



"Your Connection for Workplace Safety"
Phone: 920-208-7520

Weekly Safety Tip

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

**Risk – is it worth it?
James Lehrke-SCI**

of the week

SCI Safety Tip: PPE: Mistakes Workers Make (Part 1)

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

Date: August 7, 2013

When workers make mistakes with PPE, the consequences can be grim.

In the health and safety professional's "hierarchy of controls," PPE falls in last place—behind engineering controls and work practice or administrative controls. The reasoning is that engineering controls address the hazard directly, and have the fewest potential failure points, so they are most protective.

Work practice or administrative controls are generally the next choice, but they do not control the hazard at its source, the way engineering controls do. Rather, they rely on the worker to interact safely with the hazard, adding a potential failure point if the worker does not comply with the work practices.

And PPE, last in the hierarchy:

- Does not address the hazard directly;
- Won't protect a worker who doesn't use it; and
- Can also fail to protect if there is a problem with the equipment itself.

Because it addresses the hazard only indirectly and has the most potential failure points, PPE has historically been considered the least desirable option for employee protection.

One of the potential failure points for PPE occurs at the point of interaction between the worker and the equipment, when employees can make critical mistakes in the care, use, and replacement of PPE. Some typical mistakes are illustrated below.

- **Mistake No. 1:** Workers take their foam earplugs out to consult with each other about a problem, then roll the foam earplugs again with dirty hands and reinsert them in their ears. At the end of the day, they leave the earplugs inside their hard hats and reuse the same plugs the next workday. These workers have failed to care for their PPE appropriately. Most PPE requires some care to function properly. At the very least, employees should inspect PPE before and after use for signs of weakness, damage, or wear that would indicate a reduced level of effectiveness. PPE that is not appropriately cared for may also:
 - *Become a hazard in itself.* For example, workers who reinsert dirty earplugs are at risk of irritation and infection. Dirty earplugs should be cleaned or replaced.
 - *Lose effectiveness.* Workers who are not careful to clean their safety equipment after use may not realize that workplace chemicals and oils from their skin can begin to degrade the equipment prematurely.

- Whatever PPE your workers use, make sure they know how to care for it and keep it in good working condition.

Mistake No. 2: A worker wearing a fall protection harness leaves the harness loose but pulls the lanyard tight.

Another worker who uses a respirator at work decides to grow a beard.

These workers have *failed to use PPE correctly*. Sometimes it's just not clear from looking at the equipment how a piece of PPE should be properly used. Workers need to practice, under the eye of someone with experience, putting on and taking off their protective equipment. They also need to understand the theory behind their equipment and how it works. PPE that is not used correctly won't protect workers.

"Saving Green by Going Green" Tip of the Week August 19th

Did you know that you can save money by installing motion sensors on lights? Consider installing them in places that are rarely used like conference, storage, or bathrooms. That initial cost of less than \$20 can be recovered in no time while you are also saving electricity. For more help saving green by going green email Laura@safetyconnections.com

HEALTHY BITES

Quick Tips for Healthy Living

PREVEA
Health & Wellness

Athletes Foot

Athlete's foot is a common infection caused by a fungus. It most often affects the space between the toes. Symptoms include itching, burning, and cracked, scaly skin between your toes.

You can get athlete's foot from damp surfaces, such as showers, swimming pools, and locker room floors. To prevent it

- Keep your feet clean, dry, and cool
- Wear clean socks
- Don't walk barefoot in public areas
- Wear flip-flops in locker room showers
- Keep your toenails clean and clipped short

Treatments include over-the-counter antifungal creams for most cases and prescription medicines for more serious infections. These usually clear up the infection, but it can come back.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

SCI OSHA Compliance: What's on OSHA's mind? Highlights from the Spring 2013 Semiannual Regulatory Agenda (Part 3)

Source: www.blr.com

Date: August 2, 2013

- **Occupational Exposure to Crystalline Silica.** Crystalline silica is an abundant mineral in the earth's crust, and many workers are exposed to it, particularly those engaged in mining, construction, stonecutting, welding, and similar activities. Exposure to high levels of airborne crystalline silica can lead to silicosis, a disease in which scar tissue forms in the lungs and reduces the ability to extract oxygen from the air. OSHA proposes to implement a comprehensive standard for crystalline silica. The current permissible exposure limits (PELs) for both general industry and construction are considered outdated. A comprehensive standard would include requirements for exposure monitoring, medical surveillance, and worker training.

- **Occupational Exposure to Beryllium.** Beryllium is a metal used in many industries and workplace activities. Exposure to beryllium, typically through inhalation but sometimes via skin contact, can lead to sensitization, chronic beryllium disease, lung cancer, and skin disease. OSHA has determined that the current PEL for beryllium may not be adequate to protect workers and is proposing to amend the standard.
- **Injury and Illness Prevention Program.** Injury and Illness Prevention Programs (I2P2s) are comprehensive workplace safety plans that analyze and address hazards in the workplace and take a multifaceted, holistic approach to safety. I2P2s are currently required in California, but there is no corresponding federal requirement.

Lehrke Family Benefit/Raffle/Brat Fry

Saturday, Sept. 14th
11:00am – 7:00pm
Lakeshore Lanes
2519 South Business Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53081

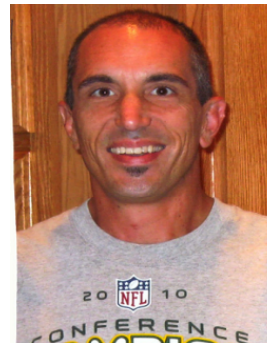
In Loving Memory of:



Jessica



Kristin



Nick

Checks can be made payable to:

**The Lehrke Family Benefit
1911 Kaat Lane
Sheboygan, WI 53081**

**All proceeds will be donated back to the
community in scholarships**



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*