretching

If you have already hurt yourself playing a sport, make sure you recover completely before you start up again. If possible, protect the injured part of your body with padding, a brace or special equipment. When you do start playing again, start slowly.



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In Loving  
Memory of Jessica  
Lehrke