Enjoy a Safe Holiday Season
National Safety Council — October 23, 2017

Holiday safety is an issue that burns brightest from late November to mid-January; families gather, parties are scheduled and travel spikes. Take some basic precautions to ensure your family remains safe and injury-free throughout the season.

About 2,000 Thanksgiving Day home fires occur every year, according to the U.S. Fire Administration. The Consumer Product Safety Commission video demonstrates the risks of frying a turkey in oil.

**Even Angel Hair can Hurt**

Putting up decorations is one of the best ways to get in the holiday spirit, but about 15,000 injuries involving holiday decorating were seen in emergency rooms during the 2016 season.

- “Angel hair,” made from spun glass, can irritate your eyes and skin; always wear gloves or substitute non-flammable cotton.
- Spraying artificial snow can irritate your lungs if inhaled; follow directions carefully.
- Decorate the tree with your kids in mind; move ornaments that are breakable or have metal hooks toward the top.
- Always use the proper step ladder; don’t stand on chairs or other furniture.
- Lights are among the best parts of holiday decorating; make sure there are no
exposed or frayed wires, loose connections or broken sockets.

- Plants can spruce up your holiday decorating, but keep those that may be poisonous (including some poinsettias) out of reach of children or pets; the national Poison Control Center can be reached at (800) 222-1222.
- Make sure paths are clear so no one trips on wrapping paper, decorations, toys, etc.

**It’s Better to Give ... Safely**

We’ve all heard it’s important when choosing toys for infants or small children to avoid small parts that might prove to be a choking hazard. Here are some additional gift-related safety tips:

- Select gifts for older adults that are not heavy or awkward to handle.
- Be aware of dangers associated with coin lithium batteries; of particular concern is the ingestion of button batteries.
- See which toys have been recalled.

**Watch Out for those Fire-starters**

**Candles and Fireplaces**

Thousands of deaths are caused by fires, burns and other fire-related injuries every year and 12% of home candle fires occur in December, the National Fire Protection Association reports. Increased use of candles and fireplaces, combined with an increase in the amount of combustible, seasonal decorations present in many homes means more risk for fire.

- Never leave burning candles unattended or sleep in a room with a lit candle.
- Keep candles out of reach of children.
- Make sure candles are on stable surfaces.
- Don’t burn candles near trees, curtains or any other flammable items.
- Don’t burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace.
- Check and clean the chimney and fireplace area at least once a year.

**Turkey Fryers**

While many subscribe to the theory any fried food is good – even if it’s not necessarily good for you – there is reason to be on alert if you’re thinking of celebrating the holidays by frying a turkey.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports there have been 168 turkey-fryer related fires, burns, explosions or carbon monoxide poisoning incidents since 2002. CPSC says 672 people have been injured and $8 million in property damage losses have resulted from these incidents.

NSC discourages the use of turkey fryers at home and urges those who prefer fried turkey to seek out professional establishments or consider a new oil-less turkey fryer. But for those who don’t heed that advice, please follow these precautions:

- Set up the fryer more than 10 feet from the house and keep children away.
- Find flat ground; the oil must be even and steady to ensure safety.
Enjoy a Safe Holiday Season...Cont.

• Use a thawed and dry turkey; any water will cause the oil to bubble furiously and spill over.
• Fryer lid and handle can become very hot and cause burns.
• Have a fire extinguisher ready at all times.

Don’t Give the Gift of Food Poisoning

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provides some holiday food safety tips. Here are a few:

• Do not rinse raw meat and poultry before cooking.
• Use a food thermometer to make sure meat is cooked to a safe temperature.
• Refrigerate food within two hours.
• Thanksgiving leftovers are safe for four days in the refrigerator.
• Bring sauces, soups and gravies to a rolling boil when reheating.
• When storing turkey, cut the leftovers in small pieces so they will chill quickly.
• Wash your hands frequently when handling food.

