



“Your Connection for Workplace Safety”
Phone: 920-208-7520

We're about service, commitment, results, and accountability!

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.



SCI SAFETY NEWS OR TIP



SCI OSHA NEWS OR COMPLIANCE



SCI HEALTHYLIVING and WELLNESS NEWS

We want to hear from you! Send us your feedback and give us ideas for future safety topics.

Let us know how you feel about our new look!

Safety Slogan

STOP the texts Stop the WRECKS!

James Lehrke-SCI

of the week

SCI Safety Tip: April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Are Your Workers Hanging Up to Drive? (Part 2)

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

Date: April 10, 2014

Prevent distracted driving among your workers

Regardless of the laws in your state, it's a good idea to have a company policy addressing distracted driving. Transportation incidents are consistently the leading cause of workplace fatalities and were responsible for 58,240 injuries involving days away from work in 2012.

Some issues to consider when developing a policy include the following:

- Will you restrict cell phone use while driving for employees conducting company business or ban it altogether? Keep in mind that although it may be tempting to allow workers to use hands-free devices, they have not been shown to be substantially safer than handheld cell phones because the cognitive distraction remains.
- Establish a company policy on answering and returning phone calls while on the road so that workers don't feel that there will be negative repercussions for avoiding cell phone use while driving. For example, you can instruct employees to pull over to a safe location within a specified time period after receiving a phone call or to stop at certain intervals (e.g., every 2 hours) to check voicemail and text messages. Employees who are not on the road need to know about these policies, too, so everyone's expectations are aligned.
- Address emergency situations. While talking or texting on a cell phone while driving is dangerous, cell phones can also be lifesavers in emergencies. Your policy should allow for these situations and provide guidelines for who to contact in emergencies and how to report emergencies safely.

Remind your employees—then remind them again—of the law in your state and of your company's distracted driving policies and consequences. The DOT recommends *all* drivers consistently follow these four steps:

- Turn off electronic devices and put them out of reach before starting to drive.
- Set a good example for young drivers and talk with teens about responsible driving, as young drivers are most at risk.
- Speak up when you are a passenger and the driver uses an electronic device while behind the wheel. Offer to make the call for the driver, so his or her full attention is on the road.
- Always wear your seat belt—it's the best defense you have against other unsafe drivers.

SCI OSHA Compliance: OSHA Announces Emphasis Program to Protect Retail Workers

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

Date: April 16, 2014

On April 14, OSHA announced a new local emphasis program aimed at preventing retail sector injuries and fatalities in Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The retail industry experienced 262 fatal occupational injuries in 2012. The injury and illness case rate for retail workers, including in the Pacific, was four per 100 full-time workers, compared with a 3.4 rate for all other private sector employees during the same period.

“We are not in the business of waiting to act only after a preventable injury or fatality occurs. Retail employers and workers need to be aware of hazards and risks commonly found in this industry,” said Mike Rivera, acting area director of OSHA’s Honolulu Area Office. “Stores must be safe for customers to shop and for employees to work.”

OSHA will conduct inspections to identify and evaluate hazards within the retail industry in Hawaii and the Pacific islands and territories. Targeted operation sites, such as clothing stores, department stores, general merchandise stores and other miscellaneous retailers, can expect random inspections. OSHA also will respond to complaints, referrals, and fatalities related to retail operations.

Federal OSHA inspections at retail stores in the Pacific routinely find numerous safety or health hazards that result in serious violations. Cited safety and health violations generally relate to electrical hazards, unsafe merchandise handling, transportation hazards, fire hazards, exposure to harmful substances, or improper design, construction and maintenance of exit routes. Violations also relate to hazards that, if left unchecked, can lead to falls, slips and trips; struck-by injuries, or amputations.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the top causes of workplace injuries and illnesses in the retail industry are overexertion (48,530 injuries in 2012); slips, trips, and falls (30,230 injuries in 2012); and being struck by objects (21,820 injuries in 2012). The back was the most frequently injured body part among retail workers, followed by the hands, knees, and head.

SCI Safety Management: Substance Abuse in the Workplace: Does Your Company Have a Problem? Part (1)

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

By Paul Lawton

Date: April 11, 2014

April is Alcohol Awareness Month, which makes this a good time to think about substance abuse in the workplace.

According to the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence, more than 18 million individuals (8.5% of Americans) suffer from alcohol-use disorders. Millions more abuse drugs—both street and prescription drugs. Because many substance abusers are also workers, the cost of substance abuse to employers in terms of accidents, injuries, and lost workdays is enormous.

Key Points About Workplace Substance Abuse

- Substance abuse may be found in any type of workplace in any industry.
- Substance abuse may be a problem for all types and ages of people within an organization and at all levels.
- Substance abuse may involve alcohol, illegal drugs, prescription drugs—or all three. Some of the most common

drugs involved in cases of workplace substance abuse include alcohol, marijuana, amphetamines, and prescription drugs.

- Substance abuse is a serious safety problem. Because of the possible effects of substance use, such as reduced physical coordination, slowed reflexes and mental responses, altered time and space perceptions, drowsiness, confusion, and overconfident, and reckless behavior, substance abuse is likely to lead to unsafe acts that cause accidents in the workplace.
- The productivity and quality of a substance abuser's work are also likely to deteriorate the more deeply the individual sinks into substance abuse.

How to Spot Substance Abuse

The following performance and behavior problems are common to many employed individuals who abuse alcohol and/or other drugs:

Performance problems include:

- Inconsistent work quality
- Poor concentration
- Reduced productivity
- Increased absenteeism and lateness
- Unexplained disappearances from the jobsite
- Carelessness, mistakes
- Errors in judgment
- Risk-taking
- Disregard for safety
- Extended lunch periods and early departures

Continued next week-What else to look for.

HEALTHY BITES

Quick Tips for Health



Hives

Hives are red and sometimes itchy bumps on your skin. An [allergic reaction](#) to a drug or food usually causes them. Allergic reactions cause your body to release chemicals that can make your skin swell up in hives. People who have other allergies are more likely to get hives than other people. Other causes include infections and stress.

Hives are very common. They usually go away on their own, but if you have a serious case, you might need medicine or a shot. In rare cases, hives can cause a dangerous swelling in your airways, making it hard to breathe - which is a medical emergency.



What do you think?
Send us an email at:
jlconnections@aol.com
See our bold new look @
<http://www.safetyconnections.com/>

*In Loving
Memory of Jessica Lehrke*