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UTAH LABOR COMMISSION

UTAH OSHA SAFETYLINE NEWSLETTER

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Temporary Workers in Your Workplace

In recent months the nation has seen an increase in fatalities suffered by temporary workers. Many of these fatalities have occurred in the first few days on the job. One recent fatality, in Florida, involved a 21 year old worker on his first day.

In 1990, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were about 1.1 million temporary workers in the United States. In 2012 this number increased to approximately 2.5 million. These workers often work in the least desirable and/or the most dangerous jobs in the workplace. A study (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22365596) published this year focused on 4,000 amputations, in the state of Illinois, and found that five of the ten employers with the highest number of incidents were temp agencies. Each of the 10 employers had between six and twelve amputations from 2000 through 2007. Another study (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19618410) found that temporary workers in Washington State had higher injury rates than permanent workers. The study also found that temporary workers were more likely to be struck by or caught in machinery in the construction and manufacturing industries.

The safety of temporary workers is the responsibility of the temporary agency and the employer who is bringing temporary workers into their workplace. An employer who supervises temporary workers is responsible to ensure that those workers have been properly trained and that they are aware of the hazards associated with the establishment. A daily briefing on hazard identification would greatly increase the temporary workers knowledge of hazards in your particular workplace. Temporary agencies are encouraged to discuss the safety of their workers with their clients. A temporary agency has the responsibility to train their employees, and to ensure that their workers are receiving site-specific training. Important site-specific training includes, but is not limited to: hazard communication, personal protective equipment, hearing protection, respiratory protection, lock out/tag out procedures, bloodborne pathogens, permit required confined spaces, and emergency evacuation procedures.

Working together we can make the beautiful State of Utah a safer place to work, for all employees, elevating our workplace safety and health culture to a higher level of excellence.

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Do you have a topic you would like to see covered in a future issue of The SafetyLine? Please send your ideas to:

jparkstone@utah.gov

Utah OSHA Consultation Program Congratulates Sahara, Inc.

Utah OSHA Consultation recognizes Sahara, Inc., for its commitment to Safety and Health in the workplace. This is not the first time that the company has received recognition for its achievement in safety and health within the construction industry.

In 2008 Sahara, Inc. was awarded the Utah Labor Commission Annual Award for Safety and Health Excellence, which was presented by Sherrie Hayashi, the Utah Labor Commissioner. Commissioner Hayashi stated: "Your Company continues to work diligently to operate within the guidelines of an exemplary safety and health management system." These words are as applicable now as they were then!

The success of Sahara's Safety and Health Program and their sustainable positive safety culture has been attributed to several factors, which include:

- Safety and health as a core value
- Ensuring that safety and health is a part of all work processes and activity
- High level of employee and subcontractor participation
- Uncompromising commitment and support of management

Sahara, Inc. expectations are conveyed to their employees and subcontractors regarding quality, service, production and safety while performing work on their projects. This is accomplished by conducting meetings which include safety and health topics with each of the subcontractors during the planning phase before the actual work begins.

In 1985 Thomas Mabey founded the company in the State of Utah. Sahara, Inc. is dedicated to providing superior construction management and general contracting services. Over the years, Sahara, Inc. has developed an exemplary safety and health culture which is demonstrated by the fact that they have not had a recordable injury resulting in days away or restriction and transfer (DART) for the past 3 years. In addition, their total recordable cases (TRC) have been zero for that time period.

Utah OSHA Consultation has worked with Sahara, Inc. for a number of years. This has placed them in a unique position to observe how the company safety and health program has evolved and progressed to where it is today. Sahara, Inc. sows the seeds of safety which facilitates the spread of "Best Practices" to other employers within the construction industry.

Sahara, Inc. is a shining example of Safety Elevated!

YOUTH WORKER RESOURCES

Do you, or do you know, a youth who is entering the workforce this summer? If you do, make sure you check out the new Youth Worker Resources found on the Utah Occupational Safety and Health webpage: http://laborcommission.utah.gov/divisions/UOSH/index.html These new resources include a brochure for landscaping, and one for retail store safety. Also you can find links to the OSHA Young Worker Web Page, and the I Have Rights poster.

