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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.

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Safety Slogan

Make safety a part of your work

James Lehrke-SCI

of the week

SCI Safety Tip: 6 Tips for Smart Safety Recordkeeping

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

Date: October 3, 2012

Find it hard to keep up with all of OSHA's recordkeeping requirements? Here's some advice from safety expert Chip Darius and attorney and safety professional Adele Abrams who offer six simple tips for smart safety recordkeeping.

1. File employee training records by date and topic. In an effort to keep employee records organized, most supervisors put employee training records in the employee files. According to Darius, this is wrong.

If an OSHA inspector were to request to see all training records, he would ask for records by date and topic. If you have to search through all employee files for this information, it could be quite time consuming.

In an effort to speed things along, a busy supervisor could give the OSHA inspector full access to employee files to find the training records on his or her own.

But this would definitely be a bad move. As Darius points out, this could open you up to invasion of privacy issues. That's why he recommends never giving an inspector access to your employees' personnel files for the purpose of providing documentation of training.

2. Log your training attendance. Abrams recommends keeping a log of attendance at your training sessions. This would be helpful during an investigation of an incident involving an employee who may not be able to testify for his own training record. If you have a record of who attended the training session with that employee, then you can find out from the other attendees what you need to know about the session.

For example, if your company was being investigated for a fatality and you needed to know exactly what was covered in a particular training session, you could reference the attendance log and find another employee to fill you in on any undocumented details.

3. Be careful about hazard assessment documentation. Conducting hazard assessments for self-audits is a responsible practice that can benefit you in several ways during an OSHA inspection. However, be very clear about what you are recording. Darius and Abrams say that OSHA requires two things: a hazard assessment and the hazard assessment certification. Do not disclose anything that is not mandatory such as notes or opinions.

The safety experts also recommend that if you document a hazard in the assessment, you'd better be sure to correct the hazard. If you have no plans of correcting hazards that you find, don't do them at all—it will hurt you in the end to have a known hazard that is uncorrected. OSHA considers this a willful violation.

4. Know the records that you don't have to produce for an inspection. Abrams says there are a few documents that you do not have to produce for an OSHA inspector. They are:

- Safety and health audits
- Self-inspection checklists
- Informal notes by supervisors
- Memoranda
- Corporate safety policy

There's no need for overachieving here. Abrams says that if it is not required by law, don't show the inspector. You never know what kind of can of worms you may open up—even with the best intentions.

5. Get proof (politely, of course!). If you are asked for a record to be produced, Abrams says to politely ask the inspector to show you in the CFR where it states that it is mandatory. If the inspector cannot produce the proof that you need to show him the records, it is your right to respectfully decline disclosure.

6. Keep documentation of discipline. Keep any and all records of disciplinary action taken against workers who do not follow appropriate safety practices. You want OSHA to know that you enforce the rules at your facility.

SCI OSHA News: OSHA Provides Insight on Variance Procedures

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

Date: October 11, 2012

OSHA has enhanced its website to improve understanding of the variance approval process. A variance is a regulatory action that permits an employer to deviate from the requirements of an OSHA standard under certain conditions. A variance does not provide an outright exemption from a standard, except in cases involving national defense.

According to OSHA, employers can request a variance for many reasons. These include not being able to fully comply on time with a new requirement due to a shortage of personnel, materials, or equipment.

A variance may be granted when employers can prove that their proposed methods, operations, or processes result in workplaces that are at least as safe and healthful as those provided by the standards.

Until recently, only approved variance cases were available on the OSHA site. The page now addresses denied applications and provides background on variance rules and instruction on how to apply. See details at www.OSHA.gov. Enter "variance" in the search box.

SCI Environmental News: Brownfield Grants and Funding

Source: http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/grant_info/

Date: August 15, 2012

Grants & Funding How do I...?

- [Apply for Funding](#)
- [Find Grant Announcements](#)
- [Find Grant Fact Sheets](#)
- [Report Grant Activities](#)
- [Find Success Stories](#)

EPA's Brownfields Program provides direct funding for brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loans, and environmental job training. To facilitate the leveraging of public resources, EPA's Brownfields Program collaborates with other EPA programs, other federal partners, and state agencies to identify and make available resources that can be used for brownfields activities. In addition to direct brownfields funding, EPA also provides technical information on brownfields financing matters.

1. [Area-Wide Planning Pilot Program](#) The grant funding and direct assistance (through Agency contract support) will result in an area-wide plan which will inform the assessment, cleanup and reuse of brownfields properties and promote area-wide revitalization.

2. [Assessment Grants](#) Assessment grants provide funding for a grant recipient to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning and community involvement related to brownfield sites.
3. [Revolving Loan Fund Grants](#) The purpose of Revolving Loan Fund Grants is to enable States, political subdivisions, and Indian tribes to make low interest loans to carryout cleanup activities at brownfields properties.
4. [Cleanup Grants](#) Cleanup grants provide funding for a grant recipient to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites.
5. [Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants](#) Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants are designed to provide funding to eligible entities, including nonprofit organizations, to recruit, train, and place predominantly low-income and minority, unemployed and under-employed residents of solid and hazardous waste-impacted communities with the skills needed to secure full-time, sustainable employment in the environmental field and in the assessment and cleanup work taking place in their communities.
6. [Multi-Purpose Pilot Grants](#) The EPA is piloting a new grant program that will provide a single grant to an eligible entity for both assessment and cleanup work at a specific brownfield site owned by the applicant.
7. [Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Grants](#) Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Grants provide funding to eligible organizations to provide training, research, and technical assistance to facilitate brownfields revitalization.
8. [Targeted Brownfields Assessments](#) The Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) program is designed to help states, tribes, and municipalities—especially those without EPA Brownfields Assessment Pilots/Grants—minimize the uncertainties of contamination often associated with brownfields.

Other Brownfields Funding Opportunities

1. [State and Tribal Response Programs](#) Find background information, state & tribal grant funding guidance, MOUs, MOAs, state Brownfields web sites, and state Voluntary Cleanup Programs (VCP) web sites.
2. [Sustainability Pilots](#) Sustainability Pilots are an EPA effort to promote environmental sustainability at local brownfields projects.

HEALTHY BITES

Quick Tips for Healthy Living



DENTAL HEALTH (Part 1)

- Keep your teeth pearly white: Rinse your mouth after eating or drinking acidic foods or beverages like tomato sauce, coffee and wine.
 - Red wine isn't the only vino that can taint your pearly whites. The acid in white wine can increase your teeth's susceptibility to stains too. Highly acidic foods like wine, soda and sweets can leave your teeth more prone to discoloration (and decay). The acid left behind on enamel allows pigments to penetrate deeper into your teeth, which can lead to staining. That's why darkly colored foods and drinks can pose a double whammy. Some major players in the tooth-staining business: spaghetti sauce, red wine, cola, coffee, tea, soy sauce and darkly pigmented fruit and vegetables like beets and berries. That's not to say you should avoid these treats (though cola, in our book, is a no-no). Drink a glass of water or rinse your mouth after eating. Sipping milk or nibbling cheese with your dish can also help neutralize the acid on your teeth and protect them from damage.



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

*In Loving
 Memory of Jessica Lefrke*