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Weekly Safety Tip

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September 26, 2016

SCI Safety News: A Dollar Short: Dollar General Cited Again for Repeat Violations

Source: www.ehs.com

By: [Stefanie Valentic](#)

Date: September 22, 2016



Just weeks after being cited for three repeated safety violations, Dollar General once again has been cited for endangering workers and customers by blocking exit routes with merchandise.

OSHA has fined the discount retailer at its Bolivar, Ohio location a proposed \$156,772 for blocked exits, unmarked fire extinguisher locations and blocked electrical panels.

At the Bolivar location, mops, bags of trash, boxes and containers were found piled in front of emergency exit doors in the stock room. The emergency exit at the back of the store also was obstructed by six large plastic trash cans on one side and cardboard boxes of merchandise on the other.

In addition, grey container boxes were stacked in front of fire extinguishers in the stock room. On the sales floor, six large plastic trash cans with lids blocked the extinguishers.

"In an emergency, no one should have to struggle to get out of a store safely, grab a fire extinguisher or shut down the power quickly, but these dangerous hazards are exactly what our

SCI Safety Slogan



Safety is for our loved ones

James Lehrke-SCI

Day Late and a Dollar Short...

The idioms have been around for at least a century. This phrase has been used over the years in pop culture, movies, song titles and books. So why not use this phrase again!

When it comes to safety:

- Where does it fit into the company's budget?
- Do you know your MOD Rate?
- Can you afford an OSHA inspection?
- Can you justify the cost savings of a safety program?



Day late: When OSHA arrives

Dollar Short: Fines for a serious violation \$12,471. Willful \$124,709

Contact Us Today!

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inspectors found at the Dollar General store in Bolivar," said Larry Johnson, OSHA's area director in Columbus in a statement. "Finding these conditions in one company location is bad enough, but Dollar General's willingness to ignore its immediate responsibility to protect employees and shoppers in all of its stores is cause for real concern."

These safety violations are not limited to one location. The company most recently was assessed \$97,988 in proposed fines on September 8 at its Van Buren, Mo. store for similar repeated violations.

Dollar General, which operates more than 12,500 stores in 43 states and employs about 100,000 workers, has assessed more than \$1 million in fines due to similar violations since 2010.

SCI OSHA Update: OSHA Issues Report on the Impact of the Severe Injury Reporting Program

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

Date: September 21, 2016

Dr. David Michaels, Assistant Secretary of Labor for the **Occupational Safety and Health Administration**, issued a new report, discussing the results of the first year of the severe injury reporting requirements. The report concludes that the severe injury reporting program has been a big success in improving safety and health in workplaces across the United States, and in helping OSHA focus its resources where most needed. OSHA recognizes, however, that more still needs to be done to reduce the number of in-patient hospitalizations and amputations in today's work places and hold employer's accountable for such severe injuries.

Under a rule that took effect on January 1, 2015, employers are required to report to OSHA within 24 hours any work-related amputations, in-patient hospitalization or eye loss. In the first full year of severe injury reporting, employers reported 7,636 hospitalizations and 2,644 amputations to OSHA. This data is from federal OSHA states only and does not include severe injuries from state-plan states that administer their own safety and health programs.

Manufacturing (26%), construction (19%) and transportation and warehousing (11%) had the greatest number of reported hospitalizations in 2015. Manufacturing (57%) and construction (10%) also had the greatest number of reported amputations in 2015. OSHA believes that most of the hazards that led to these severe injuries "are well-understood and easily prevented." OSHA notes that the objective of the severe injury reporting program is "to encourage employers to evaluate their own processes and equipment and determine what went wrong." OSHA believes that when employers evaluate their own processes during the severe injury reporting process (rather than by OSHA through an inspection), employers are more likely to take action that will prevent future injuries.



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Quick Tips for Healthy Living

Save a Life

The American Heart Association’s current Heartsaver CPR AED course is now including information on Naloxone use for treating Opioid overdose. Opioids are prescription pain relievers that are often abused and can cause cardiac arrest. The information has been included to increase public awareness. Training on use of Narcan is currently being offered by, United We Can. Visit their website for more information,

<http://www.changeaddictionnow.org/wisconsin.html>

Deaths from prescription painkillers* have reached epidemic levels in the past decade. The number of overdose deaths is now greater than those of deaths from heroin and cocaine combined. A big part of the problem is nonmedical use of prescription painkillers—using drugs without a prescription, or using drugs just for the “high” they cause. In 2010, about 12 million Americans (age 12 or older) reported nonmedical use of prescription painkillers in the past year.

Enough prescription painkillers were prescribed in 2010 to medicate every American adult around-the-clock for a month. Although most of these pills were prescribed for a medical purpose, many ended up in the hands of people who misused or abused them.

Improving the way prescription painkillers are prescribed can reduce the number of people who misuse, abuse or overdose from these powerful drugs, while making sure patients have access to safe, effective treatment.

* "Prescription painkillers" refers to opioid or narcotic pain relievers, including drugs such as Vicodin (hydrocodone), OxyContin (oxycodone), Opana (oxymorphone), and methadone.

Nearly 15,000 people die every year of overdoses involving prescription painkillers.

In 2010, 1 in 20 people in the US (age 12 or older) reported using prescription painkillers for nonmedical reasons in the past year. Enough prescription painkillers were prescribed in 2010 to medicate every American adult around-the-clock for a month.

Information source: <http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/PainkillerOverdoses/index.html>

To better manage its resources and engage employers in actively addressing safety and health, OSHA responded to 62% of severe injury reports by asking employers to conduct their own incident investigations and propose remedies to prevent future injuries to OSHA. In this approach, known as a Rapid Response Investigation, the employer is expected to investigate the causes of the severe injury and present to OSHA its findings and proposed abatement methods. With this approach, the focus is more on identifying and fixing the problem quickly versus citing employers for OSHA violations.

OSHA concludes

We have found this process to be extremely effective in abating hazards while also using far fewer OSHA resources than are required for on-site inspections. In this way, we are able to use agency resources more efficiently and, ultimately, better protect the safety and health of workers.

In a rare acknowledgment of most employer’s good faith, OSHA notes most employers were eager to cooperate with OSHA and prevent future injuries and that “many went above and beyond what was required by OSHA to protect their employees.”

While the program appears to be working in most instances, OSHA believes that as many as 50% of employers may not be reporting severe injuries to OSHA. OSHA bases this conclusion on injury claim numbers provided to it by state workers’ compensation programs and other unidentified factors. OSHA thinks that many small and mid-size employers are not reporting their severe injuries because they either may not be aware of the new requirements or because they think the cost of not reporting to OSHA is low.

OSHA states that it is developing outreach strategies to help small and mid-size employers understand the requirements. OSHA also states it will be citing more employers for non-reporting in the second year of the program and beyond if it finds that an employer did not report amputations and hospitalizations.

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*What do you think?
Send us an email at:
jlconnections@aol.com
See our bold new look
In Loving Memory*

In Loving Memory...
Jessica, Kristin and Nick

