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Weekly Safety Tip

Life Is All About Choices!®

July 24, 2017

SCI Safety Tip: The Heat Is On! 6 Tips to Beat the Summer Heat (Part 2)

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

By: Corey Berghoefer

Date: June 1, 2017



What to Do in an Emergency

If you suspect an employee has suffered heat stroke or stress, move the person to a cool, ventilated area, and lay the individual down with legs elevated. Be sure to check the pace of breath. You should try to lower the body temperature by using cold compresses or a fan. Offer the worker a drink of water and monitor vital signs. If necessary, call 911 for emergency assistance.

Even the most well-designed workplace safety programs ultimately will be ineffective without employee participation. In fact, a 2017 Gallup study revealed that employers with high levels of employee engagement had 70 percent fewer safety incidents than those with lower levels of engagement.

The same is true of heat-related illness. Co-workers often are the first to recognize an employee is suffering from heat-related illness. As we move into the summer months, it is important for employees and their supervisors to minimize the occurrence of heat-related illnesses, and communication and training is key. That includes training when onboarding new workers.

Safety on the job is not static. There's always room for improvement, so brainstorm with your team about ways to promote a higher level of

SCI Safety Slogan

“Hindsight is a wonderful thing but foresight is better, especially when it comes to saving life, or some pain.”

William Blake

James Lehrke-SCI

safety awareness for all, whether that's the frontline workers or the professionals in the front office.

To encourage worker safety, reward employees who follow your guidelines to stay safe and cool during the summer months. By putting an emphasis on safety instead of only productivity, you're rewarding the method of achievement rather than the result.

It all starts with you. If you enforce safety regulations and stand behind your staff 100 percent, your workers will take the cue that they need to put safety first – even in the face of increased production. Your employees will support you if you practice what you preach.



SCI OSHA News: Safety Failures Led to Deaths of Three Workers Who Entered a Manhole

Source: <http://ehstoday.com>

By: [Sandy Smith](#)

Date: July 19 2017

Confined Space can look very deceptive. Do you really know what hazards are lurking in the space?

On Jan. 16, Elway Gray, a 34-year-old pipe layer, entered a manhole in South Florida – a confined space – and quickly became unresponsive. Louis O’Keefe, a 49-year-old laborer, entered the manhole and attempted to rescue Gray. After O’Keefe also became unresponsive, Robert Wilson, a 24-year-old equipment operator, followed to help his fallen coworkers. All three men died.

Post-incident atmospheric testing in the manhole revealed lethal levels of hydrogen sulfide and carbon monoxide. Two other employees and a volunteer firefighter also were exposed to the toxic gases in the manhole during rescue attempts but survived.

“The hazards of working in manholes are well established, but there are ways to make it safe,” said Condell Eastmond, the OSHA area director in Fort Lauderdale. “Three employees needlessly lost their lives and others were injured due to their employer’s failure to follow safe work practices.”

OSHA has cited a South Florida utility company and related contracting company after the agency’s investigation into the deaths of the workers. OSHA investigators cited Douglas N. Higgins Inc. and its related contracting company, McKenna Contracting LLC, with 10 serious violations totaling \$119,507, in penalties. The incident-related serious violations are for failing to purge or ventilate the confined space before entry, exposing the workers to an asphyxiation hazard and not providing necessary rescue and emergency equipment for employees who were overcome inside a permit-required confined space.





Quick Tips for Healthy Living

Preventing and Treating Tick Bites

While mosquitoes don't use your blood for nourishment, ticks do. You can reduce your chances of being the tick's next meal by taking some precautions, especially when in the tick's natural habitat — woods, bushes and high grasses. To protect your family:

- Wear long-sleeve shirts, long pants and socks.
- Use a repellent with permethrin only on your clothes and shoes. If you're camping, spray your gear, too. DO NOT use permethrin on your skin. Instead use an insect repellent as we described above with DEET or a comparable product.
- When you go back inside, check for ticks.
- Check pets that have been outside or near you when you came in. Ticks can ride around on pets and jump to the family, so check carefully.
- Take a shower within two hours of going in. Showering before too much time goes by allows you to remove ticks before they can latch on too tight.
- To keep ticks away from your home, clear bushes, tall grasses and leaves from around your home. Mow often. If you have woods near your home, use wood chips or stones as a buffer between your patio and play equipment and tick habitat.

What to do if you have a tick

We'll start by dispelling some old myths. DO NOT use a hot match, petroleum jelly or fingernail polish to remove the tick. Here's what you should do:

- Use tweezers to remove the tick as soon as you can. Take hold of the tick as near its head as you can.
- Gently pull the entire tick straight out. Avoid crushing or twisting the tick. If part of the tick remains in the skin, call your health care professional for guidance.
- Wash the bite and your hands with soap and water.
- Put rubbing alcohol on the bite.

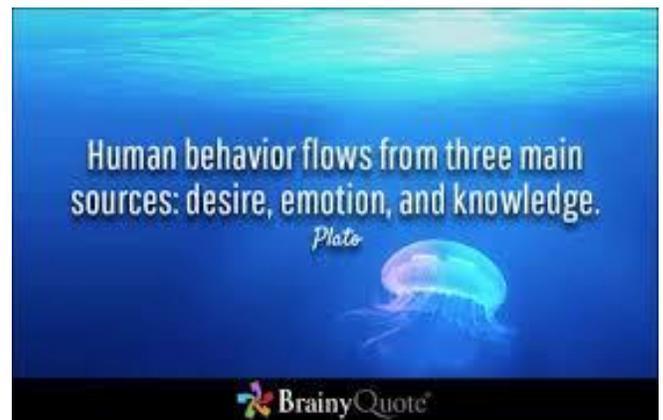
After a bug bite, if you or a family member gets sick or sees a rash or swelling that doesn't go away after a day or two, see your health care professional. It will be helpful for your provider if you can explain where and when you think the bite happened and what may have bitten you.

In addition, OSHA issued serious citations to Higgins and McKenna Contracting for failing to:

- Develop and implement a written [hazard communication](#) program for a worksite in which employees were exposed to dangerous chemicals and gases.
- Use a calibrated, direct-reading device to test for toxic gases, creating an asphyxiation hazard.
- Create and document the [confined space entry permit](#).
- Provide training to employees in the safe performance of their assigned duties in permit-required confined spaces.
- Provide a [guardrail](#) around the manhole opening, thereby exposing employees to a [fall hazard](#).

Founded in Ann Arbor, Michigan, D.N. Higgins expanded in 1989 with the opening of its Naples office. The company specializes in underground installations of mechanical systems, pump stations, storm water drainage systems and municipal infrastructure. McKenna Contracting LLC was formed in 2012 and is a related company that provides contract administration and labor to Higgins' jobsites in Florida.

The companies have 15 business days from receipt of the citations and proposed penalties to contest the findings before the independent [Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission](#).



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

In Loving Memory...
Jessica, Kristin and Nick

