



Weekly Safety Tip

"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

A clean floor everyday keeps lost days away.

James Lehrke-SCI

of the week

SCI Safety Tip: Are You Ready for an OSHA Inspection? (Part 1)

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

Date: September 16, 2013

Currently president of FDRSafety in Brentwood, Tennessee, Jim Stanley had a long and distinguished career with OSHA. He achieved the rank of deputy assistant secretary and oversaw nationwide enforcement before retiring from the agency in 1996 and going to work in private industry.

This should ideally be the safety director or someone in upper management who is well versed in applicable OSHA standards, workplace conditions, location of records, the company's safety and health program, and OSHA inspection procedures.

"The reason many companies get into trouble," says Stanley, "is that the wrong person is facing the compliance officer." A common mistake is to designate an individual who is high in the corporate structure but who lacks detailed safety knowledge and understanding of employer rights and duties.

Representative's Duties

Among the representative's duties, Stanley lists:

- Attend opening and closing conferences
- Accompany and record all aspects of the walkaround inspection
- Photograph all areas of the facility and those photographed or videotaped by OSHA
- Respond to document/information requests
- Make sure employees are aware of their rights during an inspection
- Keep the inspection under control (for example, don't let it unreasonably interfere with work or extend beyond normal working hours)
- Consult with legal counsel about difficult problems, such as search warrants or subpoenas
- Be courteous and polite, but firmly exercise the company's legal rights

Be Careful

A big no-no according to Stanley is to admit to any violations or unsafe practices. "I tell my clients that CSHOs are not their friends—they are there to do a job, which is looking for violations and seeing if you are in compliance with the OSH Act and the General Duty Clause." He advises representatives to keep quiet about anything that could be

construed to be an admission of noncompliance. For example, if the officer says, "That employee should be tied off, right?" you can explain that he does not have to be tied off if he is protected by guardrails. But don't argue, and don't admit to a possible violation. An admission might reduce your chance of negotiating a settlement.

Get Off on the Right Foot

The opening conference is an opportunity to set the right tone for the rest of the inspection. Stanley urges employers to take good notes and not hesitate to ask questions or express concerns.

For example, if a compliance officer asks for documents that might reveal trade secrets, the company representative should ask for OSHA's agreement that the material will be handled in confidence. If the inspection was the result of a written complaint, you should ask to see the complaint.

Also request a list of the documents that OSHA wishes to review and only produce those you are required to, such as copies of the OSHA log. You might not want to turn over a report from an insurance company or consultant that describes hazardous conditions in the workplace. It's the representative's job to know when to get a lawyer involved and request a subpoena.

Other tips for the opening conference:

- Confirm with the inspector what is anticipated and how long he or she plans to be on-site.
- Reach an understanding that the inspection will be limited to areas or conditions listed in the complaint or referral.
- Politely object if the inspector wants to expand a limited audit into a lengthy wall-to-wall inspection.
- Discuss any safety issues that might be encountered during the inspection and insist that the inspector follow all site PPE requirements.

(Next week, more advice from Jim Stanley about coping with OSHA inspections.)

SCI OSHA News: OSHA Cites Contractor for Tragic—and Avoidable—Injuries (Part 1)

Source: www.blr.com

Date: September 25, 2013

A steel erection and roofing contractor was cited and fined for six OSHA violations that led to an amputation, broken bones, and other injuries for three workers.

What happened and how did weather play a factor in this case? Keep reading to find out more.

Last March, employees of an Alabama contractor were working on a roof project when a gust of wind during a severe thunderstorm ripped a large piece of metal decking from the workers' hands. One, who was thrown against the edge of a new metal roof, suffered a left arm amputation as a result.

Another worker sustained a shoulder injury when he was thrown across the roof. The third became wrapped in a sheet of metal and successfully escaped, but was carried over the roof's edge and fell 30 feet to the ground. The result was broken wrists, ribs, tailbone, and pelvis.

OSHA responded with willful and serious violations and fines totaling just over \$69,000. The agency said that the contractor failed to provide fall protection even after an employee requested it and after agreeing to take steps to protect workers from falls.

(See next week 3 steps on how to prevent falls)

*Are you aware of the up and coming changes to OSHA's Hazard Communications Standard?
Call for an appointment!*

SCI Upcoming events
(See attached files for more information!)



Invite you to join us:
OSHA 10 Hour General Industry Training

October 15 & 16th, 2013
2108 Kohler Memorial Dr Sheboygan
Tuesday 8:00AM to 3:30PM & Wednesday 8:30AM to 11:00AM

If you are interested in becoming more confident about OSHA requirements & keeping your employees safe, then this is the training you've been waiting for. \$235 per Student

This training will focus on topics based on the top ten most frequently cited OSHA standards from 2012. You will learn about the new Hazard Communication 2012/Global Harmonized System requirements and find out how to quickly maneuver the OSHA website to access the info you need.



Environmental and Fire Preparedness Workshop
Invite you to join us:

OSHA is not the only regulator out there, have you given enough thought to what the EPA, DNR, or Fire Department would have to say while visiting your site?

Join us for breakfast on
Thursday October 17th from 8-9:30 AM
ST Nicholas Hospital, Christopher Room, Sheboygan

You'll leave knowing:

How to be better prepared for a visit from the environmental regulators, Federal EPA and WI DNR
Prevent spills, ensure product & employee safety
The top 10 most frequently recognized violations from the local Sheboygan County fire departments
Lots of supplemental handouts & copy of presentation

Any questions or to register:
Please email Laura directly at Laura@safetyconnections.com
\$20 at the door, (\$25 if billing)



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

The Instructor: Laura Sauermilch, a
trained investigator and former
environmental compliance officer.
Read her bio at
www.safetyconnections.com

Laura Sauermilch at:
Laura@safetyconnections.com

Check out her bio at:
www.safetyconnections.com

