V.P.P.
Voluntary Protection Program

Volume 1, Issue 6

August-September 2009

Get in S.T.E.P.

Safety Takes Every Person

SAFE -- Staying Accident-Free Everywhere

Prevent Hazardous Leaks

If you work with hazardous material, it's important to be on the lookout for leaks from containers. Constantly watching for leaks is one way to stop problems before they start. Here's how:

- ☑ **Check** for stains, dents, bulges, waste residue and/or corrosion on containers.
- ☑ **Inspect** walls or floors around containers for stains or leaks.
- ☑ **Make sure** containers are stacked properly.

If you find a problem or a leak, report it to your supervisor immediately. You could save lives, including your own.

Visit these WEBSITES to find more information on Safety !

http://www.osha.gov

http://www.ehso.com

http://homesafetycouncil.org/index.asp

EXIT DOORS should be unobstructed, clearly marked and unlocked. Make sure the paths to exits are clear of obstacles. Mark any door that could be mistaken for an exit along the exit path with appropriate signs. For example, mark it "Storage Closet" or simply "Not an Exit."

Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP)

4 Major Elements

1. Management Commitment and Employee Involvement
2. Worksite Analysis
3. Hazard Prevention and Control
4. Safety and Health Training

Lockout/Tagout FAQs

We hear so much about the importance of lockout/tagout procedures, it can be confusing. Here are answers to some common questions:

Q: Do the terms 'lockout" and tagout' mean the same thing?

A: no, but they are often used together. Lockout means using a lock or lockout tool on an energy isolation source. This ensures that the energy-isolating device and equipment being controlled are inoperable until the lockout tool is removed with a key or other unloving mechanism. Tagout refers to the placement of a prominent tag or other warning on an energy isolation device to warn others against re-energizing the equipment while it's being maintained or repaired.

Important: Lockout devices should always be used unless you can demonstrate that using a tagout system will provide full protection. The tagout device has to be no reusable, attached by hand, self-locking and weatherproof. A tagout alone should be used only when it is impossible to lockout or in industries where the use of tags is well -established and well-recognized.

(continued on next page)

OSHA'S Top 10 Violations...and How to Avoid Them:

It's a list that doesn't seem to change much form year to year. Three factors are usually top violators: fall protection, scaffolding and lockout/tagout. What can you do? Simply put, follow the rules. Here are the top 10 violation categories and ways to stay in compliance:

1. **Scaffolding—General Requirements** (1926.451) ***Tip***: Ensure that guardrails and toe boards are in place on all open sides.
2. **Hazard Communication** (1910.1200) ***Tip***: Read all hazard communication material and know where Material Safety Data Sheets are located.
3. **Duty to Have Fall Protection** (1926.501) ***Tip***: Check your fall protection gear for damage *before* you put it on, and *then wear it*.
4. **Lockout/Tagout** (1910.147) ***Tip***: OSHA recently introduced a new lockout/tagout directive. Check OSHA's Web site for more information at *www.osha.gov*.
5. **Respiratory Protection** (1910.134) ***Tip***: Double-check that you are wearing the appropriate respirator for your job.
6. **Powered Industrial Trucks** (1910.178) ***Tip***: The *biggest* problem with powered industrial trucks (forklifts) appear to be lack of training. Never operate a forklift without proper training.
7. **Electrical—Wiring Methods, Coponents, and Equipment for General Use** (1910.305) ***Tip:*** Always consider electrical equipment ENERGIZED until proven otherwise.
8. **Machine Guarding—General Requirements** (1910.212) ***Tip***: OSHA specifically checks for machine guarding violations during an inspection. Don't take shortcuts; always use your guards.
9. **Ladders** (1926.1053) ***Tip***: Always keep at least three point of contact: one hand and two feet or two hands and one foot on the ladder at all times.
10. **Electrical—General Requirements** (1910.303) Tip: Respect all voltages, know the principles of electricity and follow safe work procedures. Don't take chances.