Traveling for the Holidays? Be Prepared

Many people choose to travel during the holidays by car, which has the highest fatality rate of any major form of transportation. An average of 343 people died on New Year’s Day, 360 on Thanksgiving Day and 88 on Christmas Day, according to Injury Facts 2015. Alcohol-impaired fatalities represented 31% of the totals.

• Use a designated driver to ensure guests make it home safely after a holiday party; alcohol, over-the-counter or illegal drugs all cause impairment.
• Make sure every person in the vehicle is properly buckled up no matter how long or short the distance being traveled.
• Put that cell phone away; distracted driving causes one-quarter of all crashes.
• Properly maintain the vehicle and keep an emergency kit with you.
• Be prepared for heavy traffic, and possibly heavy snow.

Remember, when guests are staying in your home, make sure areas have night lights or easy-to-reach lamps in case they need to get up during the night. And, whether you are visiting someone else’s home or you have guests in your home, make sure all medications are kept up and away and out of sight from young children.

this issue at a glance:

Enjoy a Safe Holiday Season: pages 1-3
State Citations: page 4
OSHA Guidance on Silica: page 5
Build Culture of Safety with Education and Training: page 5
Lockout Tagout: page 6
Safety Leadership: pages 7-10
Training and Certifications: page 11
Top 10 OSHA Workplace Violations: pages 12-13
Alabama Framing Company Cited for Exposing Workers to Fall Hazards

U.S. Department of Labor — OSHA Region 4 — October 17, 2017

Structural Subcontractors Service LLC, a Birmingham-based structural framing company, was issued willful and serious citations after OSHA inspectors found workers exposed to fall hazards. The agency initiated an inspection as part of a regional emphasis program to limit falls in construction. Inspectors found workers wearing fall protection harnesses, but were not tied off to prevent a fall. Violations also included failing to train employees to recognize fall hazards, and exposing employees to falls of approximately nine feet. The company was proposed penalties totaling $102,669.

Wyoming Cites Contractor for Exposing Workers to Trenching and Excavation Hazards

U.S. Department of Labor — OSHA Region 8 — October 17, 2017

Wyoming OSHA (State Program) issued five citations and $111,796 in penalties to Simon Contractors in Cheyenne for exposing workers to trenching and excavation hazards. Inspectors concluded that the company failed to provide: a competent person to inspect the worksite; cave-in protection and form of egress; and protection against hazards produced by an excavator digging near workers in a trench.

California Construction Company Cited for Fall Protection Violations

U.S. Department of Labor — OSHA Region 4 — October 17, 2017

California OSHA – (State Program) issued two serious citations and $80,000 in penalties to H-Built Inc. in Oakland for exposing workers to fall hazards. Inspectors determined that the company failed to provide handrails, scaffolding, guardrails, and personal fall protection systems.

New Jersey Contractor Cited for Scaffold Hazards

U.S. Department of Labor — OSHA Region 3 — October 17, 2017

OSHA has cited the owner of a South Jersey construction company for exposing workers to serious scaffold hazards at a job site in Philadelphia. Inspectors found employees performing work using a scaffold that was dangerously close to power lines. Vyacheslav Leshko, owner of DH Construction LLC, was cited for repeat and serious violations that include exposing workers to fall and electrical hazards, failing to train employees on scaffold hazards and not implementing an accident prevention program. The owner faces proposed penalties totaling $191,215.
Build A Culture Of Safety With Training And Education

Julie Copeland — Arbill Safer Every Day — October 2017

To ensure your workers go home safe after every shift, you need more than the right safety products and personal protective equipment. You need workers who are properly trained and fully engaged with increasing workplace safety in your facility.

With businesses under increasing pressure to streamline costs and minimize downtime, you don’t have the time or money for time-consuming or expensive safety training.

Keeping your workers safe in today’s fast-paced work environment means you need to implement a quality safety training program that effectively balances quality and flexibility. Achieving this balance requires a mix of critical on-site classroom training and online courses your employees can take at their convenience.

