

Eye on SAFETY



Risk control news and safety tips for HISIG members

OSHA's TOP 10 CITED PROGRAMS OF 2006

HISIG Risk Control has the safety resources and expertise you need to have an effective risk control program. To help reduce employee injuries through safety, check out the services available to you from HISIG. Contact Tim Karcz or Michelle Kelly today at 818-449-9300 to discuss the resources and services available to you.

OSHA's "Top 10" cited programs of 2006:

Scaffolding—Cal-OSHA requires employers to provide scaffolding at heights of 10 feet or more. An estimated 2.3 million construction workers work on scaffolds frequently.

Hazard Communication—Cal-OSHA governs hazard communication to workers about chemicals. Maintaining a written program, material safety data sheets and employee training will keep you in compliance.

Fall Protection—OSHA standard 1926.501 protects construction workers who work above six feet. It provides guidance for fall protection requirements.

Respiratory Protection—Respirators protect workers against insufficient oxygen environments, harmful dusts, fogs, smokes, mists, gases, vapors, and sprays.

Control of Hazardous Energy—Lockout/Tagout: Approximately three million workers service equipment and face the greatest risk of injury if lockout/tagout is not properly implemented. Compliance with the standard prevents an estimated 120 fatalities and 50,000 injuries each year.

Powered Industrial Trucks—Forklifts: Each year, tens of thousands of injuries related to powered industrial trucks, or forklifts, occur in U.S. workplaces. Many employees are injured when lift trucks are inadvertently driven off loading docks, or when lift trucks fall between docks and an unsecured trailer. Other employees are injured when they are struck by



a lift truck, or when they fall while on elevated pallets and tines.

Electrical—Wiring Common electrical equipment, wiring and insulation citations include junction boxes and fittings without appropriate covers and using flexible cords and cables as a substitute for permanent wiring.

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THE TOP FIVE HISIG INJURIES AND ACCIDENTS

While the threat of OSHA is daunting, injuries and accidents that affect the HISIG group hit close to home.

Strains and Sprains—Most commonly caused by lifting and material handling, strains and sprains can be prevented by incorporating lifting procedures into your safety rules. Employees should never be asked to lift heavy loads on their own and should receive safe lifting training emphasizing team lifts.

Contusions—Most of these large bruises were caused by falling objects. It is important to keep stocked items secure and to use appropriate means to access them.

Fractures—Fractures were caused by several types of accidents, including falling objects, slips and/or falls, and contact with machinery. Good housekeeping and machine guarding can prevent most of these injuries.

Lacerations—Use of hand tools, both powered and non-powered, were the source of many of these injuries. Using appropriate Personal Protective Equipment and providing training for proper tool use can reduce laceration injuries.



USING YOUR INJURY AND ILLNESS PREVENTION PLAN

HISIG's Injury and Illness Prevention Plan (IIPP) provides guidelines to help ensure your employees enjoy a safe and healthy place to work.

An IIPP outlines how your organization identifies and deals with existing hazards, injuries and training requirements. One way to maximize your program is to increase safety awareness throughout your company. The following tips can help you spread the word of safety.

Notify—Tell all of your employees that they have a new safety program. Send emails or include flyers with their paychecks explaining facts about the program.

Duplicate—Make copies of the written program for various locations. Place a copy in every break room and office to increase the likelihood that your employees will see it and recognize the fact that you have a safety program.

Simplify—HISIG also provided you with a shortened, employee version of the IIPP, the employee safety manual. Make a copy of it and give it to each employee to review.

TOP 10 OSHA CITED PROGRAMS

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Machine Guarding—Moving machine parts have the potential for causing severe workplace injuries, such as crushed fingers or hands, amputations, burns, or blindness. Safeguards are essential for protecting workers from these needless and preventable injuries.

Ladders—Injuries typically occur when ladders are used for a purpose other than for which they were designed, 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.

Electrical—General Requirements Electricity has long been recognized as a serious workplace hazard. Electrical hazards that top the electrical citation list include the failure to install and use electrical equipment according to factory instructions, failure to guard electrical equipment, failure to identify disconnecting means and circuits, and not keeping work spaces clear.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Join us at the Poms & Associates party during the ACE show March 15 - 18. Look for your invitation in the mail and invite your friends who may be interested in HISIG to come along to the party.