



Established in 1983

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 also a member of the Florida Association of Safety Councils.

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Safety Council News

Florida Association of Safety Councils - Newsletter – 2nd Edition, 2006

March ~ April 2006 ~ Take care! Safety is no accident!

OSHA Revokes Slip Resistance Provision from Steel Erection Standard

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced it is revoking a provision of the steel erection standard that addresses the slip resistance of walking surfaces of coated structural steel members.

The provision requires that coated structural steel meet a specified level of slip resistance when measured using ASTM test methods. The technical developments that needed to occur for employers to comply with the provision by its effective date, July 18, 2006, have not occurred. The ability to comply with the slip resistance provision depends upon two technical developments: (1) completed industry protocols for slip testing equipment, and (2) the availability of suitable slip resistant coatings.

Rulemaking comments indicated that the test methods are not likely to be completed by the July effective date because ASTM will not have completed the required validation process. Comments also indicated that ASTM will likely withdraw the test methods altogether because they are brand-specific rather than generic. Lack of completed test methods has delayed the development of suitable slip resistant coatings. In addition, there has not been adequate testing of coatings to determine whether they have sufficient durability in the variety of applications in which they will be used, especially in corrosive environments.



(Continued on Page 3)

WHAT'S INSIDE:

OSHA Revokes Slip Resistance Provision from Steel Erection Standard	Page 1
Break the Vicious Cycle of Repeat Accidents!	Page 2
OSHA Offers New Guidelines to Help Reduce Motor Vehicle Crashes / Safe Drivers Are Good Company	Page 3
Computer Vision Syndrome	Page 4

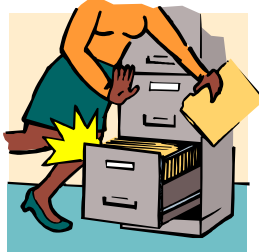
Break the Vicious Cycle of Repeat Accidents !

One accident is bad enough, but when the same accidents happen over and over, and when the same employees are involved in accidents month after month, year after year, something has got to be done to break this cycle.

What causes repeat accidents?

Look in these areas for the origin of most repeat accidents:

- **High-risk jobs** involving hazardous chemicals, dangerous equipment, confined spaces, etc.
- **High-stress jobs** without adequate built-in relief, such as enough staff or sufficient break times.
- **Seasonal jobs** that involve periodic high-volume work, which can create accident clusters.
- **Repetitive jobs** that can cause ergonomic injuries.
- **Repeat injuries** from previous injuries that did not heal properly, possibly because of returning to work too early.
- **Referred injuries** from over compensation of other body parts to make up for the injured body part, such as hip problems from adjusting the gait to accommodate a knee injury.



Who causes repeat accidents?

The usual suspects include:

- **Stoic “tough guys”** who work through any injury and consider it a sign of weakness to do otherwise.
- **Angry people** who let passion distract them from working safely because they’re “just so angry they can’t see straight”.
- **Easily distracted people** who don’t pay enough attention to what they’re doing.
- **Disengaged workers** who don’t care enough to be careful.
- **Tired people**, including shift workers, whose lifestyle doesn’t give them enough energy or alertness to work.

- **Workaholics** who won’t stop to report incidents for fear of losing work time.
- **Shy workers** who won’t draw attention to themselves by reporting an incident and risking an investigation of their work.

How can you break a cycle of accidents?

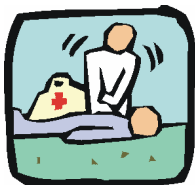
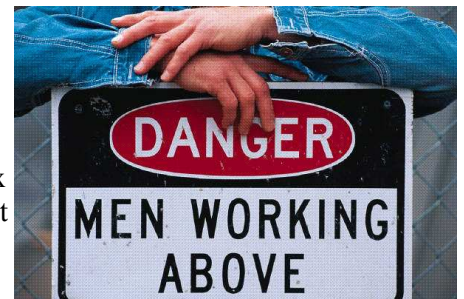
Focus on these do’s and don’ts:

DO

- Make no more repeat accidents a Number One safety objective.
- Clearly communicate the priority of this goal to all employees.
- Be a safety advocate and remind workers not to take shortcuts, use substitute tools, or otherwise increase their risks of accidents.
- Use rewards and incentives rather than punishments and discipline to make preventing repeat accidents a positive goal rather than a negative experience.
- Emphasize hazard detection, encouraging employees always to be on the lookout for potential safety problems.