OSHA Issues Interim Enforcement Guidance on Silica Standard for Construction

National Safety Council — October 20, 2017

Washington – OSHA has released interim enforcement guidance for its Respirable Crystalline Silica in Construction Standard (1926.1153), which is set to be enforced in full on Oct. 23.

The guidance was issued Oct. 19 in a memorandum to OSHA regional administrators from Patrick Kapust, deputy director of the agency’s Directorate of Enforcement Programs. RAs should use the guidance to help them gauge whether employers meet various requirements, including those for inspections and avoiding citations. The guidance also provides flow charts for evaluating employer methods of controlling worker exposure to silica.

The document “does not provide guidance on all of the standard’s provisions,” the memo states, adding that a final compliance directive is in the review process.

The standard establishes a new permissible exposure limit for respirable crystalline silica at 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air averaged during an 8-hour shift. That PEL is five times lower than the previous limit for construction.

A known carcinogen, respirable crystalline silica is found in commonly used construction materials, such as sand, concrete, brick, stone and mortar. Exposure to silica dust can trigger silicosis, a chronic disease that involves scarring of the lungs. OSHA estimates that 2.3 million workers, including 2 million construction workers, are exposed to the dust. The standard went into effect Sept. 23 after an earlier delay. However, OSHA granted an additional 30 days to comply to employers found to be acting in “good faith” to meet the new requirements.
Lockout Tagout: Keys to Protect Your Employees

Julie Copeland — Arbill Safer Every Day — October 2017

When working or servicing heavy machinery, it only takes a small accident or a bit of carelessness to lead to very serious injuries. Energy sources including electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, chemical, thermal, or other sources in machines and equipment can be hazardous to workers.

During the servicing and maintenance of machines and equipment, the unexpected startup or release of that stored energy can result in serious injury or death to workers. Injuries may include electrocution, burns, crushing, cutting, lacerating, amputating, or fracturing body parts, and others:

- A steam valve is automatically turned on burning workers who are repairing a downstream connection in the piping.
- A jammed conveyor system suddenly releases, crushing a worker who is trying to clear the jam.
- Internal wiring on a piece of factory equipment electrically shorts, shocking a worker who is repairing the equipment.

Craft workers, electricians, machine operators, and laborers are among the 3 million workers who service equipment routinely and face the greatest risk of injury. Workers injured on the job from exposure to hazardous energy lose an average of 24 workdays for recuperation.

To protect your employees it is important to establish a proper lockout tagout program. Lockout Tagout helps to safeguard workers around the machinery and equipment they operate, service, and maintain by de-energizing electrical circuits, closing valves, neutralizing extreme temperatures, and securing moving parts so hazardous energy isn't re-introduced.

Below we have outlined some tips to help you develop a comprehensive lockout tagout program.

- Develop and document an energy control/policy that includes OSHA guidelines and custom elements unique to your workplace. This document should be reviewed annually and updates should be made where needed.
- Machine specific procedures should be outlined that identify the equipment covered and the detailed steps to follow in order to shut down, isolate, block and secure the equipment. Instructions on how to install and transfer lockout tagout devices should be included as well.
- Perform a walk through of your facility and identify energy control points such as valves, switches, breakers and plugs. From there clearly mark and label these points so that they are clearly identifiable for employees.
- Train employees on specific elements and machine specific procedures. The training should cover authorized employees who perform the lockout on machinery, affected employees who do not perform lockout but use the machinery and other employees who may be in the area of the machines.
- Research and review your facility to make sure you choose the best lockout tagout device that fit your equipment and align with your needs.
- Continuously review your program to ensure it is up to date with changing regulations and new equipment. Perform audits of your program and provide training for new employees or employees who are using new equipment.

