



NATIONAL

Safety Newsletter

November 2003

Construction Safety 101: An Orientation Program

There is no room for surprises when it comes to safety on a construction site. One of the most basic and critical steps that managers and other employers can take in order to prevent injury or death at the jobsite is to implement a safety orientation program for new workers. Research indicates that approximately 40% of fatalities on construction worksites occur to workers that have been on the job for less than 3 months.

Any effective safety orientation must include addressing certain basic components: exactly what jobs need to be completed, what hazards are associated with those jobs, what the workers need to do to protect themselves from these hazards, how their jobs fit against other related trades in the industry, and where to get guidance when new issues or questions arise.

The orientation should overview procedures and policies on the company's safety program. Information on acceptable work clothing, personal protective equipment, how to report accidents, and other basic duties are also pertinent. Reviewing the safety procedures for equipment, tools and machinery is also a great addition to an orientation program. Finally, fall protection procedures (to include necessary equipment) should be reviewed, along with the regulations for lockout/tagout, electrical safety, excavation safety, and any other operations applicable to your company.

Orientation programs are most effective when backed by management. Ideally, supervisors will conduct these orientations in small groups of new workers, making sure to walk around the site to get the workers familiar with it, and of course, answering any questions that come up. The personal touch of having a supervisor directly involved can also be supplemented (not substituted, preferably) with computer software and online training as well.

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Safety Committee Sticker Contest

The IEC Safety Committee invites our IEC Members and their families to participate in a Sticker Design Contest. This sticker will represent the alliance between IEC and OSHA, and symbolize how the two organizations work together to improve safety. The winner will be awarded an attractive plaque, and receive credit for their design. Imagination is welcome! Please fax entries to John Masarick at 703-549-7448, or send entries to: IEC Safety Committee; 4401 Ford Avenue, Suite 1100; Alexandria, VA 22302.

OSHA Regulation Book Available Free

1926 Construction Industry Regulations, updated July 1, 2002 (value \$39.00) is available free to IEC Chapters for distribution to IEC members on a first-come-first-serve basis. We have 32 copies available free for distribution. The books contain the OSHA 1926 regulations with sections of 1910 regulations for the construction industry. We ask the chapters to incur the cost of shipping these books. Contact John Masarick at e-mail; jmasarick@ieci.org or call him at 703-549-7351 to take advantage of this offer. These books will not last long.

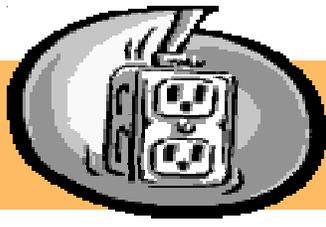
OSHA Seeks Participation from IEC Members

OSHA seeks an individual from a member company to assist in developing a Hearing Standard for Construction. If your company has a safety noise program already in place, or if you have struggled with implementing a safety noise program, this may be the perfect chance for you! Participation would allow OSHA to make a site visit to 1-3 of your sites, and would allow OSHA to interview with company management. If you are interested, please contact John Masarick at jmasarick@ieci.org, or phone him at 703-549-7351.

Electrical Contractors: visit <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/electricalcontractors/index.html> for more information on safety hazards!

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Potential Hazard with Ground Fault Circuit Interruptor (GFCI)

Safety and Health Bulletin on MOLD

Underwriter's Laboratories Inc. (UL) has issued a media release to inform consumers, electricians, contractors and manufacturers about a GFCI that does not meet the current UL requirements and may create fire or electric shock hazards to its users. Users are encouraged to stop using the GFCI immediately.

Please use the following information to identify the faulty GFCI:

**Located on the GFCI:* Please check the File Number and the date code "2003X" with the "X" representing a number from 1 to 30. Checking the file number and date code is the best way to determine if the product in your home is subject to this public notice.

**Located on the packaging:* The Company Name and Part Number (see below).

Company	File #	Part #
Preferred Industries 20	E220379	GFCILO-15, GFCILO-
Shanghai Meihao Electric, Inc.; Orbit and VE	E220379	MH15, MH20, MH20B
People International	E220379	LT15, LT20
The Designers Edge	E178961	L-3200, L-3202
USI Electric Inc.	E197052	GF-715X, GF-716X, GF-720X, GF-721X series ICON-8158 and ICON- 8102, USI-91XX and USI-92XX series

If you feel that you have a GFCI mentioned above, return it to the place of purchase. If the GFCI has already been installed, discontinue its use immediately and contact a qualified electrician to verify its marking and date code and to have it replaced. You may also phone 847-664-2907 for more information.

OSHA released recommendations on how to prevent mold growth and how workers can be protected from mold exposure. The bulletin is primarily directed to building managers, custodians, and others that are responsible for building maintenance. It offers recommendations on how to assess a potential mold problem, how to clean it up, and protective equipment as well.

Because indoor exposure to mold can cause various allergic reactions and even asthma attacks in some individuals, it is a very serious issue. Other adverse health effects include hayfever-like reactions, skin rashes, or irritation to the eyes, nose, throat and/or lungs. One does not necessarily have to be mold-allergic in order to experience these symptoms.

