



FASC Safety Council News

*Florida Association of Safety Councils -
Newsletter – 6th Edition, 2004*

November ~ December, 2004 ~ *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!

Fatal Occupational Injuries in 2003

Highest number deaths in construction, transportation

A total of 5,559 fatal work injuries were recorded in the United States in 2003, a small increase from the revised total of 5,534 fatal work injuries reported for 2002, according to the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, DOL. Despite the increase, fatal work injuries for both 2003 and 2002 were the lowest ever recorded by the fatality census, which has been conducted each year since 1992. The rate at which fatal work injuries occurred in 2003 was 4.0 fatalities per 100,000 workers, unchanged from the rate reported for 2002.

Profile of 2003 fatal work injuries by type of incident

Fatal work injuries resulting from highway incidents, falls and electrocutions were all lower in 2003 than in 2002, while fatal injuries involving homicides, fires and explosions, and being struck by objects increased.

Fatal highway incidents were down in 2003 for the second consecutive year, but continued to account for the highest number of fatal work injuries. The 1,350 fatal highway incidents recorded in 2003 accounted for about one out of every four fatal work injuries. Incidents involving workers struck by vehicles or mobile equipment also were down in 2003, but the number of fatal work injuries involving nonhighway transportation incidents (such as those that might occur on a farm or industrial premises) and aircraft-related incidents were both higher.



The number of workplace homicides was higher in 2003 -- the first increase since 2000. Despite the higher total, the 631 workplace homicides recorded in 2003 represented a 42 percent decline from the high of 1,080 workplace homicides recorded in 1994. Workplace

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Suspicious Parcels Or Letters



Packages and letters can contain explosives, chemicals or biological agents. With the holidays upon us, it is time to review safety procedures relating to such items. The Department of Homeland

Security lists a number of typical characteristics postal inspectors have detected in the recent past. Be cautious of parcels that:

- Are unexpected or from someone unfamiliar to you.
- Are marked with restrictive endorsements, such as "Personal," "Confidential" or "Do not X-ray."
- Have protruding wires or aluminum foil, strange odors or stains.
- Show a city or state in the postmark that does not match the return address.
- Are of unusual weight, given their size, or are lopsided or oddly shaped.
- Are marked with any threatening language.
- Have inappropriate or unusual labeling.
- Have excessive postage or excessive packaging material such as masking tape and string.
- Have misspellings of common words.
- Are addressed to someone no long with the company or are otherwise outdated.
- Have incorrect titles or a title without a name.
- Are not addressed to a specific person.
- Have handwritten or poorly typed addresses.

Use common sense. If you receive a Christmas package in a ruffled box, tied with extra string with a handwritten crooked address, it just might be from your mother, a friend or a grandchild. Don't panic—just be careful. <<

Scary Statistics



Thirty-seven percent of drivers have nodded off for at least a moment or fallen asleep while driving at least once in their driving career. Eight percent have done so within the last six months, says a report distributed by the University of Maryland. <<

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suicides also were higher in 2003.

Fatal work injuries involving falls declined in 2003. The 691 fatal falls recorded in 2003 was the lowest total since 1996. The number of electrocutions also was lower. The 246 electrocutions in 2003 represented a decline of 15 percent from the 2002 total and reflected a series low. The 198 fatal work injuries resulting from fires and explosions in 2003 was 20 percent higher than the total recorded in 2002. Fatalities from being struck by objects also were higher in 2003, led by increases in worker deaths due to being struck by a falling or flying object.

Note on industry and occupation classifications:

Beginning with the 2003 reference year, CFOI began using the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) for industries and the Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) for occupations. Prior to 2003, the program used the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system and the Bureau of the Census occupational classification system. Because of the substantial differences between the current and previous systems, the results by industry and occupation in 2003 constitute a break in series, and users are advised against making comparisons between the 2003 industry and occupation categories and the results for previous years.

Profile of fatal work injuries by occupation

Transportation and material moving occupations recorded 1,388 fatalities in 2003, the most of any major occupational group. Over half of the fatalities in this group involved drivers of heavy trucks or tractor trailers. Construction and extraction occupations had the second largest number of fatal work injuries among major occupational groups. Construction trade workers accounted for 784 of the 1,033 fatal work injuries in this major group, with construction laborers recording the most fatalities (289) of any individual occupation in the group. higher in the Northeast and South, but lower in the West and Midwest in 2003. For the full report and charts, visit <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/cfoi.toc.htm> <<



For further information or assistance, contact:

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Visit our website at: <http://www.safetycouncilpbc.org> E-mail: zondra@safetycouncilpbc.org

Health and Safety Tips for the Holidays

Designate a driver...Don't drink and drive...

