



# Weekly Safety Tip

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## SCI Safety Tip: 11 Tips for Safe Storm Cleanup

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

Date: May 2, 2014

With severe storms covering large portions of the country over the last several days, including deadly tornadoes in the South and flood watches from northern Florida to New England, OSHA is reminding recovery workers, employers, and the public to be aware of the hazards they can encounter during cleanup operations. Keep reading for tips to share with your workers.

Storm and tornado cleanup work can involve hazards relating to restoring electricity, communications, and water and services. Other hazards relate to demolition activities, cleaning up debris, roadway and bridge repair, hazardous waste operations, and tree trimming. To keep workers performing these operations safe, share these tips:

1. Assume all power lines are live unless you know otherwise and keep a safe distance (at least 10 feet) away from them.
2. Wear proper clothing when walking on or near debris, including boots and gloves.
3. Be careful of sharp objects, such as nails and broken glass.
4. Take proper safety precautions when operating generators, chainsaws, or other power tools.
5. Monitor local radio or television stations for emergency information and be aware of possible structural, electrical, or gas-leak hazards.
6. Exercise caution when entering any structure that has been damaged.

Flood cleanup also poses unique challenges, including dam and levee repair, removal of floodwater from structures, and repairing downed electrical wires in standing water. Those engaged in cleanup activities should be aware of the hazards associated with floodwaters, including rapidly rising water, strong currents, and more. Share these important safety tips with flood cleanup workers:

1. Exercise caution when driving during flood conditions. Do not try to cross flooded roadways if you do not know the depth of the water—six inches of standing water is enough to stall some cars, a foot of water can float a vehicle, and two feet of moving water is enough to sweep a car away.
2. Stay away from flooded areas that may be in contact with downed energized power lines or other sources of electricity.
3. Standing or working in water colder than 75 degrees Fahrenheit can result in hypothermia, so make sure to wear proper clothing for cold, wet, and windy conditions. Be aware of the symptoms of hypothermia: uncontrollable shivering, slow speech, memory lapses, frequent stumbling, drowsiness, and exhaustion.

*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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**Safety Slogan**

**Safety Starts with YOU!**

**James Lehrke-SCI**

**of the week**

4. Wear gloves, boots, and other appropriate protective clothing, and exercise good hygiene practices to protect yourself from potential chemical or biological hazards that may be present in floodwater.
5. Workers near floodwater should not work alone and should wear Coast Guard–approved personal flotation devices (PFDs) to protect against drowning hazards. Even strong swimmers can be easily overcome by swiftly moving floodwater.

David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health, commented, “Storm recovery efforts expose workers to a wide range of hazards, which can be mitigated by safe work practices and personal protective equipment.”

OSHA reminds employers that only workers provided with the proper training, equipment, and experience should conduct cleanup activities. In addition to the safety tips above, protective measures should involve evaluating the work area for hazards, employing engineering or work practice controls to mitigate hazards, using personal protective equipment, using all equipment properly, and paying attention to safety precautions for traffic work zones.

## SCI Safety News: Final BLS Data: Overall Fatal Injury Rate Down, But Contractor, Construction Fatalities Up

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

Date: April 30, 2014

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently released its final count of work-related fatalities for 2012. While the final total of 4,628 fatal work-related injuries represents an increase over the preliminary number of 4,383, the overall fatal work injury rate of 3.4 fatal injuries per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers is the lowest rate published by the BLS since 2006.

The final numbers include updates to the 2012 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries resulting from the identification of new cases and the revision of existing cases based source documents received after the release of preliminary results in August 2013.

Among the changes resulting from the updates;

- The number of contractors fatally injured on the job rose to 715 fatalities—an increase of 173 over 2011 figures. Overall, contract workers accounted for over 15 percent of all fatal work-related injuries in 2012.
- Roadway incidents increased by 10 percent (109 cases) from the preliminary count, resulting in a total of 1,153 fatal work-related roadway incidents in 2012—a 5 percent increase over the 2011 numbers.
- The number of work-related fatalities involving Hispanic workers increased by 40 for the final numbers for a revised total of 748. In 2011, the final number was 749.
- Fatal injuries in the private transportation and warehousing sector increased by 9 percent from the preliminary count.
- Work-related suicides increased by 24 to a total of 249, and workplace homicides increased by 12 cases for a total of 475.

The private construction sector saw an increase of 31 cases from the preliminary numbers, leading to a final count of 806 fatal injuries in 2012—a 9 percent increase from the 2011 total and the first increase in work-related private construction fatalities since 2006.



## SCI Safety Management: OSHA's Position on Temps and Safety (Part 1)

Source: <http://www.blr.com> Two Part series on Temp Workers

By Paul Lawton

Date: April 27, 2014

Yesterday, we provided tips for keeping temporary employees safe. Today, we look at OSHA's view on host employer vs. temp agency responsibility for the safety of temps.

"Host employers need to treat temporary workers as they treat existing employees," says OSHA chief Dr. David Michaels. "Temporary staffing agencies and host employers share control over the employee, and are therefore jointly responsible for temp employees' safety and health. It is essential that both employers comply with all relevant OSHA requirements."

### Employer Responsibilities to Protect Temporary Workers

To ensure that there is a clear understanding of each employer's role in protecting employees, OSHA recommends that the host employer and the temporary staffing agency set out their respective responsibilities for compliance with applicable OSHA standards in their contract. Including such terms in a contract will ensure that each employer complies with all relevant regulatory requirements, thereby avoiding confusion as to the employer's obligations.

### Joint Responsibility

When temporary staffing agencies and host employers share control over temp workers, OSHA maintains that they are jointly responsible for temporary workers' safety and health. This joint responsibility includes issues such as ensuring fulfillment of OSHA requirements covering:

- Mandated safety training
- Hazard communication
- Recordkeeping

While the extent of responsibility under the law of staffing agencies and host employers is dependent on the specific facts of each case, staffing agencies and host employers are in every case jointly responsible for maintaining a safe work environment for temporary workers.

**Next week - Employer and Agency Roles, and Protect All Employees—Regular and Temp—All the Time**

### HEALTHY BITES

Quick Tips for Health

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### Wrist Injuries and Disorders

Your wrist is made up of eight small bones known as carpals. They support a tube that runs through your wrist. That tube, called the carpal tunnel, has tendons and a nerve inside. It is covered by a ligament, which holds it in place.

Wrist pain is common. Repetitive motion can damage your wrist. Everyday activities like typing, racquet sports or sewing can cause pain, or even [carpal tunnel syndrome](#). Wrist pain with bruising and swelling can be a sign of injury. The signs of a possible fracture include misshapen joints and inability to move your wrist. Some wrist fractures are a result of [osteoporosis](#).

Other common causes of pain are

- [Sprains and strains](#)
- [Tendinitis](#)
- [Arthritis](#)
- [Gout and pseudogout](#)



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Memory of Jessica Lehrke