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OSHA Safety Guidelines for Retail Sales of Consumer Fireworks

As we rapidly approach the Fourth of July and the Twenty-Fourth of July holidays we see Fireworks Stands pop up all over the great State of Utah. To ensure the safety of these workers, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has compiled the following list of safety guidelines designed to advise owners of retail sales establishments and other affected employers of some procedures to enhance employee safety during the retail sale of consumer fireworks. It is important to understand that the accidental ignition and fire prevention measures should be followed to ensure a safe retail environment. Employers are encouraged to follow these or other more protective safety guidelines for the retail sale of consumer fireworks. The following safety guidelines do not supersede any regulatory requirements adopted at the Federal, State, or local levels.

General guidelines for all sales venues:

- Obtain all necessary state and local permits, licenses, and inspections.
- Post and enforce no smoking within 50 feet of fireworks sales areas.
- Post and enforce no fireworks discharge within 300 feet of fireworks retail sales facilities and stores.
- Maintain clear exit routes with a minimum of two ways out from every point.
- Exit doors:
  - should not be locked when occupied;
  - should swing outward;
  - should not be obstructed; and
  - should have panic hardware if they latch (except for temporary stands).
- Fire extinguishers should be operational and accessible. At least one should be a water type.
- Secure (lock) the facility when closed and fireworks remain.
- Remove damaged fireworks and loose pyrotechnic composition promptly and dispose of properly. Use non-sparking cleaning tools; not vacuum cleaners.
- Maintain fixed fire protection features (i.e., keep fire doors closed).
- Maintain required flame breaks in the retail sales displays unless the facility is sprinklered or temporary.
- Maintain visual supervision of the fireworks sales area.
- Do not store combustibles directly above fireworks displays unless properly separated.
- Do not use open flames or heating devices with exposed elements.
- Aerial devices and audible ground devices require special attention and treatment. See NFPA 1124 Sections 7.10.5 (4) and 7.10.6.

Consumer fireworks retail sales facilities* and stores* (except temporary Stands*)

- Post an evacuation plan and understand how to implement it in an emergency.
- Maintain aisles with a minimum 48 inches of clear width.
- Maintain safe display arrangements not exceeding 6 feet in height except around the perimeter of the retail sales area which cannot exceed 12 feet.

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- Ensure that all fireworks displayed for sale have fuses which are covered or are contained in packaging.
- Know the location of manual pull stations and/or public address system controls and how to use them to sound a fire alarm.
- Check emergency lighting to see that it is functional.
- Check for exit signs: location, visibility, and illumination.
- Verify that there are at least three ways out of the fireworks sales areas (except one-story stores not exceeding 3,000 square feet can have two).

Consumer fireworks retail sales facilities* only.

- Keep combustible debris at least 30 feet away from the facility.
- Don't park vehicles within 10 feet of the facility.
- Keep portable generators and their fuels at least 20 feet away from the facility.

Temporary stands* only

- Maintain aisles with a minimum 28 inches of clear width.
- Maintain a safe display arrangement of consumer fireworks not to exceed 8 feet in height.
- Do not allow the public into the temporary stand.
- Verify there are at least two exit doors (doorways) that swing out.

Tents* only

- Verify that no open flame cooking is located within 50 feet of tents
- (20 feet for other types of cooking).
- Exit openings must be 44-inches wide.

*Venues are defined in NFPA 1124, Code for the Manufacture, Transportation, Storage and Retail Sales of Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles.

For additional information please click on this link: http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/pyrotechnic/retail/retail.html

COMPLIANCE CORNER

Question: I have arranged for my fork lift operators to receive training from a trainer not associated with my company. Once they have received the training, is there anything else that I have to do once they have received this training?

Answer: You have the responsibility to certify that your operators can safely operate the equipment that you have in your workplace. The OSHA standard related to industrial truck operator training states: *The employer shall **certify** that each operator has been trained and evaluated as required by this paragraph (l). The certification shall include the name of the operator, the date of the training, the date of the evaluation, and the identity of the person(s) performing the training or evaluation. 29 CFR 1910.178(l)(6) The employer also shall ensure that an evaluation of each powered industrial truck operators performance shall be conducted at least once every three years (29 CFR 1910.178(l)(4)(iii)).*