



Safety Council News

Florida Association of Safety Councils - Newsletter – 3rd Edition, 2006

May ~ June 2006 ~ Take care! Safety is no accident!

FASC provides a forum for Florida Safety Councils to examine and act on issues impacting driving, occupational and public safety.

FASC develops safety education programs available to member Councils individually or collectively.

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Contact A Safety Council Near You!

OSHA Remains Focused on Plan



OSHA Strategic Management Plan 2003-2008

Focused on the Future

OSHA continues to focus on the their five-year Strategic Management Plan for workplace safety. The agency's vision is that "Every employer and employee in the nation recognizes that safety and health adds value to the American businesses, workplaces, and worker's lives."

Goals:

Faced with both new challenges and persistent safety and health issues, OSHA is committed to continuing its focus and its resources on achieving three overarching goals:

1. Reduce occupational hazards through direct intervention
2. Promote a safety and health culture through compliance assistance, cooperative programs and strong leadership; and
3. Maximize OSHA's effectiveness and efficiency by strengthening its capabilities and infrastructure.

"There can be no work more rewarding and no job more fulfilling than helping to protect the lives and well-being of the working men and women who keep our nation strong. We can make a difference and we will."

-John L. Henshaw, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health

Go to: www.osha.gov/StratPlanPublic/index.html for more information.

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May is Healthy Vision Month

Each day about 2000 U.S. workers have a job-related eye injury that requires medical treatment. About one third of the injuries are treated in hospital emergency departments and more than 100 of these injuries result in one or more days of lost work. The majority of these injuries result from small particles or objects striking or abrading the eye. Examples include metal slivers, wood chips, dust, and cement chips that are ejected by tools, wind blown, or fall from above a worker. Some of these objects, such as nails, staples, or slivers of wood or metal penetrate the eyeball and result in a permanent loss of vision. Large objects may also strike the eye/face, or a worker may run into an object causing blunt force trauma to the eyeball or eye socket. Chemical burns to one or both eyes from splashes of industrial chemicals or cleaning products are common. Thermal burns to the eye occur as well. Among welders, their assistants, and nearby workers, UV radiation burns (welder's flash) routinely damage workers' eyes and surrounding tissue.

In addition to common eye injuries, health care workers, laboratory staff, janitorial workers, animal handlers, and other workers may be at risk of acquiring infectious diseases via ocular exposure. Infectious diseases can be transmitted through the mucous membranes of the eye as a result of direct exposure (e.g., blood splashes, respiratory droplets generated during coughing or suctioning) or from touching the eyes with contaminated fingers or other objects. The infections may result in relatively minor conjunctivitis or reddening/soreness of the eye or in a life threatening disease such as HIV, B virus, or possibly even avian influenza.

Engineering controls should be used to reduce eye injuries and to protect against ocular infection exposures. Personal protective eyewear, such as goggles, face shields, safety glasses, or full face respirators must also be used when an eye hazard exists. The eye protection chosen for specific work situations depends upon the nature and extent of the hazard, the circumstances of exposure, other protective equipment used, and personal vision needs. Eye protection should be fit to an individual or adjustable to provide appropriate coverage. It should be comfortable and allow for sufficient peripheral vision. Selection of protective eyewear appropriate for a given task should be made based on a hazard assessment of each activity, including regulatory requirements when applicable.



Eye on Safety



These first aid tips can help minimize the severity of eye injuries:

Specks in the eye

- Do not rub the eye.
- Use an emergency eyewash and flush eye copiously.
- See a doctor if speck does not wash out, or if pain or redness continues.

Cuts, punctures, objects stuck in the eye

- Do not wash out the eye.
- Do not try to remove stuck objects.
- Stabilize the eye with a rigid shield without putting pressure on the embedded object.
- See a doctor immediately.

Chemical burns

- Immediately flush the eye out with drinkable water. Open the eye as wide as possible, and flush continuously for at least 15 minutes.
- For caustic or basic solutions continue flushing while en route to the doctor.
- If a contact lens is in the eye, flush over the lens immediately. Flushing may dislodge the lens.
- See a doctor immediately.

Blows to the eye

- Apply a cold compress to the eye without pressure.
- Crush ice in a plastic bag and tape it to a person's forehead so it rests gently on the injured eye.
- See a doctor at once if pain continues, vision is reduced, blood is in the eye or discoloration occurs.

Source: NIOSH, 2005

Bicycle Safety

As more and more cyclists take to the roads, trails, and paths this summer, your Safety Council and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is releasing bicycle safety tips.

Each year, there are about 900 bicycle-related deaths in the United States and another half a million bicycle-related injuries treated in hospital emergency rooms. To reduce injuries, your Safety Council and CPSC encourages riders of all ages to use helmets. Studies have shown that using bicycle helmets can reduce head injuries by up to 85 percent. CPSC is developing a mandatory safety performance standard for bicycle helmets.

