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## *Weekly Safety Tip*

*Life Is All About Choices!®*

September 12, 2016

### **SCI Safety Tip: OSHA nails builder, contractor for fall hazards**

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

*Date: September 6, 2016*

A large national homebuilder and a local framing contractor have been cited by OSHA for exposing workers to dangerous falls and other hazards. Although OSHA continues to hammer hard on these hazards, violations pile up.

OSHA inspected work practices at a homebuilding site in Ocala, Florida, as part of a regional emphasis program on falls in construction. Jacksonville OSHA Area Director Brian Sturtecky noted that both the builder and the contractor were aware of the hazards of working at heights more than 6 feet (ft), yet failed to provide employees with the training, protection, and tools to stay safe. He added, “Four in ten industry fatalities result from preventable falls. The consequences of not being prepared and complacent can lead to disaster. Employers must be diligent and demand safe work practices on all job sites.”

The builder was issued one repeat citation for failing to ensure subcontractor employees were protected with a fall protection system when working from heights up to 25 ft. The contractor was issued a repeat citation for the same violation and an additional repeat for allowing workers to use the top step of a ladder to access and exit the roofing trusses. As well, OSHA issued the contractor two serious violations for employees not wearing hard hats and for operating powered nail guns without eye protection.



***SCI Safety Slogan***



***James Lehrke-SCI***





Coloring: Not Just for Kids

Adult coloring books have recently become popular and the results are more beneficial than just artwork on the refrigerator. Most people find stress relief in the pages of a coloring book, but coloring can also help those suffering from anxiety, post traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse disorders, and a wide array of other emotional and mental health issues.

When people color, their attention is diverted from negative thoughts and stresses in their life and directed to the task at hand. Coloring is another method of practicing mindfulness, which has therapeutic and health benefits. The step of acting and doing vs. observing is a powerful deterrent to focusing on physical or emotional pain.

Adult coloring books are different from the traditional children's books in that the pictures are not famous cartoon characters, but typically detailed designs. Choosing colors, finding balance in the design, and applying fine motor control have intellectual benefits as well. This is because coloring uses both hemispheres of the brain. For those with limited hand and finger mobility, adult coloring pages can also be downloaded on mobile electronic devices.

Next time that special child in your life opens up a coloring book, join them!



OSHA understands that its more than 2,000 inspectors only can visit about 80,000-90,000 establishments each year, out of the 8 million employers that exist in the United States. So, the agency had to figure out how to "reach out and touch" more employers without having to do more inspections, and what better way than to require employers to submit and publish their injury rates?

OSHA intends to make every report public, thus shaming those with high on-the-job injury and illness rates. When the announcement was made, Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health, even alluded to the potential for public shaming in a May 11 OSHA press release.

The intent is understandable, as the shift to using "behavioral economics" has seen positive results in other areas of compliance. The thinking is similar to the health ratings that restaurants receive and are required to post. Since this food safety law has been put in place in many local and state jurisdictions, foodborne illness rates have gone down, and revenues went up in those restaurants that had higher ratings.

Just like how the general public uses health department ratings to decide where to eat, so too can a potential employee decide where to work or a company can determine if it wants to do business with another. OSHA believes companies will compete for better ratings, and the general public will know if a company cannot manage their workers well while producing a good product or providing a service. Therefore, the impact of this rule will be tremendous.

In addition to the possibility of public embarrassment, certain provisions in the new rule have caused concerns for employers. Plus, the execution of the standard faces challenges. *Next week learn how this new rule will impact small businesses and insurance companies.*

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Jessica, Kristin and Nick

