

eplica Safety Lines

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Cuts and Lacerations – The Dangers Around You



edges, and carboys can have splinters and metal protrusions. Flat metal sheets can have very sharp edges and the scrap left after cutting sheet metal can cause cuts and punctures.

Hand tools such as awls, screwdrivers, drawing knives, chisels, saws, planes, files, drills, punches and scrapers can puncture or cut. Machine tools -- circular saws, band saws, planers, joiners, sanders, edgers, millers, drills, lathes, sharpeners and grinding wheels can also cut and lacerate.

Two of the most common types of injuries suffered on the job today are cuts and lacerations. It doesn't take much effort to visualize most of the sources of such injuries. And, each job has hazards that could cause cuts and lacerations. Even office jobs are at risk with hazards such as paper cuts, paper cutter injuries and punctures by staplers, scissors and thumbtacks. However, there is potential for more serious injuries. Of these, perhaps the most likely to become infected is the deep puncture wound

Let's look at the sources of these wounds: In packaging and shipping, the dangers of protruding nails, screws, staples, splinters and steel bands are present. Before handling wooden crates especially, examine the exterior for any of these hazards. Drums, barrels and carboys may also be hazardous. If the tops are cut out of metal drums, for example, sharp, jagged edges may be exposed. Barrels may have metal slivers or sharp

Other things involved in manufacturing processes, such as machine parts, castings, stamping, rods and bar stock may have hazardous edges and corners.

In many of the processes mentioned, these hazards can be reduced by wearing gloves -- *except when hands are near revolving machine parts, where the glove can be caught and the fingers or hand can be drawn into the machine.*

Probably the most common cutting hazard is broken glass. The best safety advice for dealing with glass is *not to pick up the glass with your hands*. Use a broom and sweep it up. Dispose of it in a safe place where no one else can be injured by it. In addition, warn the housekeeping crew.

Good common sense and following rules will usually keep us safe from cuts, lacerations and puncture injuries.

The Supervisors Role in Workplace Safety

Supervisors are vital to safety efforts, but they come at all levels of commitment. For the less-than-enthusiastic supervisor, safety can seem like just another task on a long list, or worse, an extra burden put upon them by you – the safety professional.

To overcome this attitude, you need to change supervisors' perception of you from "cop" to "coach." They need to see you as the person who is going to keep them out of trouble.

You can shift their perception several ways, including:

- ▶▶ Adjust your own attitude.
- ▶▶ Realize not all supervisors are created equal.
- ▶▶ Shed the "outsider" label.
- ▶▶ Understand the pressures that drive supervisors.
- ▶▶ Realize you have expertise supervisors need.
- ▶▶ Support them in their safety responsibilities.



October Safety Tip:

Both at home and on the job, you must call to mark utility lines before beginning any digging project. This is not limited to large projects. Small projects such as digging a new rose bush or a tree require that you call and request utility lines marked prior to digging. Failure to do so could result in damaging a major utility line or even electrocution. Federal law established 811 as the national digging hotline for all states, open 24/7.

October Safety Quote:

“Check your shoes and don't let your day slip away.”

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Close Calls

A “close call” or accident without injury is easy to shrug off and forget. But there is a danger in brushing off accidents that don't hurt, harm or damage. When a close call happens it should immediately send up a red flag that something was wrong, unplanned or unexpected and could happen again. The next time it happens, it could result in serious damage, injury or death.

For every accident, there are usually several contributing factors, most of which can be controlled. The best way to prevent the re-occurrence of an accident is by looking at those close calls. By investigating the root causes of an accident, steps can be taken to eliminate the hazard and improve the work system.

Don't rush to judge – sometimes there are multiple causes for an accident involving factors such as equipment (unguarded machinery), environment (poor lighting or noise level), people (procedures not understood or not followed) or management (allowed shortcuts).

Examine the facts and find what's missing. Look for immediate and underlying causes. An

immediate cause may be an unsafe condition like a mechanical failure or it could be an unsafe action by an employee. The underlying cause could be poor machine maintenance, a missing guard, a crowded work area or a lack of training.

All incidents should be reported to the supervisor so that accident and injury report forms can be completed. Once an investigation is complete, solutions should be sought to prevent the accident from occurring again. Solutions may involve engineering controls, administrative controls, additional training or increased communication between management and workers.

Workers should inspect the work area daily for unsafe conditions or unsafe actions and if found, report them to the supervisor.

Learn the real lesson from close calls. Hazard awareness is the key to preventing accidents before they happen. Take steps to eliminate hazards as soon as they are discovered. Close calls can happen again and again until they cause injury, so tell your supervisor about every incident, no matter how minor it may seem at the time. You never know when an incident may be repeated and result in an injury or even death.

Texting While Driving or Working Can Lead to Possible Tragedy



A federal investigation is underway checking reports that text messages may have contributed to the **September 12th** crash between a Metrolink commuter train and Union Pacific freight train. Additionally, the California Public

Utilities Commission, the state's top rail safety regulator, is seeking an emergency order banning train operators from using cell phones.

The accident, killing approximately 26 people and injuring more than a hundred, has been labeled the worst in Southern California history and worst rail disaster in the nation since the '70s.

A survey by Harris Interactive last year showed that 92 percent of Americans think driving while

distracted by text messages or e-mail is as dangerous as driving after drinking alcoholic beverages. Ironically, many people who label this activity dangerous continue to text or e-mail while driving any way.

We all know that utility operations require our employees to be 100 percent focused on the job at hand.

Always keep in mind; the use of hand-held portable electronic devices can cause drivers to become distracted, potentially leading to vehicle incidents.

Electronic devices should not be used for calls or sending text messages while employees are driving or on the job.

Be Safe - Don't become distracted while working or driving!