Working with heavy machinery can be extremely dangerous if the proper precautions are not taken. Establishing a proper lockout tagout program and ensuring your employees understand how to operate it can reduce injuries and save lives.
I entered the industrial world as an industrial hygienist many years ago, before the Occupational Safety and Health Act established basic safety and health rules for workplaces. The voluntary safety and health world back then wasn’t very effective; to use today’s jargon, it had high variation.

When I started my career, a few companies made honest attempts to make work safer. A larger percentage of industry didn’t make any attempt and the largest percentage of industry made some effort if it was convenient or cost-effective for them at the time.

My first job was at a company that did not make an attempt to embrace workplace safety excellence. I remember having to climb to the top of a pilot plant chlorinator where the atmosphere was greater than 25 percent carbon monoxide, 25 percent escaped chlorine and about 140 degrees. There was no thought about how to make it safer. It was accepted practice to supply the worker with a new respirator canister before making each climb to the top.

Leaving work one day at dusk, I thought I was seeing a dark tent in the air ahead of me and stopped walking. It turned out to be a large cloud of chlorine, and if I had walked into it, I might not be writing about it.

Since then, OSHA regulations have reduced the high safety variation in industry and have improved the safety and health of workers – just look at the declining injury and fatality numbers. The real question is why haven’t we been able to create extremely safe workplaces across American industry? Why doesn’t every American company have world-class safety performance? Is severely injuring between 2 and 5 percent of America’s workers the best we can do?

Joel Barker, a futurist in the 1990s, asked this “paradigm shift” question: “What is considered impossible today, but if weren’t, would fundamentally change a company, an industry, technology, the world?”

Too often, we never deeply consider how to change or do things that all of us know are impossible to do. To a logical mind, that seems like a fool’s errand. But Barker’s belief was that deeply considering and challenging what is known to be impossible opens the door of possibility and could have huge, positive rewards.

As a long-time student of critical thinkers, I’ve been thinking about, talking about, writing about and lecturing about this paradigm shift question for almost 50 years now: Why can’t we get world-class safety and health performance across all of American industry?

There are three reasons why we haven’t been able to achieve safety and health excellence in America. The first
impediment is industry itself and industry management. The second are paradigms that are accepted without challenge and continue to keep us from moving toward world-class safety and health. The third is us – the safety community – which will be addressed in the second part of this two-part article.

**Industry, Management and Company Leadership**

When the OSH Act was passed, Congress’ belief was that the new rules would force workplaces to create safe work environments. You can read this in the standard’s opening section where each employer is charged with providing a workplace that is free of recognized hazards. From industry’s perspective at the time, this was considered adversarial, anti-business and anti-profit.

Today, you don’t hear resounding anti-OSHA statements made by industry leaders like those that were common in the 1970’s. You hear pro-safety messages and you hear that safety is a fundamental value of the company or that the employees are the company’s most important asset. But are they? Actions always speak louder than words.

Industry increasingly relies on passion for safety rather than safety skills. More than half of those who provide safety services within industry do not consider themselves “safety professionals.” They are called “safety technicians” or “safety specialists” or some similar term. They are put in their positions because of the passion that they hold for worker safety, not because of an educational background in a safety-related discipline or an aptitude for safety.

Companies often don’t invest in education for these critically important safety people, or they feel that sending them to an OSHA 10-hour or 30-hour course gives them the skills that they need. Is it important to know OSHA regulations? Of course it is, but compliance is the low-bar of safety; it will never take any company to world-class safety performance.

True change, including improving safety performance, is rare in industry. In the vast majority of American companies, the focus of business or process improvement changes every week because American industry lacks the courage or ability to stay the course of change.

I personally have seen this in action throughout my career. A company has failing safety performance, perhaps has difficulty getting workers’ compensation insurance or has an extremely high premium based on high NCCI ratings. Perhaps the company is attempting to implement lean manufacturing practices or Six Sigma continuous improvement.

