

THE UOSH SAFETY LINE AUGUST 2009



AUGUST 2009

UTAH OSHA
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Do you have a
topic you would
like to see fea-
tured in a future
Safety Line?

Email your sug-
gestions to:
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BIG “M” PHASE I

The Utah Labor Commission, Occupational Safety and Health Division (Utah OSHA) announces THE 2009 MATERIAL HANDLING INSPECTION EMPHASIS INITIATIVE named “Big M Phase I”, at both retail and wholesale establishments in Utah, beginning September 1, 2009. This initiative for material handling safety is designed to help identify and eliminate hazards associated with the major causes of fatalities, accidents, and injuries in that sector of the Utah industry, caused by crushing and caught in between incidents.

Establishments which have experienced a total injury rate above the state average rate for their specific in-

dustry will be evaluated and considered for a comprehensive inspection during this emphasis initiative.



A comprehensive inspection is a substantially complete and thorough inspection of all potentially hazardous areas of the establishment. This type of inspection is also known as a “Wall to Wall” inspection. The industry groups by

North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) included in Phase I of this initiative are:

- 493xx – Warehouse storage, state average rate 7.7
- 484xx – Truck transport, state average rate 5.6
- 452xx – General merchandise store, state average rate 6.4
- 44132 – Tire dealers, state average rate 5.9

For more information, visit the Utah OSHA website at www.uosh.utah.gov or contact Eldon Tryon, UOSH Compliance Manager at (801) 530- 6901.

UOSH Teams with Fire Fighters

The Utah Labor Commission Occupational Safety and Health Division (UOSH) has started an inter-agency Cooperation program with local fire departments to explore ways that both entities can help each other attain safety in the workplace. A luncheon was held July 22nd, with representatives from Utah OSHA, Midvale City Fire, West Valley City Fire, West Jordan Fire, Sandy City Fire, the State Fire Marshall’s Office, Utah Fire & Rescue Academy, and the State Fire

Marshall HAZMAT Team.

Commissioner Sherrie Hayashi of the Utah Labor Commission commented on the long history that the Labor Commission has had with fire fighters and that the Labor Commission has a representative that sits on the Fire Prevention Board, and pledged full support of this initiative. With the limited resources of both parties, it is necessary for the departments to work together to share what limited resources that each has. Both

the fire fighters and Utah OSHA will look at any program that they have that would benefit the others, so that they may be able to share these programs. Already, the Unified Fire Department has invited UOSH Compliance Officers to attend some training on trench rescues, and confined spaces, which has benefitted both parties.

Look for further results from this initiative in future issues of Safety Line.

OSHA's Safety Pays Program



Did you know that on the OSHA website (www.osha.gov) there is a program that allows you to see how much an injury will cost your company? The Safety Pays Program uses information from the National Council on Compensation Insurance, Inc (NCCI). Using information gathered in 2004, you can find out your direct costs of an injury and the indirect costs (wages paid to injured workers for absences not covered by workers' compensation, replacement of machinery, costs related to work stoppage, training

replacement employees, etc.) of specific injuries. For example: A simple sprain can cost your company over \$20,000 in direct costs, and over \$25,000 in indirect costs. If you operate on a 3% profit, you would have to sell more than 1.5 million dollars of additional product to recover your expenses. These expenses are incredibly high and seem unrealistic; however, these are based on data from the NCCI, which is the nation's largest provider of workers compensation insurance and employee injury data and

statistics in the nation. For assistance with your safety and health management system, call the Utah Labor Commission OSHA Consultation Program at (801) 530-6855. This no-cost program is available to Utah Businesses with 250 employees or less throughout the state, and less than 500 employees corporate wide. Follow this link to access Safety Pays: <http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/smallbusiness/safetypays/index.html>

“A simple strain can cost your company over \$20,000 in direct costs”.

Upcoming Topics

Residential vs. Commercial

Process Safety Management

Pneumatic Nail Gun Safety Tips

Nail guns drive nails and staples into building materials. Injuries or fatalities can result from improper use. Not only are the operator of the nail gun at risk, so are the operators coworkers. Eyes, hands, and fingers are especially at risk. When using a nail gun, the nails can: splinter or blow out fragments from the material, puncture the back of the material, fire completely through the material and strike workers behind the nailing surface, and come in contact with electrical wires. There are two common types of nail guns. The first is the sequential tool, this nail gun requires the nose (workpiece contact) to be depressed before the trigger

is pulled. This two-step sequence makes accidental firing less likely, and can be used for most nailing tasks. The second is a contact tool. This tool fires anytime the trigger and nose (workpiece contact) are both depressed. The trigger can be held down to allow “bump firing”, this type of nail gun is good for nailing on flat surfaces (caution: if trigger is depressed, the tool will fire anytime the nose is depressed, this can cause unwanted double firing of nails.. To keep you and your coworkers safe: always use safe work practices and PPE, follow manufacturer's tool labels and operating manual, wear safety glasses with side shields, never

defeat or modify safety features, keep fingers away from trigger when not driving nails, avoid line of fire hazards in front of and behind material, position yourself (especially your free hand) out of the line of fire, never point nail gun at anyone, always watch for coworkers behind the nailing surface, disconnect the gun to perform maintenance, move to another work area, or clear jams, train on safe operating procedures, proper body placement, and correct PPE use. NOTE: The tool must meet applicable OSHA guarding standards

