ALLIED SAFETY NEWS

Above all we strive to control or eliminate known or potential safety and health hazards in the workplace.

ISSUE 2 February 2023

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In The News

Health Safety

American Heart Month & National Burn Safety Week

This month is American Heart Month and National Burn Safety Awareness Week. Take some time to learn how these two debilitating health hazards can affect workers in any industry.

heart.org

American Heart Association®

#NBAW ameriburn.org

National Burn Awareness Week

FEBRUARY 5–11, 2023

Call ASG to schedule your Adult CPR/First Aid/AED Course! Nick Guilfoyle 309.339.8950

Leadership In Safety

Combustible Dust Program

US Department of Labor revises OSHA's Combustible Dust National Emphasis Program

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration today issued a revised Combustible Dust National Emphasis Program. Any combustible material can burn rapidly when in a finely divided form. If such a dust is suspended in air in the right concentration, under certain conditions, it can become explosible. The purpose of the revised emphasis program is to continue OSHA inspections of facilities that generate or handle combustible dusts likely to cause fire, flash fire, deflagration and explosion hazards.

The NEP was revised based on enforcement history and combustible dust incident reports. In 2018, wood and food products made up an average of 70 percent of the materials involved in combustible dust fires and explosions. Incident reports indicate that the majority of the industries involved in combustible dust hazards are wood processing, agricultural and food production and lumber production, but others are susceptible as well.

The revised program sets forth a new approach for locating and inspecting subject establishments. The following industries were added to the program because OSHA found they had a higher likelihood of having combustible dust hazards or experienced combustible dust-related fatalities/catastrophes:

311812 - Commercial Bakeries
325910 - Printing Ink Manufacturing
321912 - Cut Stock, Resawing Lumber, and Planning
316110 - Leather and Hide Tanning and Finishing
321214 - Truss Manufacturing
424510 - Grain and Field Bean Merchant Wholesalers

osha.gov

continued pg. 3

ASG Current Events

We're Growing!

Jillian Hansen

Allied Safety welcomes Jillian Hansen as Human Resources Director!

Happy Valentines Day!

American Heart Association®

Check out these strategies to prevent heart disease!

mayoclinic.org

Equipment Safety

Forklift Safety

"Your Partner in Workplace Safety"

Worker Dies After Being Struck by Forklift, OSHA Cites Texas Company

A Texas lumber supplier is facing citations following the death of a worker who was struck by a forklift.

According to a **news release**, after operating and parking the forklift, the worker dropped the keys and searched for them. While looking, the worker was struck by the forklift, which had a makeshift brake instead of the original parking brake. OSHA found that the worker was not certified in forklift use yet was allowed to operate the vehicle. **The agency** requires forklift operators to be trained and certified before using the vehicle.

The agency proposed penalties of over $200,000 and issued citations for one willful and four serious violations.

"A family, his friends and co-workers are left to mourn a young man whose life was cut short because his employer failed to follow safety requirements that would have prevented this tragedy," said OSHA Area Director Kia McCullough in Little Rock, Arkansas, in the news release.

According to OSHA, Hixson Lumber Company LLC allegedly "failed to train the teen worker, left keys inside unsecured forklifts and did not make sure the forklift used by the teenager had a proper parking brake, working horn and backup alarm as required." OSHA issued citations for one willful and four serious violations and proposed penalties of $218,759.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, just over 9,000 workers were injured from forklifts in 2017. That same year, 74 workers died from injuries involving forklifts. **Full Article**

ASG offers Forklift and MEWP Safety Training. Call or email to Schedule Training for your employees today!

Leadership In Safety

Combustible Dust Program continued

OSHA initiated the Combustible Dust NEP in October 2007 after a number of combustible dust incidents that resulted in numerous fatalities and serious injuries. The agency reissued the emphasis program in March 2008 after a combustible dust explosion at a sugar refinery in Georgia. Since 2007, the agency has conducted about 600 inspections annually under this emphasis program.

Figure 1. *Fire Triangle*
osha.gov

"The combustible dust NEP is one of the agency's important programs for proactively inspecting the nation's most hazardous facilities before a catastrophic incident occurs," stated Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Doug Parker." The results of a combustible dust fire or explosion can be catastrophic to workers and the facilities that they work."

This revised NEP directive replaces the March 2008 directive and remains in effect until OSHA issues a cancellation notice. This revised directive does not replace another similar OSHA directive referred to as the grain handling facility directive but it may cover operations involving grain processing that are outside the scope of the grain handling directive. Learn more about **OSHA** and about **combustible dust** from OSHA. continued pg. 4

Safety At Home

Fireplace Safety

Inspect the fireplace and chimney

As the weather gets colder and your fireplace becomes more than a decorative focal point, be sure it's up for the task of keeping your family warm and toasty – and safe. Our list will help you keep track of proper maintenance and make sure your fireplace is ready for regular use this winter.

Have a professional inspect and clean your fireplace and chimney each year before you begin using it for the season. If you're using a gas or wood fireplace, open the chimney flue prior to starting the fire to let fresh air feed the flames and allow smoke to exit. Close the flue once the fire is put out.

It's also important to keep the area surrounding the fireplace free from flammable objects. Be extra cautious of this during the holidays. Keep decorations and stockings a safe distance away from a fire and don't ever use your fireplace to burn Christmas trees or wrapping paper. Pine boughs and paper burn intensely and can lead to a roof or chimney fire.

Additional information:

Gas fireplace safety tips

Electric fireplace safety tips

Wood fireplace safety tips

Leadership In Safety

Hazardous Chemicals continued

Steps to an Effective Hazard Communication Program for Employers That Use Hazardous Chemicals

Taking action to ensure employees are informed about hazardous chemicals used and stored in the workplace is an often-cited requirement that should not be overlooked. Product knowledge and accessibility of hazard and exposure information can greatly increase product handling safety and emergency response efforts.

Schedule your Hazcom training today.

Safety In Action

Workplace Safety *"Working Safe Is No Accident"*

Preventing Slips, Trips, and Falls in the Workplace

Slips, trips, and falls are among the most common hazards in the workplace. They put many workers at risk of sprains, strains, cuts, bruises, fractures, and other injuries. At worst, they can also lead to death, especially in high-risk occupations such as construction. But with adequate training and safety practices, companies can keep their personnel safe from these hazards.

Full Article

Slips

Slips occur when there is little to no traction between the footwear and the walking surface. Since the friction is too small to hold the feet on the ground, a person can lose their balance. For example, if a supermarket staff member runs on a wet produce aisle, they will most likely slip on the floor.

Trips

On the other hand, tripping happens when a person's foot hits an object or steps down to a lower, uneven surface.

Any of the two can disrupt a person's balance and make them lose their footing. For example, an electrical engineer can trip on tangled cables lying on the floor.

Falls

Falls are the number one cause of fatalities among construction workers. They can happen to anyone if they stumble and fall too far off their center balance. For example, an electrician can fall from a ladder while fixing a light bulb.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) classifies them into two types:

Fall at the same level—occurs on the same working surface

Fall to a lower level—takes place below a person's working surface, common for those working at heights

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