



Weekly Safety Tip

"Your Connection for Workplace Safety"

Phone: 920-208-7520

We're about service, commitment, results, and accountability!

SCI Safety Tip: Lawnmower Safety (Part 1)

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

Handling Gasoline

- Never smoke when filling the gas tank.
- Store gasoline in a container with a UL, FM, or CSA label. The Briggs & Stratton Smart Fill Fuel™ Can meets these requirements.
- Never keep gasoline in the house or fill gas tank indoors.
- Never store the machine or fuel container where there is an open flame, spark, or pilot light such as near a water heater or other appliances.
- Never fill containers inside a vehicle or on a truck bed with a plastic bed liner. Always place containers on the ground away from your vehicle before filling.
- Wipe up gasoline spills immediately and do not attempt to start the engine but move the machine away from the area of spillage and avoid creating any source of ignition until fuel vapors have dissipated.
- Never over-fill the fuel tank. Replace gas cap and tighten securely.
- Never remove the gas cap or add fuel with the engine running. Allow the engine to cool, before refueling.

Safety for All Mowers

- Be sure to completely read the safety information contained in the operator's manual.
- Never tamper with safety devices. Check their proper operation regularly.
- Tragic accidents can occur with children.
- Do not allow children anywhere near the area of operation.
- Children are often attracted to the unit and mowing activity.
- Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.
- If there is a risk that children may enter the area where you are mowing, have another responsible adult watch them.

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

Trim your chances of injury with lawncare safety

James Lehrke-SCI

of the week

- The blades on mowers spin very fast and can pick up and throw debris that could seriously injure a bystander.
- Be sure to clean up the area to be mowed before you start mowing.
- Do not operate a lawnmower with the discharge guard (reflector) or engine grass catcher installed.
- The Mower Deck has spinning mowers blades that can amputate hands and feet.
- Do not allow anyone near the mower while it is running.
- Always allow the mower blade(s) to stop completely before leaving the mower's operator position.
- Always turn off mower when crossing a sidewalk or a driveway.

OSHA News: US Labor Department Fall Protection Directive Upheld In US Court of Appeals

Source: www.osha.gov

Date: April 14, 2011

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit rejected a challenge by the National Roofing Contractors Association to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's December 2010 directive on the use of fall protection in residential construction. The directive withdrew an earlier one that allowed certain residential construction employers to bypass some fall protection requirements.

"Fall protection saves lives," said OSHA Assistant Secretary Dr. David Michaels. "There are effective means available to protect residential construction workers from falls. We applaud the court's decision upholding this updated, commonsense directive."

Data from the department's Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that an average of 40 workers are killed each year as a result of falls from residential roofs. One-third of those deaths represent Latino workers, who often lack sufficient access to safety information and protections. Latino workers comprise more than one-third of all construction employees.

"Fatalities from falls are the number one cause of death in construction," added Michaels. "These deaths are preventable, and we must prevent them."

OSHA's new directive, Standard 03-11-002, rescinded the Interim Fall Protection Compliance Guidelines for Residential Construction, Standard 03-00-001. Prior to the issuance of this new directive, Standard 03-00-001 allowed employers engaged in certain residential construction activities to use specified alternative methods of fall protection rather than the conventional fall protection required by the residential construction fall protection standard. With the issuance of the new directive, all residential construction employers must comply with 29 Code of Federal Regulations 1926.501(b)(13). Where residential builders can demonstrate that traditional fall protection is not feasible, 29 CFR 1926.501(b)(13) still allows for alternative means of providing protection.

The case was litigated by Lauren Goodman and Heather Phillips from the Division of Occupational Safety and Health in the department's Office of the Solicitor.

Construction and roofing companies have until June 16 to comply with the new directive. OSHA has developed training and compliance assistance materials for small employers and will host a webinar for parties interested in learning more about complying with the standard.

To view the directive and for more information, visit http://www.osha.gov/doc/residential_fall_protection.html. Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov>.

SCI Health News: Here's a Scary Fact: 75% of Substance Abusers Are Employed

Source: www.blr.com

Date: April 13, 2011

April is National Alcohol Awareness Month, which makes this a good time to discuss substance abuse in the workplace with employees. Of course, it's not only alcohol that's a problem; illegal drugs are also a major concern.

The majority of drug and alcohol abusers are employed, and when they arrive for work, they don't leave their problems at the door. Research indicates that between 10 and 20 percent of the nation's workers who die on the job test positive for alcohol or other drugs. In fact, industries with the highest rates of drug use are the same as those at a high risk for occupational injuries. American industry pays a high price for alcohol and drug abuse. Some costs—increased absences, accidents and errors—are obvious. Others, such as low employee morale and high illness rates, are less so, but the effects are equally harmful.

Drug-Free Workplace Programs

Although not required by OSHA, drug-free workplace programs are natural complements to other initiatives that help ensure safe and healthy workplaces. Employers with successful drug-free workplace programs have experienced important benefits. For example:

- Improvements in morale and productivity, and decreases in absenteeism, accidents, downtime, turnover, and theft
- Better health status among employees and family members and decreased use of medical benefits by these same groups
- Qualifying for incentives, such as decreased costs for workers' compensation and other kinds of insurance

What Are Your Options?

Unless you are covered by certain regulations (such as DOT's alcohol and drug testing rules for employees in safety-sensitive positions), you generally have a variety of options for dealing with employees who have alcohol or drug problems.

1. Start by consulting your workplace substance abuse policy. It should spell out options for dealing with substance abusers. Make sure your policy is communicated to all employees and clearly outlines expectations regarding alcohol and drug use or impairment in the workplace. Don't have a policy? Develop one soon.
2. If your organization has an employee assistance program, substance abusers should be referred to it by a supervisor or manager in an position to do so based on observed and documented performance problems.
3. You may also be able to deal with substance abuse issues under the Family and Medical Leave Act and offer abusers leave time for treatment.
4. You can take disciplinary action (up to and including termination) based on job performance problems that may be the result of an employee's alcohol or drug abuse. Be sure to carefully document performance problems and any disciplinary action taken.



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See us at: <http://www.safetyconnections.com>

*In Loving
Memory of Jessica Lehrke*

5. In lieu of termination, you can require an employee to participate in a treatment program and draw up a return-to-work agreement that requires the employee to complete the treatment program in order to be reinstated.

6. Finally, you can turn to the U.S. Department of Labor's Working Partners program for information about maintaining a drug- and alcohol-free workplace. Working Partners also provides information about helping substance abusers recover and return to work as functioning, productive employees. Tomorrow, we'll focus on another common, but often overlooked, workplace substance abuse and safety problem—the use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs, which can sometimes cause impairments that put employees at risk just as alcohol and illegal drugs do.