



“Your Connection for Workplace Safety”
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We're about service, commitment, results, and accountability!

Weekly Safety Tip

Life Is All About Choices!®

June 13, 2016

SCI Safety News: Preventable deaths reach an all-time high. What are the biggest risks?

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

Date: June 8, 2016



The National Safety Council (NSC) says preventable injuries, or accidents, claimed 136,053 lives in 2014—a 57 percent increase since 1992. Such injuries are now the fourth leading cause of death in the United States, behind heart disease, cancer, and chronic respiratory disease.

The data prompted the NSC to issue a commitment to eliminate preventable deaths in our lifetime. National Safety Council CEO Deborah A.P. Hersman said losing a life every four minutes to an injury we know how to prevent is unacceptable. She added, “Eliminating preventable deaths is a lofty goal, but not impossible. We can be successful one company, one family, and one life at a time.” NSC has created a Safety Checkup tool (<https://www.nsc.org/forms/safetycheckup.aspx>) that generates a safety profile based on factors like age, gender, and state of residence.

SCI Safety Slogan



Stop Cutting Corners!

James Lehrke-SCI

Do you know the leading cause of fatal accidents?

From birth to older age, National Safety Council lists the leading causes of preventable death as follows:

Age 1–4	Drowning
Age 5–24	Motor vehicle crashes
Age 25–64	Poisonings, largely from drug overdoses and prescription opioids
Age 65+	Falls



Maybe it's time for a tool box talk, or even a company-wide campaign, to address prescription drug abuse and the risks of driving and riding in motor vehicles. Whatever you do, be sure to get your employees involved in planning. Skin in the game increases commitment and compliance.

SCI OSHA News: OSHA launches pilot program for severe violators of whistleblower protection laws

Source: www.osha.gov

Date: June 7, 2016

On May 31, OSHA announced a pilot program aimed at protecting workers who report violations of law, safety and health—a severe violator enforcement program for employers that “continually and willfully” disregard the rights of whistleblowers.

OSHA's Whistleblower-Severe Violator Enforcement Program (W-SVEP) will be similar to its existing Severe Violator Enforcement Program, which includes employers that routinely ignore federal workplace safety and health regulations and mandates follow-up inspections to ensure compliance. W-SVEP became effective on May 27, 2016, in the agency's Kansas City Region, which includes employers in Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska, and those companies under federal enforcement in Iowa.

"W-SVEP will focus on employers that engage in egregious behavior and blatant retaliation against workers who report unsafe working conditions and violations of the law," said Karena Lorek, OSHA's acting regional administrator in Kansas City. "When employers retaliate against workers who exercise their legal rights, other workers may suffer a chilling effect and fear exercising their rights to speak up. Problems don't get fixed, and workers get hurt. Employers that act in that manner deserve greater public scrutiny and a powerful response from OSHA."



The criteria for inclusion on the W-SVEP log will include:

- All significant whistleblower cases;
- Cases deemed worthy of either litigation or the issuance of merit Secretary's Findings in connection with egregious citations, a fatality, or a rate-based incentive program for work-related injuries;
- A merit whistleblower case where the employer is already on the enforcement SVEP log; *and*
- A company with three or more merit whistleblower cases within the past three years.



Stop with Excuses and Make it Happen!

Today, for many American adults, the word “exercise” usually brings up negative thoughts. “I can’t.” “It’s too hard.” “I am too busy”. Physical fitness used to be essential to live. Hunting and gathering at first, then farming. In fact, only about one in five American adults get the recommended amount of aerobic and strength training exercise each week. We spend more time each day watching TV, going on online, eating and drinking or playing games on the computer or our phones.

There are endless benefits of physical activity. Research indicates that exercise can help reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, some cancers, and metabolic syndrome. Exercise allows us the ability to concentrate more, improve our mental health and help us live longer, healthier lives.

It only takes 150 minutes a week of moderate aerobic intensity like brisk walking, to get the benefits. That is 30 mins, 5 days a week! If you do not have 30 mins, you can break it up into three 10 minutes session each day. There are more 1,440 per day use 30 of those to improve your health and well-being!

Make sure to always consult your physician before starting any fitness activity.

Once an employer is determined to have met one of the criteria listed above, OSHA will place them on the W-SVEP log. After three years, a company may petition the regional administrator for a follow-up visit and removal from the program. At that time, OSHA will complete a comprehensive review of the company's policies and practices to determine if they have addressed and remedied the retaliation and its effects sufficiently.

Since OSHA implemented the severe violator program for health and safety enforcement cases in 2010, companies deemed as severe violators have made significant improvements.

"We hope that the W-SVEP pilot will be the catalyst that causes companies to change their behavior and instill a culture that restores employee confidence and reshapes the employer's perspective on whistleblowing," Lorek added. "In the past three years, four large regional employers would have met the criteria for inclusion in W-SVEP."

OSHA enforces the whistleblower provisions of 22 statutes protecting employees who report violations of various airline, commercial motor carrier, consumer product, environmental, financial reform, food safety, health care reform, nuclear, pipeline, worker safety, public transportation agency, railroad, maritime and securities laws.

Employers are prohibited from retaliating against employees who raise various protected concerns or provide protected information to the employer or to the government. Employees who believe that they have been retaliated against for engaging in protected conduct may file a complaint with the U.S. Secretary of Labor to request an investigation by OSHA's Whistleblower Protection Program.

- Freedom from negative thoughts & emotions
- Awareness of the beauty of ordinary things
- Calmness and 'spaciousness'
- Skills for managing painful experiences
- Sensitivity and responsiveness to life

What do you think?
Send us an email at:
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See our bold new look
In Loving Memory

In Loving Memory...
Jessica, Kristin and [redacted]

