



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

Safety Has No Quitting Time

James Lehrke-SCI

of the week

SCI Safety Tip: Poison Prevention: In the Workplace and at Home

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

Date: March 14, 2011

This week is Poison Prevention Week, which makes it the perfect occasion to hold a safety meeting on preventing poisoning on the job and at home. March 20th, to 26th

Unprotected exposure to many substances found in the workplace and in the home can lead to poisoning. What's more it isn't all that hard to be exposed, since these poisons have three easy routes into the body:

- **Inhaling** hazardous airborne vapors, dusts, fibers, etc., can cause health effects ranging from headaches, nausea, and respiratory problems to far more serious—sometimes even fatal—ailments.
- **Skin and eye contact** can irritate or burn and may cause serious eye damage, recurring allergies, or a variety of other problems. Some poisons could also enter the bloodstream through the skin, which could lead to very serious health problems, such as organ damage.
- **Swallowing** a poisonous substance could occur unintentionally if it gets on food, a coffee mug, or even hands. With some poisons, swallowing even a small amount could cause health effects.

Workplace Poison Prevention

To prevent workplace poisoning incidents, take steps such as:

- Ventilating work areas where hazardous substances are used and stored Enclosing hazardous operations to prevent dangerous vapors from escaping into the air employees breathe
- Restricting entry to hazardous areas to authorized, trained, and properly equipped workers
- Requiring the use of PPE specifically designed to protect you against the specific hazardous substances employees work with
- Training employees to consult the MSDS and their supervisor for the proper PPE and work practices for handling hazardous substances

Workplace Poisons and Workers' Families

Workers exposed to poisons in the workplace can spread the poison to their families if they're not careful.

Studies have uncovered examples of family members becoming ill when workers unknowingly brought hazardous substances home from work on their clothes, bodies, tools, and so forth.

One study found family members had contracted serious illnesses like asbestosis and chronic beryllium disease as a result of workers' exposures on the job. Other studies have reported illnesses among workers' family

members resulting from exposure to such highly hazardous substances as lead, cadmium, arsenic, mercury, pesticides, and other chemicals.

Hazardous materials can be transported home in several ways:

- Dusts and particles on clothes can get into the air in the home as well as clinging to other surfaces.
- If workers wash contaminated work clothes with other laundry, those items could become contaminated, too.
- Hand tools and other equipment that have had contact with hazardous substances can contaminate whatever they touch—furniture, flooring, a car or truck.
- Work-related materials such as bags, rags, or scrap lumber can also be contaminated and spread contamination.
- If workers have not carefully decontaminated and removed hazardous substances from hands, hair, or other body parts, they could spread the contamination to whatever—and whomever—they touch.

Decontamination and Good Hygiene

The use of proper decontamination procedures can help prevent exposures to poisons and the risk of spreading contamination through the workplace or into the home.

PPE and work clothes must be removed in the proper sequence to prevent contamination. Train workers to:

- Avoid touching contaminated clothing.
- Wear gloves or hold the clothing from the inside when they unfasten contaminated snaps and zippers.
- Remove items from the upper body first and work their way down.
- Place clothing immediately and properly in containers for disposal or decontamination.
- Good hygiene habits can also help protect employees and their families from contamination. For example, train employees to:
 - Keep food, coffee mugs, and other nonessential items out of the work area.
 - Wash thoroughly before eating, drinking, smoking, or using the toilet if they've been working where they could have been exposed to hazardous substances.
 - Wash thoroughly after any potential exposure to a hazardous substance.
 - Shower and change clothes when possible before leaving work.
 - Avoid placing PPE or work clothes in the same locker with street clothes.
 - Launder work clothes separately from other family laundry.
 - Avoid taking tools, scrap, packaging, and similar items home.

SCI OSHA News: OSHA Issues Guidance Document to Help Small Businesses Comply with Cranes and Derricks Rule

Source www.osha.gov

Date: March 8, 2011

WASHINGTON – The Occupational Safety and Health Administration today issued the [Small Entity Compliance Guide for Cranes and Derricks in Construction](#) to help businesses comply with the recently published Cranes and Derricks in Construction [rule](#).

OSHA published the rule in August 2010 to address the number of worker injuries and deaths associated with the use of cranes and derricks in construction. The rule also addresses technological advances in equipment since the old rule was

issued in 1971. "Over the past four decades, we've continued to see a significant number of worker injuries and deaths from electrocution, crushed-by and struck-by hazards while performing cranes and derricks operations," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels. "This guide will help employers understand what they must do to protect their workers from these dangerous, sometimes fatal incidents."

The small business guide is divided into chapters that correspond to sections of the standard. This guide accompanies other OSHA compliance materials on crane-related topics available on the agency's Web site including a PowerPoint overview, Web chat transcript, Webinar, list of frequently asked questions, and fact sheets. Visit OSHA's [Cranes and Derricks in Construction](#) Web page to view these products.

SCI Health News: Obama Supports Flexibility Within Affordable Care Act, New Proposed Rules (Part 2)

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

Date: March 10, 2011

The bipartisan bill is sponsored by Senators Ron Wyden, (D-Oregon), Scott Brown, (R-Massachusetts), and Mary Landrieu, (D-Louisiana.) It has been referred to the Committee on Finance.

Proposed Rules The Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Treasury today proposed new rules outlining the steps states can take to receive a State Innovation Waiver under the ACA.

Healthcare.gov provides an outline of the proposed rules:

- **Public Notice:** At the state and federal level, the law ensures an opportunity for public input. The proposed regulation outlines how public notice and comment should work, including public hearings, to ensure a meaningful level of public involvement, input, and transparency.
- **Content of the Application:** Consistent with what is required by the law, the proposed rule says that an application must include:
 - The provisions of law that the state seeks to waive;
 - An explanation of how the proposed waiver will meet the goals related to coverage expansion, affordability, comprehensiveness of coverage, and costs;
 - A budget plan that does not increase the federal deficit, with supporting information;
 - Actuarial certifications and economic analysis to support the state's estimates that the proposed waiver will comply with the comprehensive coverage requirement, the affordability requirement, and the scope of coverage requirement; and
 - Analyses of the waiver's potential impact on provisions that are not waived, access to health care services when residents leave the state, and deterring waste, fraud, and abuse.
- **Periodic Reports:** Under the proposed regulations, states with waivers would submit quarterly and annual reports. They would track measures in the four key areas: affordability, comprehensiveness of coverage, the number of people covered, and impact on the federal deficit.



Let us know how you feel about our new look! Send us an email at:

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See us at:

<http://www.safetyconnections.com>

*In Loving
Memory of Jessica Lehrke*

- **Post-Award Evaluation:** The proposed regulations suggest criteria that could be used in the evaluation of the waivers while they are in place.

Public comment is welcome on the State Innovation Waiver process outlined in this proposed regulation. To find the proposed regulation, visit www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx.

Sources:

[FACT SHEET: The Affordable Care Act: Supporting Innovation, Empowering States Healthcare.gov](#)