

UOSH SAFETY LINE

NEWSLETTER

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Safety Resolutions for 2012

As the new year approaches, it's a good time to reflect on the success of your safety program during the past year. Was safety a top priority for everyone in your organization? Did you manage to meet objectives, or do you perhaps need to make some new resolutions for 2012?

Evaluate Workplace Hazards: Your business may have already assessed the hazards associated with the job and implemented means to either eliminate or mitigate the hazards. However, some additional resolution that you might consider are:

- Take a second look at the layout, condition, and housekeeping of work areas.
- Examine tools and equipment to make sure they are safe for employees to use
- Review maintenance schedules to make sure they are up to date.
- Observe the way employees work and correct unsafe behaviors you observe.
- Check to make sure that appropriate personal protective equipment is readily available to all workers and in good working condition.
- Identify other or possible new hazards such as potential fire, chemical, electrical, and other hazards throughout your facility and take action to eliminate these risks.
- Review your written programs and update as needed.

Emphasize training. Employee training is one of the most important aspect of any successful safety program.

- Review OSHA and any other federal, state or local standards for training requirements (many regulations have very specific requirements).
- Make sure training sessions are interactive and provide plenty of opportunities for questions and discussion.
- Take advantage of available technology to enhance and expand training options.
- Provide demonstrations and hands-on experience during training sessions.
- Don't forget to provide training for supervisors and managers (especially when new regulations, policies, equipment, processes,

In This Issue

Excavations	2
Disasters	3
First Aid Kits	4
DeWalt Safety Notice	5

Encourage Employee Participation. Encourage employees to make suggestions about how to improve workplace safety.

- Involve employees in problem-solving when challenging safety and health issues arise.
- Rely on safety committees composed of employees from all levels and functions in your organization to identify hazards, investigate accidents, and promote safe work habits among your workforce.

Recognize and reward safe behavior. Finally, don't forget to show your gratitude for the efforts employees, supervisors, and managers are making to create a safer workplace.

- Talk up safety at every opportunity. Let employees know that their safety is your top priority this year.
- Ask them to join you in making safety their top priority as well.
- Some companies like to use recognition and reward programs to reinforce safe behavior and positive safety attitudes.



Safety Compliance

Pay Special Attention to Excavations During Winter and Early Spring

Employers whose work involves excavations or trenches must pay extra attention to safe working conditions during the rainy season.

Wet weather can result in days, if not weeks, of heavy rain. Continuous exposure to rain and high winds causes soil that is otherwise stable to become heavily saturated with water, creating unsafe conditions.

A cave-in can trap you within seconds and kill you within minutes. Two cubic yards of soil weigh about 6,000 pounds. If you're buried, you'll suffocate in less than three minutes and if you do survive, the weight of the soil is likely to cause serious internal injuries.

Cave-ins aren't the only hazard in excavation work.

Lack of oxygen, toxic fumes, explosive gases, and buried power lines may also be present.

- Do not work in a trench deeper than five feet without shoring to keep the walls of the trench stable.
- Know your soil: Different compositions of soils absorb water differently. If you are unsure about the stability of your soil, additional information about soil analysis is available.
- Keep equipment back from the edge of a trench at least two feet to prevent a cave-in and to prevent the equipment from rolling into the trench.
- Keep the rock and soil you remove from the trench at least two feet back from the edge of the trench.
- Bigger isn't always better. Excavations that are more than 20 feet deep require protective systems designed by a professional engineer, and soil composition needs to be evaluated by a trained specialist.
- Keep water from accumulating in an open excavation. Cover the trench with plastic or remove the water with buckets or pumps.
- Have an escape route — ladders or a similar means of getting up to ground level must be provided within 25 feet of where work is being performed.





Plan and Prepare for Disasters

OSHA requires employers to provide a safe and healthful workplace for their employees. Those requirements include having emergency plans in place to address fires, disasters, and weather emergencies that could occur during work.

Emergency planning may not prevent emergencies, but it can protect lives, equipment, and property over the long term. OSHA requires most employers to have emergency action plans. Companies that have more than 10 employees must have written plans. Businesses with 10 or fewer employees don't have to put their plans in writing; however, they must ensure that their employees know what procedures to follow to protect themselves in an emergency.

A number of hazards exist year-round, but winter brings a higher risk of weather-related emergencies, including winter ice storms, power outages, and a higher likelihood of lowland floods. Employers that plan ahead to keep workers safe in an emergency are better equipped to survive a natural disaster and continue operations.

Follow these tips to make sure your employees can stay safe during emergencies, including workplace incidents and winter weather events:

- ◆ Communicate before, during, and after an emergency. Include emergency preparedness information in newsletters, bulletin boards, all-staff e-mails, and other internal communication tools.
- ◆ Consider setting up a telephone-calling tree, a password-protected page on the company Web site, an alert message sent to home e-mail accounts, or an answer-only voice-mail recording to provide information to employees in an emergency.
- ◆ Provide workers with wallet cards detailing instructions, including phone numbers and Web sites, for getting company information during an emergency. Information about closures and delays can protect workers from being exposed to unnecessary traffic hazards.
- ◆ Establish a process for safely evacuating your facility, if appropriate, and coordinate a safe area where workers can be accounted for.
- ◆ Once snow has fallen or ice has formed, make sure that parking lots and walkways are cleared of those hazards. Make sure heavy snow accumulations are removed from roofs so they do not impact the structural safety of the building.
- ◆ Identify co-workers in your organization with special needs. Train people willing to help workers with the special needs get to safety and be sure they are physically suited to their responsibility. This is particularly important if a worker needs to be lifted or carried.
- ◆ Plan how you will alert people who cannot hear an alarm or instructions during an emergency.
- ◆ Closely tie a business continuity plan to your emergency plan. The business continuity plan should address how your business can remain functioning.
- ◆ Define incident-management procedures and individual responsibilities in advance. Make sure those involved know what they are supposed to do, and train others who can serve as a backup.
- ◆ Review your emergency plans annually. When you hire new employees or when there are changes in how your company functions, update your plan and inform your people.