Corporate leaders adopt the new lingo, talk about the importance of continuous improvement and merging lean principles with safety improvement and tout the importance of having excellent safety performance, but don’t stay the course for whatever reason. Maybe they don’t know how to effectively deal with the complaints and fear that change brings, or they only half-heartedly believe in the value of changing. Maybe the entire management chain isn’t aligned to the change, so mixed messages become the norm.

**When Safety Is a Cost**

Sometimes, corporate leaders consider safety improvement only from the debt-side of the balance sheet and cannot see safety as more than a non-value-added cost to be subtracted from profits. They fail to understand the critical importance of worker safety as a value-adding, non-negotiable asset.

Psychologists have known for more than a century that if you focus on preventing a negative, it not only is frustrating and demoralizing, but it only returns a half-hearted effort. It’s like a football team having a game plan that focuses on preventing the other team from scoring and fails to focus on their offensive excellence.

American business leaders make this same fatal mistake and wonder why they can’t reduce costs. They celebrate lowering their workers’ compensation costs and miss the correlation to keeping employees at work, happy and productive.

Part of the disconnect is that 99 percent of business and management schools never talk about, teach or build an understanding of workplace safety in their Baccalaureate or MBA programs (Siedel, George J., Law and Business School...
Safety Leadership...Cont.

Curriculum, BizEd, the AACSB International, March 15, 2017). It’s hard to imagine that this critical element – protecting your greatest asset – is totally missed, but it is.

Business schools focus on understanding economics, accounting, marketing, management and even problem-solving, but worker safety is seldom included. Why is this missed? Most business school deans haven’t earned hard knocks in company trenches. They’ve learned their craft from the academic side only. They were never taught safety in their management or business classes, so they never think about it.

This lack of consideration for safety performance – beyond the business value of reducing workers’ compensation costs – is a serious disconnect in leadership thinking and is a major cause of leaders talking the safety talk but not walking the safety walk. Safety is not considered a value-adding enhancement to the business.

We perpetuate this by the way we talk about and “sell” safety. We say, “A lost-time injury will cost you $120,000,” the implication being that additional investment should be made in safety to reduce or eliminate those costs. This won’t sway management and it further entrenches the debit-reduction thinking that kills good safety programs.

Accepted and Limiting Paradigms

Joel Barker, who pioneered the reintroduction of this term, defines a paradigm as a pattern that is widely held and is used to interpret or determine successful solutions. Many paradigms we have and use are valuable to us because we respond quickly when we confront issues or information that aligns with our paradigms. If it agrees, we don’t even have to apply a lot of thought, it’s good or valid. If it disagrees, we quickly reject it without much thought.

Paradigms also can be highly limiting and cause us to believe things that just aren’t true. Let me introduce several paradigms that widely are believed without thoughtful challenge and because of that, keep us from obtaining world-class safety and health performance.

Ever heard the paradigm, “Accidents happen”? This paradigm is both real and subtle. It is real because most people believe it to be true. It is subtle – especially to safety and health practitioners – because we counter that all accidents are caused and all causes can be removed, avoided or minimized. However, we also acknowledge that due to human factors, accidents cannot be totally removed. So, even safety professionals, who are dedicated to making work safe, own a piece of this paradigm.

A common result of believing this paradigm is that we give minor attention to little accidents – we may not even investigate them – and we may not identify corrective actions or put them in place.

This is the power of a paradigm, as passing over minor accidents or near-misses is a common practice in the vast majority of safety programs. I’m not trying to make you uncomfortable or defensive, but if we own a piece of this paradigm, we also must own the common results.

What if all of us truly believed that “accidents don’t happen”? How would that change the paradigm? It would be a 180-degree change. We would insist that every accident and near-miss be fully investigated, the causes fully determined and effective actions identified, tracked and put in place. What would be the long-term results of this different reaction to accidents? Quite possibly, less future accidents, a non-recurrence of events and safer workplaces.

