

FASC Safety Council News

Florida Association of Safety Councils -

July ~ August 2005 ~ *Take care! Safety is no accident!*

The North Florida Safety Council serves Southeast Alabama, Southwest Georgia and North Florida. The North Florida Safety Council has offices located throughout North Florida. We are a member of the Florida Association of Safety Councils. Visit us at : www.nflsafety.com

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OSHA HazCom News

Without fanfare, OSHA announced for the first time in its most recent regulatory agenda that it is considering changes to its hazard communication standard (HCS) to make it consistent with a globally harmonized system (GHS) for labeling chemicals.

While progress has stalled for most major rulemaking items on the May 16 agenda, the agency is promising to release an advance notice of proposed rulemaking on HCS by August.

OSHA is developing an enforcement initiative for compliance officers to review and evaluate the adequacy of MSDSs. Under this program, the Agency will choose a certain number of chemicals, and following the requirements in the HCS, identify some critical elements (phrases, words, etc.) that should appear on an accurate MSDS. Compliance officers would use this information as they encounter these chemicals at worksites.

In addition, compliance staff and the public are being made aware of the availability of International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSC). These cards are similar to MSDSs in terms of the information provided. They are internationally developed and peer reviewed, cover over 1,300 substances, and are available in 14 languages. They are a good screening tool to be used when reviewing MSDSs on the substances they cover, and are going to be modified to be consistent with the GHS classification criteria and MSDS format.

To view the ICSCs, see website: www.cdc.gov/niosh/ipcs/nicstart.html and click on "Index with Chemical Names and Synonyms" then click on the alphabetic letter that corresponds to the chemical in which you are interested.

MSDSs and the ICSCs are not the same. The MSDS, in many instances may be technically very complex and too extensive for shop floor use, and secondly it is a management document. The ICSCs on



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Work Zone Speeding

In 2001, there were 106,000 work zone crashes, accounting for 1.7 percent of all roadway crashes. These crashes resulted in 1,079 work zone fatalities. 47,000 were injured in work zone crashes. When drivers speed through work zones, crash risks increase.



Studies show that motorists do reduce driving speeds in work zones—but not to the levels posted. Drivers tend to disregard static signs that don't reflect current driving speeds. For example, a reduced speed limit when there is no roadway activity encourages drivers to disregard the speed restriction when workers are present.

A speed reduction or notification sign must be followed. Do you know that speeding fines are usually doubled in a work zone?

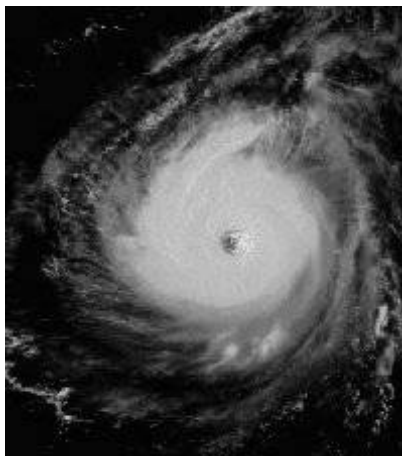
Workers, do you stay alert? Have you been trained adequately? Drivers and workers alike, remember in work zones people and cars are in close proximity and the vehicle will win in a confrontation. <<

Hurricane Central

The Florida Insurance Council has launched a new Website "Hurricane Central." Add this site to your "Favorites" in your web browser. There's some good information here.

The site includes tips on saving money for homeowners, hurricane fact sheets, checklists and links to related sites.

To get to the Insurance Council's Website, go to www.flains.org and then click on "Hurricane Central." Are you prepared? <<



Are you up to Date with your CPR and First Aid?

(OSHA Continued from Page 1)

the other hand set out peer-reviewed information about substances in a more concise and simple manner. While not a legal document, the ICSC is an authoritative document. The ICSC could serve as a model for disseminating chemical safety information to workers.

More OSHA news:

OSHA is pushing back deadlines for the following major rules:

- Employer Payment for Personal Protective Equipment -- final action delayed from March to October;
- Confined Space in Construction -- a proposed rule that was due in March is now promised for December;
- Assigned Protection Factors -- final action on this amendment to the respiratory protection rule has been pushed back from January to September;
- Silica -- completion of peer review delayed from February to December;
- Cranes and Derricks -- small business regulatory enforcement fairness act review delayed from May to September.

OSHA has succeeded in meeting deadlines for one new standard: hexavalent chromium. One possible explanation for the agency's punctuality in this case is that the deadlines have been imposed by a federal court order. The final rule on occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium is due in January of 2006. <<

Small Business

A House committee recently approved a bill that would force the government to pay the legal fees of small businesses that win their appeals of OSHA citations. The panel also approved three other bills that would strengthen the ability of small businesses to challenge OSHA rulings.

