Weekly Safety Tip

Safety Connections Inc.

"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

While on a ladder, never step back to admire your work.

James Lehrke-SCI

Of the week

SCI Safety Tip: The Case of the Wobbly Ladder: An Accident Investigation Case Study

Sources: www.blr.com

Date: January 3, 2013

It is often helpful to see an example of an accident investigation in order to better understand how the process works. Here is a simple accident investigation case study.

This is the accident scenario:

- An employee is working on a ladder and the ladder seems to collapse.The employee falls off the ladder and breaks arm.

The investigation reveals the following details:

- Employee had worked seven 12-hour shifts in a row.
- Accident happened at end of shift.
- Employee was standing on the top step of the ladder (an unsafe action).
- The employee was approximately 10 feet above floor level.
- No fall arrest or restraint system was used.
- A ladder inspection policy is in place, but there is no evidence that the ladder has ever been inspected.
- Investigation reveals the ladder was damaged and did not provide a stable working platform in any environment.
- Interview with facility manager reveals that he did not inspect the ladder when it was due for inspection. He was aware that ladder needed to be inspected.

Factors and Possible Causes Affecting Incident

- Extended work hours may have caused employee to be tired and not clear-headed.
- Employee violated safety rule (standing on top step).
- No fall arrest system in place (required at 6 feet above floor level).
- Ladder was defective and unusable.

- Ladder had not been inspected.
- Facility manager was aware that ladder needed to be inspected but did not adhere to the existing policies and procedures for ladder inspections.

What is the Root Cause?
Which factor, if not present, could have prevented the accident?
If the facility manager had inspected the ladder and discovered the defect, the ladder would not have been used, and this accident would have been prevented. Failure to follow established ladder inspection procedures is the root cause.

What about the Other Factors?

- Extended work hours might contribute, but there is no statistical evidence available that indicates extended work hours increase the risk of accidents.
- The safety rule violation could be a contributory cause in this accident, but not the root cause. However, if the ladder had been used properly, it is possible that the incident might have been prevented.
- The existence of a fall arrest system may have prevented or reduced injury. This could be a contributory cause.
- The fact that the ladder was defective is certainly a contributory cause. But if the facility manager had followed procedures and removed the ladder from service, the accident would have been prevented.

The root cause of this accident could even be tracked deeper than just finding the facility manager's failure to inspect the ladder. With more in-depth analysis, it might be found that the real cause was a failure in the system itself. Perhaps the safety system in place had no means of ensuring the facility manager actually carried out these inspections.
It is for reasons like this that accident investigations are best conducted by a team. This can ensure that as many possibilities are explored until all causes are discovered. It is easy to place blame on individuals when in actuality, the problem may be with your management systems.

SCI OSHA Compliance: OSHA Lockout/Tagout Rules: Q & A (Part 2)

Source: http://www.blr.com
Date: December 31, 2012

Q. How often do we have to inspect each piece of equipment for lockout/tagout?

A. OSHA requires an annual inspection of energy control procedures on each machine:
1910.147(c)(6)(i). The employer shall conduct a periodic inspection of the energy control procedure at least annually to ensure that the procedure and the requirements of this standard are being followed.

1910.147(c)(6)(i)(A). The periodic inspection shall be performed by an authorized employee other than the ones(s) utilizing the energy control procedure being inspected.

1910.147(c)(6)(i)(B). The periodic inspection shall be conducted to correct any deviations or inadequacies identified.

1910.147(c)(6)(i)(C). Where lockout is used for energy control, the periodic inspection shall include a review, between the inspector and each authorized employee, of that employee's responsibilities under the energy control procedure being inspected.

1910.147(c)(6)(i)(D). Where tagout is used for energy control, the periodic inspection shall include a review, between the inspector and each authorized and affected employee, of that employee's responsibilities under the energy control procedure being inspected, and the elements set forth in paragraph (c)(7)(ii) of this section.

1910.147(c)(6)(ii). The employer shall certify that the periodic inspections have been performed. The certification shall identify the machine or equipment on which the energy control procedure was being utilized, the date of the inspection, the employees included in the inspection, and the person performing the inspection.

Q. If my factory does not operate 24/7 and we are in the middle of a LOTO maintenance procedure that another crew will complete the next day, how do you pass off the keys/locks/tags etc. so the new crew is protected? Does the foreman have to bring in the master gold lock key and hand it to the new foreman?

A. According to the OSHA lockout/tagout rule section on shift changes (29 CFR 1910.147(f)(4)), it's up to the employer to develop procedures for shift changes to ensure continuity of protection for all employees. OSHA does not provide specific procedures for the changeover.

However, there should be a physical hand-off of keys/master key and documentation that such transfer took place. OSHA requires the employer to create procedures for accountability where an authorized person places the locks and then a different person removes them.

HEALTHY BITES

Quick Tips for Healthy Living

PREVEA Health & Wellness

Carotenoids

Among the 600 or more carotenoids in foods, beta-carotene, lycopene and lutein are well-known leaders in the fight to reduce the damage from free radicals. Foods high in carotenoids may be effective allies against prostate cancer (beta-carotene); cancers of the mouth, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, colon and rectum (lycopene); and may help decrease your risk of macular degeneration (lutein). Foods high in carotenoids include red, orange, deep-yellow and some dark-green leafy vegetables, like tomatoes, carrots, spinach, Brussels sprouts, sweet potatoes, winter squash and broccoli.

Just a reminder…

OSHA 300A's - Posting requirement coming soon Just a reminder to start acquiring your **2012 annual employee work hours and employee counts** so that you can complete your OSHA 300A Summaries of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses. Transfer your OSHA 300 log column totals and have the highest ranking company official sign and date. Post it in a place where all employees may have access. This is to be posted from Feb 1st to April 30th. Do not post the OSHA 300 log, just the 300A.

Safety Connections Inc.

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