Health and Wellness

I own a small business and my employees have projects at many different sites. What do we need to know to comply with OSHA's requirements for first-aid kits? Specifically, what supplies do we need to keep in the kits, where do we need to keep them, and what are the requirements for maintaining them?

Before you start a project, you must have plan in place that will provide for prompt medical attention if one of your employees is seriously injured. In most cases, calling 911 is acceptable. However, if your site is in a location where a 911 call cannot ensure a prompt emergency response, at least one person at the site must have a valid first-aid certificate (29 CFR 1926.50 Medical Services and First Aid and 29 CFR 1910.151).

What supplies do we need to keep in first-aid kits? Your first aid kits must contain basic supplies necessary to address typical worksite first-aid needs. Medical supplies that go beyond basic first-aid needs are not required in the kit.

Where do we have to keep first-aid kits? You can keep your first-aid kits wherever they are convenient as long as the supplies are easily accessible in an emergency.

What are the requirements for maintaining first-aid kits? The kit's contents must be kept in a weatherproof container with individual sealed packages for each item; check the contents before you take the kit on each project site and at least weekly at the site to ensure no items are

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has certain requirements regarding first aid and CPR preparedness in the workplace. Some OSHA compliance standards require specific types of industry to provide first-aid and CPR training to employees. The specific industries identified by OSHA are:

[1910.146](#) Permit-required Confined Spaces

[1910.266](#) Appendix B: Logging Operations – First-Aid and CPR Training

[1910.269](#) Electric Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution

[1910.410](#) Qualifications of Dive Team

[1926.950](#) Construction Subpart V, Power Transmission and Distribution

In addition to these specific industries, OSHA standard [1910.151](#) states, "The employer shall ensure the ready availability of medical personnel for advice and consultation on matters of plant health." Compliance with the "ready availability of medical personnel" may mean providing training for employees to have on-site medical assistance.

Part (b) of the same requirement states, "In the absence of an infirmary, clinic, or hospital in near proximity to the workplace which is used for the treatment of all injured employees, a person or persons shall be adequately trained to render first aid." Furthermore, OSHA has interpreted "[near proximity](#)" to mean 3-4 minutes from injury to medical care in "In areas where accidents resulting in suffocation, severe bleeding, or other life threatening or permanently disabling injury or illness can be expected." If injuries like these are not common, then OSHA considers it reasonable to have response times up to 15 minutes. Compliance with the training requirements for OSHA standard [1910.151](#) include CPR only as a recommendation, while the standards listed above state CPR *must* be included.



Important Safety Notice



DEWALT has identified a potential safety hazard with certain large angle grinder side handles. We are concerned that under certain circumstances a small number of side handles could exhibit a condition where the handle could break causing the user to lose full control of the unit. DEWALT recommends replacing all current side handles on the following DEWALT Large Angle Grinders in the field today. This notice includes side handles and tools purchased through our Service Division, Authorized Resellers/Distributors, and Factory Stores. Any Large Angle Grinder from the list below that has a manufacturing date prior to 2011-32 is affected by this safety notification. The manufacturing date code is marked on the box and engraved on the bottom of the grinder gear case in an 8 digit code the first 4 are the year and the next 2 are the week. The final 2 numbers are the plant. For example 2011-32-47.

The part numbers in question are as follows:

Model #	Description	Picture of Side Handle
D28474W	7" Large Angle Grinder 8000RPM	
D28494S	7" Large Angle Grinder 6000RPM	
D28493N	9" Large Angle Grinder 5000RPM	
D28494N	9" Large Angle Grinder 6000RPM	
D28497	7"/9" Large Angle Sander 6000RPM	
D28499X	7"/9" Large Angle Grinder 6000RPM	
651858-00	Service Part Replacement Side Handle	

The potential safety issue could result in a condition similar to the photos below



DEWALT users and distributors can order replacement handles 1 of 4 ways:

1. Call 1-800-916-7004 M-F 8am – 5pm Eastern time
2. Email the order form to support.dewalt@dewalt.com. **Please use LAG Handle Request as the subject line in your email.**
3. Fax the order form to 1-800-896-3084 for free replacement handles
4. Order replacement handles through your authorized DEWALT Service center. For locations visit: <http://www.dewalt.com/find-service-center.aspx>

Large Angle Grinders currently shipping from our distribution center have an improved design handle and are not affected. Grinders with a green dot sticker near the UPC and on the outside of the master carton as photographed below already have the improved design. New handles with the improved design will have a marking on the outer flange of the handle with an embossed "BL" as photographed below.



Re-worked Product & Side Handle Identifiers

Please immediately stop the sale and use of any potentially affected handles. Thank you in advance for your help and support of this initiative. Please contact your local DEWALT representative or DEWALT customer service at 800-235-2000 for questions. To order replacement handles please follow the instructions listed above.