Other proposed OSHA reforms pending in Congress would: 1) exempt employers that hire outside safety consultants from fines for OSHA violations; 2) allow the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission to make exceptions to the 15-day deadline for employers to appeal OSHA citations; and 3) allow small businesses to appeal their case to an independent court. <<

Substance Abuse

The vast majority of drug users are employed, and when they arrive for work, they don't leave their problems at the door. Of the 16.7 million illicit drug users aged 18 or older in 2003, 12.4 million (74.3 percent) were employed either full or part time.

Furthermore, 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, such as construction, mining, manufacturing and wholesale.

OSHA recognizes that impairment by drug or alcohol use can constitute an avoidable workplace hazard and that drug-free workplace programs can help improve worker safety and health and add value to American businesses.

OSHA strongly supports comprehensive drug-free workforce programs, especially within certain workplace environments, such as those involving safety-sensitive duties like operating machinery.

A comprehensive drug-free workforce approach includes five components – a policy, supervisor training, employee education, employee assistance, and drug testing.

Such programs, especially when drug testing is included, must be reasonable and take into consideration employee rights to privacy.

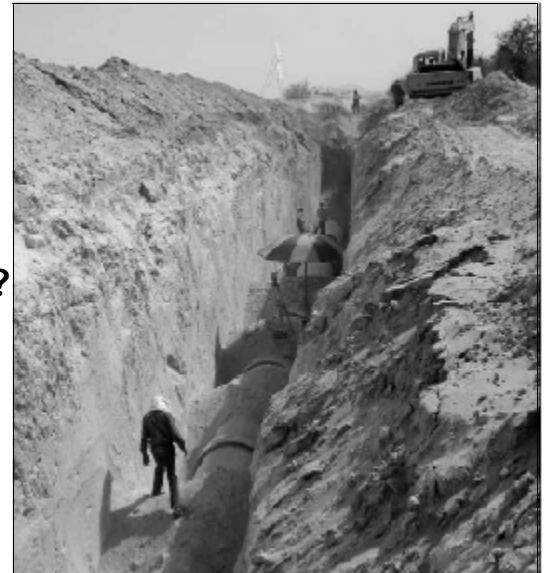
OSHA understands that many workers with substance abuse problems can be returned safely to the workplace provided they have access to appropriate treatment, continuing care and supportive services.

Although not required by OSHA, drug-free workplace programs are natural compliments to other initiatives that help ensure safe and healthy workplaces and add value to America's businesses and communities.

Is your place of employment a drug free workplace? <<



What's Wrong With This Picture?



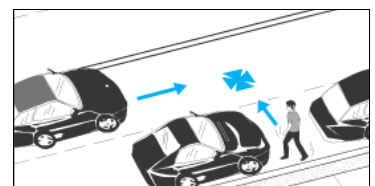
Hit and Run Drivers

Hit and run drivers kill nearly 1,500 people annually with pedestrians at greatest risk according to AAA Foundation Analysis. 1,557 people were killed nationwide in hit and run crashes in 2003.

Witnesses to a hit and run should come forward and report it. The analysis showed that approximately 11 percent of all police reported crashes involved a hit and run driver.

Tips to help keep pedestrians safe around traffic:

- Obey Traffic Signals
- Look left, then right, then left again before crossing.
- Watch for turning vehicles when crossing.
- Remain alert and aware of cars as they approach you.
- Do not assume drivers will see you because you see them.
- When sidewalks are not present, walk as far away from the roadway as possible.
- If you walk near the roadway, walk *towards* oncoming traffic and pay attention..
- If walking at night wear retro reflective and light-colored clothing. <<



A disaster waiting to happen.

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Helping to Reduce Injuries and Illnesses in the Workplace, Home and Community!

Categories of Heat Illness:

Heat cramps are muscle spasms caused by heavy sweating. They normally affect the arms, legs, or stomach and frequently they don't occur until after work, at night, or when relaxing.

Heat exhaustion occurs when surface blood vessels and capillaries that originally enlarged to cool the blood collapse from loss of body fluids and necessary minerals. Symptoms include headache, heavy sweating, dizziness, fatigue, nausea, cool moist skin, weak and rapid pulse, and low to normal blood pressure.

Heat stroke is a life-threatening illness that occurs when the body has exhausted its supply of water and salt, and the victim's body temperature rises dangerously. It can be mistaken for heart attack, so co-workers must be able to recognize its symptoms: elevated body temperature, no sweating, dry skin that is red or flushed, rapid pulse, breathing difficulty, high blood pressure, and possibly the dizziness, headache, nausea and confusion associated with heat exhaustion. <<



The *Safety Council News* is published six times a year to keep business and industry informed of the Florida Association of Safety Council's activities and safety and health news and developments. NOTE: The information herein was obtained from sources believed reliable and the Association has exercised reasonable care to assure its accuracy. However, the Florida Association of Safety Councils does not guarantee that the contents of the *Safety Council News* are correct and statements from other sources do not necessarily reflect the opinion or position of the Association.

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