DON’T

- Criticize safety performance without also offering suggestions and support.
- Lecture. Lectures turn employees into passive receptors rather than engage them in their own safety performance.
- Blame. Even if an employee makes a mistake, remember that the goal is to fix the problem, not to point the finger at someone.
- Don’t assume the worst of people. This assumption can backfire by becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy for the singled-out employee.
- Give pep talks with simplistic answers. Actions speak louder than words, so back up encouraging words by making real changes and offers of assistance. <<



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OSHA Offers New Guidelines to Help Reduce Motor Vehicle Crashes

Employers and employees who use motor vehicles for work purposes stand to benefit from new guidelines developed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS).

"Motor vehicle crashes are costly to employers and employees," said Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA Jonathan L. Snare. "This new guidance document will show companies how safe-driving practices and safety-conscious behavior can help employees avoid tragedy."

The 32-page *Guidelines for Employers to Reduce Motor Vehicle Crashes* offers useful information to help employers design an effective driver safety program in their workplace. It features a 10-step program



outlining what an employer can do to improve traffic safety performance and minimize the risk of motor vehicle crashes. The document includes success stories from employers who have benefited from effective driver safety programs.

The guidelines include a detailed section on the causes of aggressive, distracted, drowsy and impaired driving, and tips for avoiding such behavior on the road. There is also a sample worksheet for calculating the costs of motor vehicle crashes to employers.

To develop the guidance, OSHA joined forces with NHTSA, the federal agency responsible for helping save lives, prevent injuries and reduce traffic-related health care and other economic costs, and NETS, a nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to traffic safety in the workplace.

The motor vehicle guidance is available from OSHA's publications page on the Web, or can be ordered by calling the publications office at (202) 693-1888. <<

Safe drivers are good company. Make safe driving your business.

- ▶ Add another second...Keep a safe following distance.
- ▶ Steer clear of trouble...Expect bad decisions from other drivers.
- ▶ Use good judgment...Just because you *can*, doesn't mean you *should*.
- ▶ Look ahead... Be alert to changing traffic conditions.
- ▶ Stay alert and focused...No one is crash-proof.
...NETS...*Network of Employers for Traffic Safety*

(Continued from Page 1)

In 2004, OSHA conducted a limited reopening of the rulemaking record, as part of a settlement to resolve legal challenges to the slip resistance provision. The Agency asked for comments on whether suitable and appropriate test methods, and slip-resistant coatings could reasonably be expected to be available by July 2006. In the settlement agreement, the Agency also committed to publishing a notice by January 18, 2006, reaffirming, amending, or revoking the provision.

The steel erection standard is the first OSHA safety standard developed under the Negotiated Rulemaking Act of 1990 and the Department's Negotiated Rulemaking Policy. The standard addresses the hazards that have been identified as the major causes of injuries and fatalities in the steel erection industry. The slip resistance provision was not intended to be the sole or primary means of protecting workers from fall hazards. Rather, it was intended to complement other requirements in the steel erection standard as part of a collective strategy for reducing these fall-related injuries and fatalities.

Notice of the revocation of the slip resistance provision appears in the *Federal Register*.

Employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthful workplace for their employees. OSHA's role is to assure the safety and health of America's workers by setting and enforcing standards; providing training, outreach, and education; establishing partnerships; and encouraging continual process improvement in workplace safety and health. <<

Computer Vision Syndrome (CVS)

The American Optometric Association (AOA) says that a majority (61%) of Americans are concerned about vision problems caused by prolonged computer use.

The AOA and OSHA have recognized Computer Vision Syndrome as a legitimate occupational problem associated with prolonged computer use in the workplace - one that is far more common than carpal tunnel syndrome complaints. Approximately one in five people will suffer from Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, whereas seven of ten people will experience the symptoms of CVS.

CVS symptoms range from eye dryness, burning and irritation, to blurred vision and eye strain - resulting from spending three or more hours a day working on a computer.

There are simple solutions available, from adjusting your computer screen, to computer glasses, to new over-the-counter lubricating eye drops that specifically treat this malady. Adjusting the light and having the correct monitor for your job also will alleviate eye strain. <<