Ever heard the paradigm: “Safety is easy”? This isn’t a common paradigm for safety and health professionals who spend countless hours battling in the trenches. We know that safety isn’t easy, but we also need to acknowledge that this paradigm is accepted by many of our business leaders. Why else would passion for safety be the major requirement for filling safety positions?

The unavoidable result of believing this paradigm is that anyone can learn safety. In reality, the safety function rarely gets
Safety Leadership...Cont.

the level of respect that engineering gets, that marketing gets or that quality gets, because the paradigm doesn’t apply to those functions. They aren’t easy; they are complex and they are difficult.

Being passionate about engineering or marketing wouldn’t even be the starting point for that position. Management would insist on education, experience and success to consider hiring for one of those positions. Can you see the power of this paradigm?

What would be the results if this paradigm was: “Safety isn’t easy”? Then the two differences that we just introduced about hiring engineers and market specialists would apply to safety and health jobs. There would be a higher demand for new safety education programs and for job applicants with degrees related to occupational safety and health.

It would be a huge change. The safety function would have a higher respect level and would receive greater attention from leaders.

Ever heard this common paradigm: “Awareness is the key?” This paradigm is common in business leadership and sadly, among a lot of safety and health professionals as well. The paradigm focuses on individual vigilance as the key to safe performance. It’s been the foundation of safety incentive programs for 100 years: if workers are eligible to receive a reward, they will keep their own safety awareness high every minute they worked.

This paradigm is displayed when an upswing in injuries occurs or a serious injury happens. Management and the safety department call for a stand-down, where work stops for 10 minutes and a “get your heads in the game” speech is given to all employees. Does it work to turn injury performance around? Commonly yes, but not because of the paradigm.

Awareness is not the reason for the sudden change; the Hawthorne Effect is the reason. The Hawthorne Effect is a phrase coined for the short-term alteration of behavior by the subjects of a study due to their awareness of being observed. It was first coined by Henry A. Lansberger in 1958 while analyzing experiments at the Hawthorne Works outside of Chicago.

The keyword in that paradigm shouldn’t be “awareness.” It should be “engagement.” Our challenge is to educate leaders and our safety community to acknowledge the correct paradigm: “Engagement is the key!”
Training and Certifications

Left to right (above): Frank Alani, Marti Steil; Gerald Bohn, Blanca Garcia and Jesse Gaytan all completed the Confined Spaces for Construction and Respirable Crystalline Silica for Construction training.

Left to right: Peter McBride, Bill Lee, Brian Paciorkowski and Dan Guesman successfully completed their OSHA 30 hour training under 29CFR1926 for construction. In addition, Peter, Brian and Dan also completed Blood Borne, First Aid, CPR and AED training.
OSHA recently announced its list of the most frequent workplace violations at the 2017 National Safety Council Congress and Expo in Indianapolis.

NSC president and CEO Deborah A.P. Hersman said in a press release that “the OSHA Top 10 is more than just a list, it is a blueprint for keeping workers safe and when we all work together to address hazards, we can do the best job possible to ensure employees go home safely each day”.

These thoughts are perfectly in line with our mission at Arbil, of ensuring each employee goes home safely after every shift and with that in mind we have provided the list below along with tips to keep your employees safe.

1. Fall Protection - General Requirements - Total Violations: 6,072

For the past five years fall protection has reigned as the most common violation on this list. Despite being a leading cause of fatalities and serious injuries, proper fall protection is not always equipped at sites. Some of the most common violations included failure to provide fall protection on low slope roofs, open sidings in residential construction sites and unprotected edges. Employers must protect their workers and take the following steps to ensure their safety:

- Provide a guard rail and toe-board around every elevated open sided platform, floor and runway, as well as around dangerous machines and equipment.
- Include safety harness and line, safety nets, stair railings and hand rail
- Select and provide required personal protective equipment to workers and train workers about job hazards in a language they can understand.

