



"Your Connection for Workplace Safety"

Weekly Safety Tip

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 HEALTHY LIVING 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

Yes! Safety is our business.

James Lehrke-SCI

Of the week

SCI Safety Tip: 7 Essentials for Protecting Employees' Eye

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

Date: July 3, 2012

Are you following these 7 simple steps to prevent workplace eye injuries?

- 1. Create a safe work environment.** For example:
 - Minimize hazards from falling or unstable debris.
 - Make sure that tools work and safety features like machine guards are in place.
 - Make sure that workers (particularly new ones) know how to use tools properly.
 - Keep bystanders out of eye hazard areas.
- 2. Evaluate safety hazards.** OSHA requires you to make hazard assessments to determine when specific PPE is needed. Be sure to:
 - Identify the primary eye hazards at the site.
 - Identify hazards posed by nearby workers, large machinery, and falling/shifting debris.
- 3. Make sure workers wear the proper eye protection.** OSHA makes you, not employees, responsible for selecting the right eye protection and providing it to employees. Be sure to select the appropriate Z87 eye protection for each eye hazard in your workplace.
- 4. Make sure employees inspect eye protection before each use.** Damaged or worn eyewear, or eyewear that doesn't fit properly, won't protect adequately.
 - Teach employees how to inspect eye protection.
 - Have supervisors check to be sure employees follow inspection rules.
 - Show workers how to ensure eye protection fits properly and will stay in place.
 - Explain how to clean and how to store eye protection to prevent damage.
- 5. Require the use of safe work practices.** Teach employees to always use caution while they work. For example:
 - Always wear assigned eye protection, even if the job will "only take a minute."

- Brush, shake, or vacuum dust and debris from hardhats, hair, forehead, or the top of the eye protection before removing the protection.
- Don't rub eyes with dirty hands or clothing.
- Clean eyewear regularly.

6. Make it easy for employees to replace worn or damaged eye protection. Explain the circumstances in which eye protection should be replaced. Use samples of damaged equipment to make your point. Then explain the procedure for exchanging PPE.

7. Prepare for eye injuries and first aid needs. Have an eyewash station near eye hazard areas, or make sure bottles of sterile solution are on hand. Teach employees first aid for eye injuries.

SCI OSHA News: OSHA Inspections Good for Workers' Health, Companies' Bottom line, Says New Study (Part 2)

Source: www.blr.com

Date: June 22, 2012

Inspections not detrimental to employers

"We spent several years collecting data, not just on injuries, which is very important, but also on other indicators to see whether inspections led to problems they are often accused of causing, like whether they increased costs and led to the elimination of jobs. We looked at company survival, employment, sales, and total payroll to see if inspections were detrimental to the employers," said Professor Levine.

"Across the numerous outcomes we looked at, we never saw any evidence of inspections causing harm," Toffel explained. "If OSHA inspections conducted in all 50 states are as valuable as the ones we studied, inspections improve safety worth roughly \$6 billion to employers and employees, ignoring pain and suffering. The overall message of our research is that these inspections worked pretty much the way one would hope. They improved safety, and they didn't cost firms enough that we could detect it."

In future work, the research team hopes to better understand which subsets of firms benefit most from inspections and whether the inspections yield benefits in other domains, such as improved compliance with environmental regulations. Beyond workplace safety, the authors believe that randomized trials could be used widely throughout government and business to evaluate new policies, from environmental regulations to educational programs.

"More trials like this would help us find out where regulations work and where they don't," Toffel said. "Because the cost of regulations is very real, governments should be investing constantly to learn how to make them as effective and efficient as possible."

Additional information about the study:

- The cost savings applied to both small (less than \$2,000) and large (more than \$2,000) workers' compensation claims, and the reduced injuries and cost savings lasted for at least 4 years after the inspection. These findings suggest the inspections had a lasting, across-the-board effect.
- Many previous studies attempting to evaluate the effectiveness of inspections have suffered from the biased way inspection sites are chosen (by complaints or previous accidents) and from problems with how the effects of the injuries are tracked (typically via OSHA logs, which tend to become more comprehensive after an inspection). The new study addressed both of these issues, because companies were selected at random and because the injuries were measured by workers' compensation claims and other data gathered from sources independent of OSHA-mandated records.
- A 1993 California mandate requiring Cal/OSHA to conduct some of its workplace inspections at random provided the opportunity for the study. The mandate was not designed to evaluate inspections, but rather to improve compliance by including random inspections in addition to those initiated by complaints or problems. The randomized inspections examined in this study were carried out from 1996 to 2006. For each site chosen for a randomized inspection, the team identified a similar control firm eligible for a random inspection but not chosen.

Processing the information took a considerable amount of time—5 years—because the researchers had to extract the Cal/OSHA data from a magnetic tape format the researchers had never encountered, and then match the inspected companies' names and addresses to separate databases containing workers' compensation and employment information.

SCI Environmental Tip: EPA's Small Business Compliance Policy – What You Need to Know (Part 1)

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

Date: February 3, 2012

"Even an occasional glance at environmental enforcement actions will show that EPA and state agencies have a strong preference for publicizing penalties and settlements involving large companies/facilities, typically involving six or seven figures in assessed fines. But those newsworthy items are only the tip of the enforcement program."

In fact a great number of actions are taken against small businesses. Given the immense population of regulated small businesses, EPA and many state agencies have adopted self-audit policies intended to encourage these entities to voluntarily discover, disclose, and correct violations, thereby partly lessening the workload of overextended inspectors.

EPA introduced its Policy on Compliance Incentives for Small Business in 1996. In 2000, the Agency revised and renamed the policy to the Small Business Compliance Policy. The policy has been adopted by many states, and EPA recognizes state policies that match the minimum requirements of the 2000 policy.

Any small business (defined in the EPA policy as a person corporation, partnership, or other entity that employs 100 or fewer individuals) that meets all the requirements of the policy can expect to have the entirety of the gravity-based portion of a monetary fine waived. The policy does not allow reduction of the portion of the monetary fine assessed for any economic benefit an entity realized through non-compliance, but EPA assesses economic-benefit penalties against small businesses only when the benefit is very large.

Most businesses, small or otherwise, steer clear of regulatory agencies unless contact is absolutely unavoidable. As a result, year after year voluntary reporting of violations is never as extensive as EPA would like it to be. Nevertheless, companies that have strong environmental policies or that want to establish such policies may find that participating in the compliance policy of EPA or a state is one good way of mitigating any negative impact from a regulatory violation.



Nutrition and Weight Loss Part 1

- Can't stop eating until you're stuffed? Dine with people who practice portion control. Group behavior sets the standards for what's normal
 - You might think that eating alone is the best way to cut back on your calories. After all, if you're not distracted by good conversation, you'll be more mindful of how much food you're shoveling into your mouth. But that isn't always the case. While it's true that some people eat less when dining solo, others chow down when no one is watching. If you frequently overeat, your best bet is to dine with people who practice portion control. Because we unconsciously mirror others' habits, we eat less when others at the table are doing the same. Likewise, if you choose a salad over mozzarella sticks, your dining partner may opt for something more healthful too
- Steer clear of buffets, potlucks and variety packs. The more flavors available, the more willing we are to eat past being full.
 - Rein in your options for the sake of your waistline. Variety may be the spice of life, but it's the bane of dieting. The reason we chow down at all-you-can-eat buffets and major spreads like Thanksgiving isn't because there's a metric ton of food at our disposal. It's because our taste buds have nearly limitless options. If all of the food laid out before us came in only one flavor, we would be much less likely to act like human garbage disposals.



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*In Loving
Memory of Jessica Lehrke*