

eplica ▶▶ Safety Lines

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The First Line of Defense in Workplace Injuries



Remind your workers of the critical role they play in the prevention of workplace injuries. Because they do the job every day, they know better than anyone else what could potentially result in a workplace injury or illness. Remind employees that they know best:

- ▶▶ The machinery and equipment that they work

with. They know if guards are missing or if extra guarding should be added. They also know if a machine is performing as safely as it should be.

- ▶▶ If the floor in their area gets slippery and about common trip hazards in their area.
- ▶▶ Which items in their area are heavy and should be lifted only with material-handling aids.
- ▶▶ If safe work practices developed for their job are actually effective in preventing accidents or if they need to be improved.
- ▶▶ About the near misses and minor first-aid injuries that employees in their work area suffer.
- ▶▶ If the personal protective equipment (PPE) provided for their job provides adequate protection.
- ▶▶ If the safety equipment (fire extinguishers, eyewash station) in their area is accessible and in good condition.
- ▶▶ The tricks that make their job easier and safer.

OSHA Proposes Published Rulemaking

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has announced in a notice of proposed rulemaking, its plans to require improved worker protection from tripping, slipping and falling hazards on walking and working surfaces.

"This proposal addresses workplace hazards that are a leading cause of work related injuries and deaths," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA Dr. David Michaels.

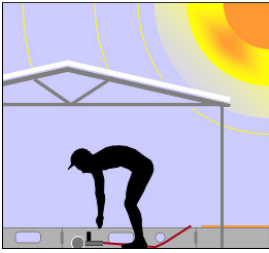
The NPRM describes revisions to the Walking-Working Surfaces and Personal Protective Equipment standards to help prevent an estimated annual 20 workplace fatalities and more than 3,500 injuries serious enough to cause people to miss work. For example, in July 2009, a worker at a chocolate processing plant was killed after falling from an unguarded work platform.

"This is a clear and grave example of the human cost incurred when fall protection safeguards are absent, ignored or inadequate," said Michaels.

"The loss of a worker's life might have been prevented if the protective measures in these revised standards had been in place and in use."

The current walking-working surfaces regulations allow employers to provide outdated and dangerous fall protection equipment such as lanyards and body belts that can result in workers suffering greater injury from falls. Construction and maritime workers already receive safer, more effective fall protection devices such as self-retracting lanyards and ladder safety and rope descent systems, which these proposed revisions would also require for general industry workers.

The current walking-working surfaces standards also do not allow OSHA to fine employers who let workers climb certain ladders without fall protection. Under the revised standards, this restriction would be lifted in virtually all industries, allowing OSHA inspectors to fine employers who jeopardize their workers' safety and lives by climbing these ladders without proper fall protection. More information is available in the *Federal Register* notice at <http://s.dol.gov/3J>.



June Safety Tip

Heat stress killed 13 California workers in 2005. Does your company have a plan in place to make sure your workers don't become part of this gruesome statistic?

The California Code of Regulations, Title 8, SS3395 says you have to plan in advance for heat spells and take the necessary steps to ensure your employees don't succumb to warmer weather.

It includes ensuring your workers have plenty of clean, cool water, access to a shaded rest area, a communication plan, and written procedures.

For more information:

[DOSH - Heat related illness prevention and information](#)

[EMPLOYER SAMPLE PROCEDURES FOR HEAT ILLNESS PREVENTION](#)

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Machine Accidents – Don't Blame The Machine!



Machines are incredibly useful tools. But, like all tools, they must be used safely to prevent injury. Train employees to operate machinery safely and prevent machine accidents.

The list of possible machinery-related injuries is long and bloody. It includes severed fingers, crushed hands, amputated arms, severe cuts, and other damage too horrible to mention. Sometimes workers are even killed by machines.

But it's no use blaming machines for accidents!

The responsibility for preventing machine accidents and injuries lies with workers who don't recognize the hazards, who take risks, or who are simply careless; and with management if it doesn't train machine operators properly, strictly enforce machine safety rules, and maintain machinery in good, safe condition.

Simple Rules Prevent Accidents

Make sure your machine operators always follow these basic safety rules:

- ▶▶ Check that guards are in place at all points where you could contact moving parts before turning the machine on. Never use a machine with missing or malfunctioning guards.
- ▶▶ Be aware of how to turn power on and off if you should have to do so quickly.

- ▶▶ Read the manufacturer's instructions on how to operate the machine safely and correctly—and follow those instructions.
- ▶▶ Pay attention to training on how to use machines properly and use them according to what you're taught.
- ▶▶ Feed material into the machine with push sticks, not your hands.
- ▶▶ Find a comfortable working position to minimize fatigue.
- ▶▶ Take it easy. Rushing through a job is one of the major causes of accidents.
- ▶▶ Pay attention. Machines are very powerful and they'll run away from you if you're not alert.
- ▶▶ Check machines before use. If anything seems to be missing or not working properly, report it.
- ▶▶ Make sure maintenance is performed when required. If you think your equipment might have missed its scheduled maintenance, let your supervisor know.
- ▶▶ Use lockout/tagout procedures when a machine needs repair or maintenance. Turn the machine off and lock out the power so that no one can start it up until the lock is removed.
- ▶▶ Check machines after repair or maintenance to be sure that guards are in place.

Customize your training overview to the specifics of your workplace. And above all, reinforce the importance your organization places on safety and the importance of the role each worker plays in workplace safety.

It includes ensuring your workers have plenty of clean, cool water, access to a shaded rest area, a communication plan, and written procedures.

June Safety Quote

“Safety is something you learn from the start - Being accident free is doing your part.”