

Eye on SAFETY



Risk control news and safety tips for HISIG members

MATERIAL HANDLING

Moving bulky items on the job? If so, then you need to keep safety in mind. Consider the material handling recommendations below to avoid injuries as you work. Consider the material handling recommendations below to avoid injuries as you work.

- The best way to handle boxes or cartons is to grasp the far side top and bottom corners and then draw a corner between your legs.
- Long pieces of pipe, bar stock or lumber should be carried over a padded shoulder with the front end held high to avoid hitting people. Exercise caution when rounding corners.
- It is also very important to use the right tool for the job. Do not attempt to use your fingers as a pry, a wrench for a hammer or a screwdriver for a chisel.
- Wear work gloves to protect your hands during tasks. Gloves can prevent cuts and scratches, and many types also provide a better grip. Most work gloves are ventilated for your comfort, so there is no good excuse not to wear them when the occasion calls for it.
- Conserve space in your work area, but do not pile items too close to a wall or column. Provide clearance around piles of material for safety. Stacks need to stand steady. Materials must sometimes be criss-crossed or interwoven with corrugated boards. If objects roll while stacked, they should be chocked to prevent serious injuries.
- Pick up things that you drop on the floor to prevent tripping and slipping hazards.
- Before lifting, make sure there are no obstructions or slippery spots on the route you intend to travel. Then, use your legs, not your back, to lift loads properly. Shift your feet rather than twist your body when turning.
- Avoid taking shortcuts on the job to save time. Skinned knuckles, pinched fingers, or worse injuries may result.

WHY HAVE AN INJURY & ILLNESS PREVENTION PLAN?

Taking risks is a part of running a business, particularly for small business owners. Risks are taken in product development, marketing, and advertising in order to stay competitive. But risking the safety and health of those who work for you is just not worth the gamble. Setting up an Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) reduces the costs and risks associated with workplace injuries and illnesses. In California, every employer is required by law to have an effective IIPP in writing.

As a member of HISIG, you are provided with an IIPP developed specifically for the home improvement industry. Your IIPP includes the following elements:

- Management commitment/assignment of responsibilities
- Safety communications system with employees
- System for ensuring employee compliance with safe work practices
- Scheduled inspections/evaluation systems
- Accident investigation
- Procedures for correcting unsafe/unhealthy conditions
- Safety and health training and instruction
- Recordkeeping and documentation.

For more information on how to put your IIPP to work, please contact Tim or Michelle at HISIG Risk Control at 818-449-9335.



MOST FREQUENTLY CITED OSHA STANDARDS - 2008

HAZARD COMMUNICATION

In order to ensure chemical safety in the workplace, information about the identities and hazards of the chemicals on site must be made available to employees. California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5194, governs hazard communication to workers about chemicals produced or imported into the workplace.

FALL PROTECTION

Falls from ladders and roofs still account for the majority of falls in the workplace. Identifying fall hazards and deciding how best to protect workers is the first step in reducing or eliminating fall hazards. Safeguards include guardrails, safety nets, personal fall protection systems, and the use of safe work practices and training.

LOCKOUT/TAGOUT (CONTROL OF HAZARDOUS ENERGY)

Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) refers to specific practices and procedures to safeguard employees from the unexpected start-up of machinery and equipment, or the release of hazardous energy during service or maintenance activities. Workers injured on the job from exposure to hazardous energy lose an average of 24 work days for recuperation.

ELECTRICAL

Many workers are unaware of the potential electrical hazards present in their work environment, which makes them more vulnerable to the danger of electrocution. Common OSHA citations include: failure to effectively close conductors entering boxes, cabinets or fittings; failure to provide all pull boxes, junction boxes and fittings with covers; and using flexible cords and cables as substitutes for the fixed wiring of a structure.

POWERED INDUSTRIAL TRUCKS

Each year, tens of thousands of workers are injured by powered industrial trucks (forklifts). Accidents include: forklifts driven off of loading docks; forklifts falling between docks and unsecured trailers; and collisions with other forklifts. Most incidents incur property damage, including damage to overhead sprinklers, racking, pipes, walls and machinery.



LADDERS

Ladder injuries typically occur when they are used for a purpose other than for which they were designed, such as using the top or top step of a stepladder as a step, failure to use ladders on stable and level surfaces and not tagging and withdrawing defective ladders from service. Most employee injuries can be attributed to insufficient or inadequate training and not following safe operating procedures.

HISIG MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Silverado Ace Hardware

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HISIG extends a warm welcome to its newest member, Silverado Ace Hardware of Calistoga, California. Silverado Ace joined us on June 1, 2008. Silverado Ace is owned and operated by Tim Peterson, and is located about 75 miles north of San Francisco.

Welcome to the group!