This standard would include provisions for general construction, labeling, peripheral vision, impact reduction, and chin strap strength. In the meantime, CPSC is enforcing interim standards and offering consumers the following safety tips for buying and using bicycle helmets.

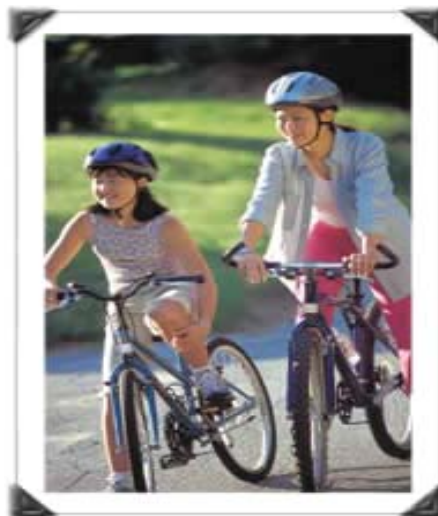
- Buy a helmet that bears a label saying it meets the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard Z90.40 1984; the Snell Memorial Foundation standard B 90, B 90S, N 94, or B 95; the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standard F 1447 93 or F 1447 94; or the Canadian Standards Association standard CAN/CSA D113.2 M89.
- Wear the helmet flat atop your head. Do not wear the helmet tilted back at an angle. Make sure the helmet fits snugly and does not obstruct your field of vision.
- Always wear the helmet with the chin strap firmly buckled. Make sure the chin strap fits securely and that the buckle stays fastened to provide impact protection. No combination of twisting or pulling should remove the helmet from the head or loosen the buckle on the strap.
- Do not use a helmet after it has been involved in an accident. Damage to the helmet may not be visible to an untrained eye. Even very small cracks in the helmet may greatly reduce a helmet's effectiveness in preventing injury. Either destroy the helmet and get a new one or have it inspected by the manufacturer. The manufacturer will tell you if the helmet needs to be replaced.

Along with using safety equipment, rider actions and reactions play a role in contributing to injury-free cycling enjoyment. CPSC is offering consumers these additional safety tips to help ensure safe summer cycling.

- Protect your head...Wear a helmet. See and be seen...Wear bright fluorescent colors during the day.
- Avoid biking at night...If riding at night, equip your bicycle with head and tail lights and wear reflective clothing.

- Stay alert...Keep a lookout for obstacles in your path.
- Go with the flow...Ride with traffic.
- Check for traffic...Be aware of traffic around you.
- Learn the rules of the road...Obey traffic laws.
- Assure bicycle readiness...Is your bicycle properly adjusted?
- Check brakes before riding. Check your wheels..."Quick release" wheels should be securely fastened.

CPSC encourages consumers to access bicycle safety publications through the internet at www.cpsc.gov.



Safety Association Notes

During April the **American Association of Safety Councils (AASC)** held its 2006 Spring Conference in Jacksonville, Florida. More than 20 Safety Councils from across the country and Canada met to discuss safety issues of national significance. The 2006 Fall Conference will be held in Las Vegas in October.

For additional AASC information: www.safetycouncils.org

The Executive Directors and Occupational Safety Managers of the **Florida Association of Safety Councils (FASC)** will meet June 11, 12 and 13th in Gainesville, Florida. Agenda items include: nursing home safety, defensive driving trends, OSHA, new CPR standards, CEUs for safety professionals, and the 2nd edition of the Principals of Safety Management (PSM) and Advanced Safety Management (ASM) courses.

For additional FASC information: www.fasc.us

Hurricane Watch vs Warning *Know the Difference*

A HURRICANE WATCH issued for your part of the coast indicates the possibility that you could experience hurricane conditions within 36 hours. This watch should trigger your family's disaster plan, and protective measures should be initiated, especially those actions that require extra time such as securing a boat, leaving a barrier island, etc.

A HURRICANE WARNING issued for your part of the coast indicates that sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours or less. Once this warning has been issued, your family should be in the process of completing protective actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm.

Basic Hurricane Safety Actions

- Know if you live in an evacuation area. Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind. Have a written plan based on this knowledge.
- At the beginning of hurricane season (June 1), check your supplies, replace batteries and use food stocks on a rotating basis.
- During hurricane season, monitor the tropics. Monitor [NOAA Weather Radio](#).
- If a storm threatens, heed the advice from local authorities. **Evacuate if ordered.**
- Execute your family plan.

The *Safety Council News* is published six times a year to keep business and industry informed of the Florida Association of Safety Council's activities and safety and health news and developments. NOTE: The information herein was obtained from sources believed reliable and the Association has exercised reasonable care to assure its accuracy. However, the Florida Association of Safety Councils does not guarantee that the contents of the *Safety Council News* are correct and statements from other sources do not necessarily reflect the opinion or position of the Association.