While it is your employer's responsibility to set policies that keep a workplace safe, it is *your* responsibility to follow the rules set forth by your employer. If you don't, you put yourself and others at serious risk.

To All DPW, SE, and FD Chiefs:

If you notice an employee, co-worker, supervisor that has gone that extra step to make your workplace a safe one, email us so we can recognize their efforts.

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Have any questions, comments, or suggestion, e-mail me **TODAY**. No comment or suggestion to small.

nancy.hilton1@us.army.mil

VPP Steering Committee Members: RITA BENCOMO-GARCIA, WSMR DPW; **MOHAMMED, H. KAHKESH**, WSMR SE; **GLORIA J. PORTER**, NFofFE IAM-AW UNION, LOCAL 2049; **WILLIAM E. DEMPSEY**, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS UNION LOCAL 294 **Alternate Designees: NANCY HILTON**, WSMR DPW; **JOE ZURLINDEN**, WSMR SE; **MICHAEL A. DE LA PAZ**, WSMR FD

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Shocked!

Electrical shock can happen anytime someone works with electricity. Would you know what to do if a co-worker couldn't get free of an electrical source or was seriously injured in an electrical accident? In either emergency, there's no time to waste; follow these procedures:

Don't touch the person who is in contact with electricity.

Protect yourself. If a power line or other high-voltage source is involved, call 911 and stay at least 50 feet away.

Disconnect or de-energize low-voltage sources without touching the actual equipment.

Use a nonconducting object to separate the victim from a live low-voltage source only if you cannot safely disconnect or de-energize it. For example, use a wooden broom handle or a wooden baseball bat.

Check the victim (once he or she is free) for pulse and breathing if the person is unconscious. If necessary, perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation or CPR (only if trained).

Cover the victim and keep him or her lying down until medical help arrives. This will help prevent the person from going into shock.

Call for emergency assistance, eve if the person looks or feels fine someone who has had an electric shock could have heart failure hours later.

Don't fool with electricity. Always take the necessary precautions when working with or near electrical sources.

(source: Electrical Safety Foundation)

LESSONS LEARNED

Near misses are defined as incidents where an injury, property damage or fatality may have easily occurred but didn't.

Even when nothing happens, near misses need to be reported. That way, incident investigations can be conducted and lessons can be learned. The next time, you or others may not be so lucky. Here are some questions to answer when you recount the near miss:

- What was the date and time of the near miss? Was it late or early in the day? Was it dark?
- Explain the circumstances—what caused the near miss? Was weather a factor?
- Were all safety procedures followed?
- Have there been similar near misses?
- Was everyone wearing proper protective gear?
- Were you and others aware of the hazards?
- How can you prevent the event from happening again?

Consider a near miss a warning that something is wrong, and it is up to you to notify others that there is a risk or hazard so that standards improve..

Lockout/Tagout... (continued)

Q: What are the OSHA standards concerning lockout/tagout and where do I find them?

A: The OSHA Lockout/Tagout Standard is 29 CFR 1910.147. OSHA can also us 29 CFR 1910.212, General Requirements for All Machines and 29 CFR 1910.219, Mechanical Power Transmission Apparatus, to cite a business for lack of compliance. These two other areas allow OSHA to issue a double citation for noncompliance. Visit the OSHA Web sit at www.osha.gov for more information.

Q: Are there other requirements involving lockout/tagout procedures?

A: Each state or province varies. Many employers are subject to safety rules that go beyond or are more stringent than OSHA requirements. Please check with your supervisor or your risk manager for further instruction, and make sure you have the training that you need to operate electrical equipment.

REMEMBER !!!!!!!!!!

Kids are back in school. OBEY School Zone speed limits.

Road work is on-going throughout WSMR. Please, watch for workers and obey speed limits.

Have any questions, comments, or suggestion, e-mail me **TODAY**. No comment or suggestion to small.

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