In terms of environment, mold is found just about everywhere and can grow on numerous substances, so long as moisture and oxygen are present. If left unattended, mold can cause structural damage to wood-framed buildings and to other building materials as well.

This bulletin will help workers with little or no experience with mold, to determine if a mold problem exists and how to remedy the situation. Checklists on mold prevention tips, mold remediation, and sampling methods are also included in the bulletin as well. For more information, copy and paste the following link into your browser: <http://www.osha.gov/dts/osta/oshasoft/safetwb.html>



Recent OSHA Fines

10/24/03 Trenching and Confined Space Hazards Bring \$83,000 in Fines: An employer's alleged failure to protect workers from trench cave-ins and exposure to carbon monoxide resulted in citations for alleged violations of safety standards from the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The employer was cited with one alleged willful and seven alleged serious violations following an inspection by OSHA that began in April at a construction worksite, after an employee working in the confined space of a manhole lost consciousness. The alleged willful violation was for failing to protect employees from excavation cave-ins through the use of an adequate protection system. Willful violations are those committed with an intentional disregard of, or plain indifference to, the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and regulations.

The alleged serious violations include failing to instruct employees on the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions; failing to instruct employees regarding the hazards of entering into a confined space; and failing to provide personal protective equipment to guard against carbon monoxide produced by a gasoline-powered tool used within a confined space. Finally, the employer was cited for failing to protect employees from water accumulation in a trench, thereby exposing employees to the increased probability of a cave-in.

10/16/03 OSHA Cites Firm for Fatal Forklift Accident:

OSHA has cited a company for allegedly allowing an employee who was not qualified as a forklift instructor to train another worker at a warehouse. A young trainee was killed when a forklift he was operating suddenly went into reverse, ran through the loading dock gates, flipped over and plunged four feet onto a concrete floor. The trainee was reportedly pinned under the forklift and died on the way to the hospital.

The Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division previously issued an \$11,000 civil money penalty to the company under the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. The penalty

was assessed for allowing a teen to operate a forklift, which is a hazardous occupation banned for persons under 18 years of age.

10/03/03 Failure to Supply Cave-in Protection at Jobsite Leads to \$73,800 in OSHA Fines for Contractor:

A contractor's failure to protect workers against a potentially fatal cave-in has resulted in citations for alleged willful, repeat and serious violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act at a water line installation site.

The willful citation, with a fine of \$63,000, was issued after an inspection found three employees working in an excavation more than 6 feet deep. The excavation was not adequately protected against collapse.

Two repeat citations, totaling \$9,200 were issued for failing to provide a safe means of exiting the trench and for failing to inspect the excavation and adjacent areas for hazards before employees entered the trench. A serious citation, with a fine of \$1,600 was issued for exposing employees to a fall hazard by failing to supply a safe means for workers to cross over an open excavation.



So You Want to Be a Trainer....

Since 1971, OSHA has authorized private-sector trainers to teach 10 and 30-hour voluntary outreach courses in both construction and general industry. Trainers are trained at the OSHA Training Institute (OTI) or at one of the OTI Education Centers located throughout the country.

Becoming an authorized trainer requires that one complete OSHA's *Course 501, Trainer Course in Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry*, or *Course 500, Trainer Course in Occupational Safety and Health Standards for the Construction Industry*. Prerequisites for Course 500 include having 5 years' experience of construction safety experience and having completed *Course 510, Occupational Safety and Health Standards for the Construction Industry* (or equivalent). Prerequisites for Course 501 include *Course 511, Occupational Safety and Health for General Industry* (or equivalent) and five years' experience in general industry safety.

The week-long trainer course provides comprehensive coverage of OSHA's standards, with a solid knowledge base of OSHA's requirements so that trainers can handle questions that will come from their students. Just a few objectives from the trainer course content include: instructional techniques, Part 1910 Standards, Part 1904 Standards, appropriate abatement actions, violation identification and much, much more.

Trainer responsibilities include: following OSHA's curriculum guidelines when teaching the courses to students, and distributing completion cards to students once they complete the course. Trainers must also submit a post-training report, a list of student names, a list of topics covered and the time spent on each topic, and a copy of their own trainer card or certificate.

***Please note: Beginning in January 2004, the IEC Safety Newsletter will change its format; it will be combined with IEC Connection and Washington Watch.**

Planning for Financial Success....

For many companies and organizations, it is time to concentrate on budgets and financial planning. Especially in difficult times, it becomes important to justify spending, and when the spending involves safety, costs should not be the only determining factor. During the process of evaluating current programs and justifying a budget to maintain the quality of your safety programs, a number of resources may prove helpful.

The ISEA (International Safety Equipment Association) presents a helpful toolkit for budget planning. This toolkit allows an organization to clearly demonstrate the importance of spending for personal protective equipment. Take the time to review the "Safety Equipment Saves Money" section on ISEA's website (www.safetysave.org) to get more information on the toolkit.

An additional resource is OSHA's "Safety Pays" program, which proposes interactive software to assist employees in determining the costs of injury as opposed to the costs of an effective safety program. For more information, copy and paste the following link into your browser:

<http://www.osha.gov/dts/osta/oshasoft/safetwb.html>