



FASC Safety Council News

Florida Association of Safety Councils -

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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 Demonstrates Successful Enforcement Program in Fiscal Year 2004

Inspection goal exceeded, total violations increased by nearly four percent over Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

John Henshaw, assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health (OSHA), has released the agency's annual enforcement statistics, affirming that OSHA's balanced approach to workplace safety and health includes strong, fair and effective enforcement programs.

Henshaw said the agency exceeded its inspection goal for FY 2004, completing 39,167 total inspections including more than 300 under the new Enhanced Enforcement Program (EEP) that focuses on employers who repeatedly ignore their safety and health obligations. OSHA also completed nearly 3,000 inspections within industries identified with high injury and illness rates.

"Our enforcement remained strong in FY 04," Henshaw said. "We exceeded our inspection goals; we strengthened our compliance assistance through our new enhanced enforcement program; and we found more violations and issued more serious and willful citations indicating a more accurate targeting system for workplaces and industries with a high proportion of injuries and illnesses."

Henshaw said the agency cited 86,708 violations of OSHA standards and regulations during FY 04, an increase of 3.8 percent over the previous year and nearly 10 percent over the last five years. Of particular significance was the increase in serious and willful violations issued during FY 04 (three and 14 percent, respectively, over FY 03). Henshaw said the increases demonstrate that OSHA is targeting the right workplaces for inspections by accurately identifying



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Carbon Monoxide— the silent killer

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a silent killer that can stalk any home. If you have fuel-burning appliances or if you have an attached garage to your living quarters you could be in danger and not know it. Following are a few guidelines:

- Have a qualified technician inspect your fuel-burning appliances and chimneys to ensure they operate correctly and that nothing blocks the vapors from being vented out of the house.
- Don't let your generator or vehicle run in the garage.
- Install a UL-Listed CO alarm according to the manufacturer's instructions and at least 10 feet away from fuel-burning appliances and outside of sleeping areas.
- Test your CO alarm at least once a month and replace the battery at least once a year.
- Never ignore a CO alarm—call 9-1-1.
- Move to fresh air, either outside or to an open window or door.
- Don't re-enter your home or move away from the open door or window until emergency services arrive and says you can return safely.
- CO detectors don't detect smoke and smoke alarms don't detect CO. You'll need both types of alarms. Make certain everyone knows the difference in the alarm sounds. <<



Top 2004 OSHA Violations

1. The Control of Hazardous Energy, Lockout/Tagout
2. Hazard Communication
3. Machines, General Requirements
4. Respiratory Protection
5. Electrical, Wiring Methods, Components and Equipment
6. Mechanical Power-Transmission Apparatus
7. Powered Industrial Trucks
8. Electrical Systems Design, General Requirements

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employers who repeatedly or willfully violate the law.

Henshaw also noted that injury and illness rates continue to decline and that fatality rates held their downward trend-over the past five years, the rate has decreased 11 percent.

"OSHA's enforcement program," Henshaw said, "is a key part of an overall approach which also includes training, compliance assistance, outreach, education, partnerships and cooperative programs that, together, make vital contributions to occupational health and safety. This approach is validated by the fact that workplace injury, illness and fatality rates are at their lowest levels ever, even as the workforce continues to expand. That is the ultimate measure of our success: more workers go home safe and healthy to their families at the end of every workday."

Employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthful workplace for their employees. For more information, visit www.osha.gov. <<

OSHA Consultation

OSHA offers numerous avenues for businesses and organizations to establish a cooperative working relationship with the agency. One of those programs involves a free on-site consultation service. The 'Consultation Program' is a service delivered by the government using trained professional staff to educate employers about potential hazards at their worksites and to help them improve their safety and health management systems. The safety and health consultation program is confidential and completely separate from OSHA inspection efforts. Visit OSHA's website for more information. <<

9. Abrasive Wheel Machinery
10. Mechanical Power Presses

These are the standards most frequently cited by federal OSHA when inspecting manufacturing sites from October 2003 through September 2004. <<



Safety in the Workplace— Sexual Harassment

While employers must worry about safeguarding their assets from employee theft, they must also seriously consider safeguarding employees from potentially dangerous sexual advances. Both the employer and the employee committing the crime can face serious consequences if hit with a sexual harassment lawsuit.

Provide your employees and agents with discrimination information. Distribute an information sheet that describes:

- The illegality of sexual harassment.
- The definition of sexual harassment under applicable state and federal law.
- A description of sexual harassment, including examples.
- The internal complaint process available to the employee.
- The legal remedies and complaint process available through state or federal agencies.
- Directions on how to contact either a state or federal agency.
- An anti-retaliation statement that protects employees who complain about or participate in proceedings concerning sexual harassment.

Once the complaint procedure is adopted, a responsible employer must:

- Train supervisors in the use of the procedure.
- Encourage all employees to use it if it becomes necessary.

An employer is required by law to take appropriate remedial action designed to end any incident of sexual harassment. Employers have several options open to them, depending on the seriousness of the harassment. These options include:

- Information resolution between the parties.
- Disciplinary action against the harasser.
- Disciplinary action against the purported victim if it is determined and provable that they made false accusations.
- Many employers offer the victim free personal counseling, when appropriate. Some also require the harasser to seek counseling to remain employed. <<

What’s Wrong With This Picture



Chicken Soup’s Power

A family practitioner, at Kendall Regional Medical Center in Miami, says there is growing scientific support for chicken soup’s flu-fighting powers. Soup provides a balance of hydration and nutrition, which is critical for fighting the flu and boosting the immune system.

Studies have shown steam from hot soup can break up bronchial secretions and help clear nasal passages. However, chicken soup has an edge over other soups. Chicken soup has an amino acid that has anti-inflammatory effects, and that can reduce the symptoms of influenza. Homemade soup may be superior to all others so try grandma’s homemade chicken soup it may make you feel much better.

In the mean time, remember to cover your mouth and nose if you cough or sneeze, wash your hands frequently and stay home if you feel ill. <<



A New Year... A Few Safety Reminders



1. Safety takes no holiday. Foster a safe environment all year long.
2. If the object is too heavy to lift alone, get someone to help lift.
3. Lock poisons away—label them correctly.
4. Walkway clutter can lead to a dangerous fall.
5. Wipers on—lights on! It's the law.
6. If you're partying—choose a designated driver who's not drinking.
7. Heat exhaustion can be a killer. Stay cool!
8. Never choose to swim alone. If you're boating, leave a destination plan.
9. Protect yourself from the sun whether working or playing.
10. Stay alert. For example, don't drive and talk on a cell phone.
11. Protective equipment and gear can save your life and limb.
12. If you see a hazard—report it.

Have a safe year everyone!

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.

