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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.



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Safety Slogan

Your Safety is the minimum promise to your family

James Lehrke-SCI

Of the week

SCI Safety Tip: Off-the-Job Safety and Its ROI—Human Capital

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

Date: December 2, 2011

By Dan Hannan, CSP Nearly 55,000 fatalities occur in the home each year—more than 10 times that of the workplace. Added to that are millions of disabling injuries that cost employers \$250 billion dollars annually due to lost productivity, exacerbation on the job of an injury sustained at home, and training replacement labor.

Employers can effectively combat these costs by leveraging an employee's safety knowledge as many of the home hazards responsible for these injuries are the same as the hazards found on the job—falls, electricity, fires, chemical exposure, and machinery.

The value that off-the-job safety brings has been realized by some employers for many years. “We challenge our employees every year to develop and sign a “personal action safety plan,” a commitment to stay safe off-the-job,” says Doug Pontsler, vice president Environmental Health and Safety for Owens Corning, a leading global producer of residential and commercial building materials.

“We have high expectations that our employees will incorporate safety in all that they do,” adds Pontsler. In nearly all cases, a safer employee is a more content and productive employee. But an off-the-job safety program is more than just a productivity tool. It should be viewed akin to a company-sponsored wellness program that is intended to maintain the physical and mental health of the worker.

DuPont employs 65,000 workers worldwide. The roots of its off-the-job activities go back to the 1920s, with a formal program starting in the 1950s. “Off-the-job safety is simply an extension of two core values at DuPont—Safety & Health and Respect for People. A financial cost benefit analysis (ROI) is not required or needed for Leadership support,” says Deborah Tandarich, Safety and Occupational Health Group Manager in the Corporate Safety, Health, and Environmental group at DuPont.

“Injuries off-the-job can be aggravated on the job, so it's important to create a safety culture of openness and trust. We encourage our employees to report their injuries to our medical staff so that we can minimize the potential for work activities to aggravate their personal medical conditions. We ask all of our employees to be ‘safety interdependent.’”

This is a commitment that people naturally feel strongly at home and with their family, neighbors, and friends. A commitment to off-the-job safety and health goes hand in hand with safety on the job.”

The ultimate goal is the development of a full-time safety mindset—applying safety at work, while driving, at home, on vacation, etc. This is not a simple task as it requires a change in behavior. As most safety professionals know, human behavior (our actions) accounts for better than 85 percent of all injuries. Why do construction workers faithfully wear their personal fall protection equipment on the job, but when on their own time and climbing into a tree to sit in their deer stand during hunting season, they fail to prevent themselves from falling?

An effective off-the-job safety program not only keeps the employee safe, but his or her family, too. Children are direct beneficiaries of some home safety sensibility. It's hard to keep children from being reckless all the time, but you can minimize hazard exposures by being proactive.

Educate yourself and your family in how to live safely by improving hazard-recognition skills and building the same expectation as in the workplace—we all need to look out for one another. A little care and concern for the well-being of the employee away from work goes a long way. A healthy and safe employee both at work and at home is a happy and productive employee.

Companies such as Owens Corning and DuPont have successful off-the-job safety programs and see it as part of their corporate culture responsibility. The return on the investment cannot be measured when mental and physical health are at stake.

Dan Hannan, CSP, has been a safety and health professional for 23 years and is currently Safety Director for the Associated General Contractors of Minnesota. His recent book, Preventing Home Accidents, was created to provide homeowners with a resource to be proactive about safety in their homex.

To learn more, go to http://www.danshomesafety.com/uploads/PHA_Flyer_1.pdf.

OSHA Compliance: Tag Out Errors and Lock In Compliance Part 1

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

Date: November 30, 2011

Q. Do I have to train the authorized employees and affected employees separately, or can I train one class comprised of both audiences?

A. There are separate training requirements for authorized and affected employees under OSHA's lockout/tagout standard. You may train them together as long as you cover both areas.

The standard says:

1910.147(c)(7)(i)(A) Each authorized employee shall receive training in the recognition of applicable hazardous energy sources, the type and magnitude of the energy available in the workplace, and the methods and means necessary for energy isolation and control. **1910.147(c)(7)(i)(B)** Each affected employee shall be instructed in the purpose and use of the energy control procedure. **1910.147(c)(7)(i)(C)** All other employees whose work operations are or may be in an area where energy control procedures may be utilized, shall be instructed about the procedure, and about the prohibition relating to attempts to restart or reenergize machines or equipment which are locked out or tagged out.

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.

OSHA Compliance: Ergonomics: Policy and Tactics Part 2

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

Date: November 16, 2011

Tactics

Follow up with tactics that:

- Train the workforce to be more aware of risk factors for CTDs.
- Provide detailed instructions to those who will help lead the initiative or serve on committees.
- Bring in outside experts for consultation or program implementation, if necessary.
- Provide release time or other arrangements for employees involved in committees or other safety activities.
- Track and report results.
- Publicize key accomplishments.

Risk Factors

OSHA considers manual material handling the primary cause of compensable injuries in the U.S. workforce. The risk factors are common in such incidents, many of which occur at manufacturing worksites:

- Lifting heavy loads
- Carrying bulky loads or loads at a distance from the body
- Frequent lifting
- Bending the trunk, such as when lifting items from the floor or reaching into a bin
- Twisting the trunk
- Static loading, such as holding or carrying objects for long periods
- Pushing or pulling (especially pulling)

HEALTHY BITES

Quick Tips for Healthy Living

PREVEA
Health & Wellness



What do you think?
Send us an email at:
jlconnections@aol.com
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<http://www.safetyconnections.com/>

In Loving
Memory of Jessica
Lehrke

Use a pedometer. A pedometer clips onto your belt or waistband and counts the number of steps you take. Increase the number of steps you take each day until you are taking at least 8,500 steps a day