2. Hazard Communication - Total Violations: 4,176

Chemicals pose not only health hazards, like irritation, sensitization and carcinogenicity, but also physical hazards, such as flammability, corrosion and reactivity. All employers with hazardous chemicals in their workplaces must have labels and safety data sheets for their exposed workers, train them to handle chemicals responsibly, provide the necessary protective equipment to ensure their safety and develop a comprehensive hazard communication program.

3. Scaffolding - Total Violations: 3,288

Scaffolds are often misused with more than 4,500 workers injured every year. These accidents can be caused by misuse (using a scaffold as a ladder) or often it can be due to improper training and deficient or damaged platforms. OSHA has set forth a list of guidelines to help avoid these tragedies. It is important to follow OSHA’s advice by providing proper fall protection equipment and ensure your employees are properly trained by offering Fall Hazard Awareness programs.

4. Respiratory Protection - Total Violations: 3,097

Respirators protect workers against insufficient oxygen environments, harmful dust, fog, smoke, mist, gas, vapors and sprays. If someone is exposed to these hazards, it can cause cancer, lung impairment, diseases or death. The fit of the respirator around the nose, mouth, or face is crucial to guarding the worker against these hazardous atmospheres. Often respirators may not fit correctly, do not provide the proper protection or employees may not be trained on how to wear the respirators correctly.

5. Lockout/Tagout - Total Violations: 2,877

Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) refers to specific procedures to prevent injuries due to unexpected start up of machinery or release of hazardous energy during maintenance activities. Compliance with the LOTO standard (29 CFR 1910.147: control of hazardous energy) prevents an estimated 120 fatalities and 50,000 injuries each year. Make sure your...
practices conform to the site lockout procedure to safeguard against injuries such as amputations and death. Encourage your employees to always ask for direction if they are uncertain.

6. Ladders - Total Violations: 2,241

Ladder accidents happen when workers select the wrong ladder for the job, don’t inspect it for missing or broken pieces or get careless about how they use it. Improper use of scaffolding or other materials as ladder replacements is a common cause of accidents as well. It is important for employees to make sure ladders are in good condition before use, use the correct ladder for the job, never use a metal ladder near electrical wires and never use ladders in place of platforms, skids or braces.

7. Powered Industrial Trucks - Total Violations: 2,162

Tens of thousands of injuries related to powered industrial trucks (PIT), or forklifts, occur each year in workplaces across the U.S. Most PIT incidents involve property damage as well. Unfortunately, most injuries and damages are due to lack of safe operating procedures, deficient safety-rule enforcement and inadequate training. To prevent both injury and liability, make sure your workplace does not fall into one of these three categories.

8. Machine Guarding - Total Violations: 1,933

Moving machine parts create workplace hazards. Machine-related injuries are particularly horrifying, making machine guarding an absolute must. Machine guarding protects employees from nip points, rotating parts, flying chips and sparks with barrier guards, light curtains and two-hand operating devices. To avoid these injuries you should never bypass a moving equipment guard and always report damaged or missing guards. Make sure all workers take injury preventative actions until a damaged guard is repaired or missing guard put back into place.

9. Fall Protection - Training Requirements - Total Violations: 1,523

It is important to provide the proper fall protection equipment and additionally provide a robust training program. The program should teach your employees how to identify potential fall hazards and understand what equipment should be worn and that it is worn properly.

10. Electrical - Wiring Methods - Total Violations: 1,405

Wires must be kept away from hazardous areas that could cause harm. You must secure all wires to keep them safe with the ground of electrical equipment, wiring and insulation. Before a flexible (extension) cord set is used, instruct all workers to inspect for two things: external defects - like loose parts, missing pins or damage to insulation - and evidence of internal damage - such as a pinched or crushed outer jacket. Replace cords that power “fixed” equipment with appropriate permanent wiring and run extension cords overhead or tape them down to prevent tripping.

Have a Safe Day!