When attending parties, always designate a non-drinking driver. If you are the host of a holiday gathering, be sure there are non-alcoholic beverages available for guests who are driving.



Buckle up...

Wearing a seat belt is the easiest and best way to prevent injury in a motor vehicle collision. Ensure that all passenger wear seat belts.



Enroll in a first aid and/or CPR class...

It's important to be prepared should an emergency situation arise. To enroll in a first aid or CPR course, contact your local Safety Council (see the left column of page one of this newsletter for a listing).



Handle holiday "goodies" safely...

The following are myths regarding the safety of food. Every one of the following assumptions/myths is wrong! Read the safety tip below each myth.



If food smells good and tastes alright, it must be good.

Bacteria that causes foodborne illness does not change the taste, smell or appearance of the food!

If food is cooked, it won't spoil.

Cooked food held for more than 2 hours without refrigeration or a heat source is the ideal environment for airborne bacteria multiply.

Everyone at the same thing and only a few people got sick, so it couldn't be the food.

Whether or not you get sick is based different things, i.e., how much a person eats; or a person's immune system may be more able to fight off the illness-causing bacteria than someone else's.

Our kitchen is clean and I wash my hands—the food must be safe.

Clean hands and a clean environment make for safer food but how was that food handled after it was put out for co-workers? Unsafe time and temperature practices could have made it unsafe for consumption. If food will not be eaten within the 2 hour safety zone, put it on ice if cold food or keep it in a crock pot or burner set on low.

No bacteria could possible live in my eggnog with all that rum and bourbon.

Cooked, chilled eggnog is the only safe eggnog. Alcohol will not kill the Salmonella that may be in the uncooked eggnog. Eggnog should never be made with raw eggs. Commercial eggnog is pasteurized—homemade eggnog must always be cooked too.

Whether your office holiday celebration is potluck or catered, keep it safe. <<



Fire Alarm Systems

The fire alarm system is quite possibly the single most important aspect of any building structure. Given the task of providing 24-hour-a-day protection for occupants, buildings and their respective contents, fire alarm systems are often overlooked until a problem occurs. The necessary testing and inspection that must be conducted to ensure the continued operation of these systems is often seen as expensive, time-consuming and not at all necessary.

You can not tell if a fire alarm system is operational by merely looking at it or by performing a superficial check. Over time, the electronics and other components that comprise any given system degrade as a result of environmental factors (i.e., dust and dirt), intentional abuse and improper test and maintenance actions performed.

For these reasons, it is necessary to implement, and adhere to, a thorough test and inspection maintenance program for all fire alarm systems in order to ensure continued protection and peace of mind. <<



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OSHA says “Every Belt—Every Ride”

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in partnership with the Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) launched a promotional campaign, “**Every Belt—Every Ride**” at the National Safety Congress in September of this year.



- Traffic crashes are the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities in America.
- **Seat belts save lives!**
- Using seat belts cuts the risk of death by 45% for people riding in cars and by as much as 60% for those traveling in trucks or SUV’s.
- **Seat belts save 14,000 lives each year and every state in the nation has a law mandating seat belt use.**
- **20% of Americans still fail to buckle-up!**
- Federal employees are required to wear seat belts—every time they travel on public business as passengers or drivers—by Executive Order.
- **Every Belt—Every Ride** seeks to remind everyone of the life-saving value of seat belts and their obligation to use the safety devices in all vehicles (private cars and taxis, whenever and wherever they go). <<

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.

Schedule for November & December

November 10-Employment Screening & Safety Orientation-9:00am-1:00pm

November 17-Coaching the Forklift Operator-9:00am-1:00pm

November 17-Safety Policy Development-8:30am-5:00pm

November 15-17-Train the Trainer Construction course-8:00am-5:00pm

December 2-Annual Holiday Meeting-Crazy Buffet-11:30am

December 6-9-Occupational Safety & Health Standards for Construction Industry 510-8:30am-5:00pm



*Season’s
Greetings*