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## SCI Safety Tip: Winter Storm Hazard: Snowblower Injuries

Source: <http://consumer.healthday.com>

Date: February 8, 2013

FRIDAY, Feb. 8, 2013 (HealthDay News) -- The massive winter storm battering the northeastern United States means that many people will be using snowblowers to clear snow from their driveways and sidewalks. While snowblowers can make that task easier, they can also cause serious injuries if people fail to take proper safety precautions, an expert warns.

Each year, about 5,700 people in the United States go to the emergency room for treatment of snowblower-related injuries such as broken bones, cuts to skin and soft tissue, bruises, and sprains. About 10 percent of injuries involve amputation of the hand or fingers.

"Snowblower injuries tend to happen when someone stops paying attention for even a few seconds," Dr. R. Michael Koch, chief of the microsurgery and replantation service at the Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, N.Y., said in a center news release.

"Even after the snowblower is turned off, tension is stored in the rotor blades. A hand or finger stuck in to remove wet snow or ice is at risk for being cut, mangled or even amputated," added Koch, who is also an assistant professor of surgery at New York Medical College and a surgeon with the New York Group for Plastic Surgery.

To stay safe, keep your hands and fingers out of the snowblower mechanism whether the machine is running or turned off. Do not disable the safety devices built into most new snowblowers and take the time to review the key safety features in the owner's manual.

In addition, always pay attention when using a snowblower. Many accidents occur when people allow their thoughts to wander, they get distracted, or they're in a hurry and skip important safety steps, Koch said.

It is also recommended that you wear thick gloves when using a snowblower. They don't offer complete protection, but may lessen the potential damage if there is an accident.

Koch noted that advances in microsurgery enable surgeons to reattach, replace or repair hands and fingers that are injured in snowblower accidents.

### More information

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons offers tips to prevent [snow-shoveling and snowblower injuries](#).

SOURCE: Westchester Medical Center, news release, Feb. 6, 2013

-- Robert Preidt

Last Updated: Feb 8, 2013

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*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.*



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**Compliance 2014**

**James Lehrke-SCI**

**Of the week**

## SCI OSHA Compliance: 2014 Budget Fully Funds OSHA's Enforcement Activities. Are You in Compliance?

By Emily Clark, Safety Editor

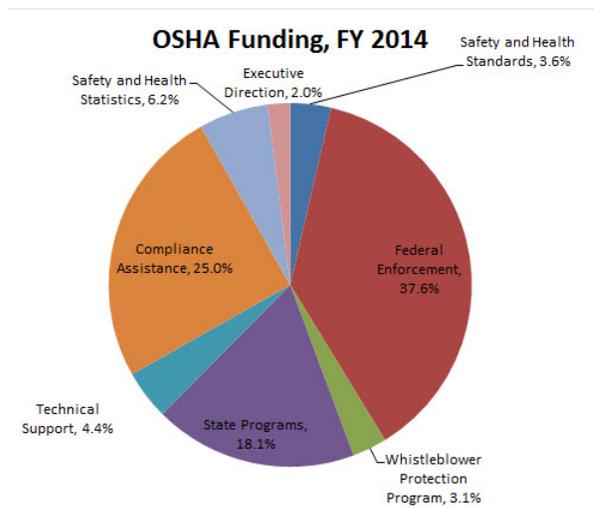
Source: <http://www.blr.com>

Date: February 7, 2014

The latest budget signed into law by President Obama includes \$552.2 million in funding for OSHA, including approximately \$208 million for enforcement. Although the total amount falls \$18.3 million short of the \$570.5 million the agency requested, the final budget fully funds OSHA's requested enforcement dollars. Overall, the new funding levels represent an increase of \$17 million, or 3.2%, over the funding OSHA received during the sequestration-impacted Fiscal Year (FY) 2013.

So what does OSHA plan to spend its money on in 2014? Here are the highlights:

- \$207.8 million will be earmarked for federal enforcement activities. This amount is similar to the FY 2013 final spending levels because OSHA shifted its funds towards enforcement from other programs during sequestration.
- \$143.9 million will be used for compliance assistance, including federal assistance, state consultation grants, and training grants.
- \$100 million will be available for grants to states that operate their own occupational safety and health agencies.
- \$34.3 million will be used for safety and health statistics.
- \$20 million will be available for safety and health standards.
- \$24.3 million will go towards technical support.
- \$17 million will fund whistleblower protection programs.



OSHA says it plans to use its funding to advance its overall goals of securing safe and healthy workplaces and ensuring that workers have a voice in the workplace. In particular, the agency plans to focus on high-hazard industries and devote attention to the four leading causes of workplace death: falls, electrocutions, caught-in and caught-between incidents, and struck-by incidents. OSHA plans to use both enforcement and outreach efforts to work toward these goals.

According to OSHA's 2014 Budget Justification, the agency plans to use its enforcement funding to conduct 39,250 inspections in 2014. These inspections will be targeted to find and address the most hazardous workplaces under the agency's new weighted inspection system. In addition to focusing on serious hazards, OSHA plans to encourage its compliance officers and area offices to conduct complex inspections, such as those for Process Safety Management.

### What it means for businesses

So are you likely to be inspected in 2014? The following is the list of OSHA's current National Emphasis Programs. If any of these apply to your facility, make sure you're in compliance with all applicable regulations, or you could face costly fines.

- Combustible Dust
- Hazardous Machinery (National Emphasis Program on Amputations)
- Hexavalent Chromium
- Occupational Exposure to Isocyanates
- Lead
- Nursing and Residential Care Facilities
- Primary Metal Industries
- Process Safety Management (Two programs: PSM Covered Chemical Facilities and Petroleum Refinery Process Safety Management)
- Shipbreaking
- Crystalline Silica
- Trenching and Excavation

In addition, the following list includes significant Regional Emphasis Programs. Click on your region to see what applies to you.

[Region I \(Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont\)](#)

[Region II \(New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands\)](#)

[Region III \(Delaware, Washington, D.C., Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia\)](#)

[Region IV \(Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee\)](#)

[Region V \(Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin\)](#)

[Region VI \(Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas\)](#)

[Region VII \(Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska\)](#)

[Region VIII \(Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming\)](#)

[Region IX \(Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands\)](#)

[Region X \(Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington\)](#)

## HEALTHY BITES

Quick Tips for Healthy Living



### Vitamin E

Vitamin E is an [antioxidant](#). Antioxidants are substances that may protect your cells against the effects of free radicals. Free radicals are molecules produced when your body breaks down food, or by environmental exposures like tobacco smoke and radiation. Vitamin E also plays a role in your immune system and metabolic processes. Good sources of vitamin E are vegetable oils, margarine, nuts, seeds, and leafy greens. Vitamin E is also added to foods like cereals. Most people get enough vitamin E from the foods they eat. People with certain disorders, such as liver diseases, cystic fibrosis, and Crohn's disease may need extra vitamin E.

Vitamin E supplements may be harmful for people who take blood thinners and other medicines. Check with your health care provider before taking the supplements.

NIH: National Institutes of Health Office of Dietary Supplements



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