Workplace Safety:  
It's No Accident

Loren Lyon, Impact Washington Center Director

Workplace safety. There is no doubt about it; it is important. Not only does it keep your employees safe, day in and day out, but safety also impacts company productivity, employee morale, turnover, and your financial bottom line.

According to the United States Department of Labor, in the four decades since the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act) was signed into law, workplace deaths and reported occupational injuries have dropped by more than 60 percent. Yet the nation's workers continue to face an unacceptable number of work-related deaths, injuries and illnesses, most of them preventable:

In the workplace, injury or illness has a big impact as well. Productivity is often lost while other employees have to cover for a missing colleague. There may be disruption and distress concerning the event which caused the injury in the first place. If an employee is unable to return to work, there is the considerable cost of hiring and training a new worker.

This is why it is important to implement an effective injury and illness prevention program, as doing so can help workers and their families avoid the potentially disastrous
Every day, more than 12 workers die on the job – over 4,500 a year.

Every year, more than 4.1 million workers suffer a serious job-related injury or illness.

When an accident or illness happens on the job, it doesn’t just cause physical pain. It also hurts the employee financially. Workers’ compensation does not cover all of the costs associated with most injuries and private health insurance might not bridge the gap. Copays, pharmaceuticals, home health care, and physical therapy are often not covered at all. Add in missed time from work, or perhaps an inability to return to previous employment at all, and there is a chance the employee could even lose their home or have to declare bankruptcy.

It may be time to take an honest look at your injury and illness prevention program. How truly safe is your workplace environment? Is there room for improvement? This newsletter contains some reminders, tools, and ideas for improving the safety of your employees.

Want to take further action? Contact us today and we will be happy to set up a free consultation with you to further discuss your company’s individual safety needs.

Stay safe out there!
WORKING AT HEIGHT
Employers need to identify all locations where fall protection is necessary – as well as where the engineered anchor points are – and train employees and regularly audit the fall protection program, Dankert said.

POOR HOUSEKEEPING
If the clutter or spill requires specialized training to clean up, then employees need to alert their supervisor, who can send in the appropriate staff. Additionally, Dankert recommends setting aside a few minutes at the end of each shift, or on a Friday afternoon, to clean up before leaving for the day.

ELECTRICAL – EXTENSION CORDS
Although extension cords can be useful for temporarily supplying power for certain operations, the key word is “temporarily.” When a cord is used for several weeks or months, Dankert said, OSHA doesn’t consider the use temporary. This opens the door for a violation.

FORKLIFTS
What’s a leading cause of forklift-related hazards in the workplace? In George’s experience, it’s when workers feel compelled to work quickly. Shortcuts include driving with too large of a load or driving distracted. The end result may be hitting a rack, damaging a wall or product, or even injuring a co-worker.

LOCKOUT/TAGOUT
Proper lockout/tagout procedures can help prevent serious injuries, but only if those procedures are followed. “A lot of organizations, they’ve got the best procedures in place, but it’s the implementation of the procedures that fails,” George said.

CHEMICALS
When an organization purchases and uses chemicals, it needs to have a control system, Harrington said. It needs to know what the chemicals are for and why they were ordered.
CONFINED SPACES
Confined spaces can present a number of hazards. George said many tragedies involving confined spaces have occurred because an employer didn’t issue a permit or failed to carry out a risk assessment.

WORKPLACE INJURIES
why you should be protected

EYE
Goggles
about 40%
of workers with eye injuries wore eye protective equipment

FACE
Face Shield / Mask
only 1%
of approximately 770 workers suffering face injuries were wearing face protection.

HEAD
Hardhat
Hard hats were worn by only 16% of workers who sustained head injuries, although two-fifths were required to wear them for certain tasks at specific locations.

EAR
Ear Protection
Exposure to high noise levels can cause irreversible hearing loss or impairment. It can also create physical and psychological stress.

SKIN
Lab Coat / Apparel
Many hazards can threaten the skin: heat, splashes from hot metals and liquids, impacts, cuts, acids, and radiation. An estimated 500,000

ARM & HAND
Gloves
Hazards to arm & hand include: burns, cuts, electrical shock, amputation and absorption of chemicals.

FOOT
Boots / Safety Shoes
only 23% of the workers with

CONCUSSIONS
over a third resulted from

Cuts or bruises to the scalp and

85% of face injuries were caused by metal objects, most often blunt and weighing one pound or more.

Almost 1/3 of the total accidents resulted in cuts, lacerations, or punctures.
TOP 10 Most Dangerous Jobs per 100,000 workers

- 1.16% fishing
- 0.9% logging workers
- 0.7% aircraft pilots & flight engineers
- 0.4% farmers & ranchers
- 0.3% roofers
- 0.2% miners
- 0.2% truck drivers
- 0.2% police & sheriff's patrol officers
- 0.02% stuntman

Distribution of Injury Cases

- 52% all other
- 36% fall on same level
- 12% overexertion in lifting or lowering
- 12% fall at different level
- 12% fall on foot
- 12% fall due to object falling
- 9% fall due to other injury
- 8% ankle
- 8% multiple
- 4% arm
- 3% wrist
- 7% knee
- 9% shoulder

591,000 workers had an accident at work in 2011/12.
OSHA’s Small Business Assistance provides numerous OSHA resources and information designed specifically for small business employers, including safety and health tools and publications, easy-to-follow guides for specific OSHA standards, and descriptions of benefits that small businesses can receive.

The State of Safety: A State-by-State Report provides insight into promising practices, and it shows where states are on track or falling short on road safety, home and community safety, and workplace safety. It offers a bird's-eye view of safety policies and legislation that can help us reduce preventable deaths from things like distracted driving, prescription painkillers and falls. **NO STATE EARNED AN "A". What grade did Washington get?**
businesses receive from OSHA. Focuses on two programs for small businesses: OSHA's On-site Consultation Program and Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP). Also see OSHA's Non-retaliation Policy.

The **NSC Quick Reference Guide** is a vital reference tool used extensively throughout the Emergency Medical Response course, but it is also available to anyone who would like first aid guidance at their fingertips. It provides a list of abbreviations and memory aids, as well as an illustrated summary of treatment steps for various illnesses and injuries.

NSC is excited to offer students – and the general public – this portable, digital version of the guide. It contains the same need-to-know content as the traditional guide, but in a convenient, always-with-you electronic format. **It's free and can help you save a life.**

The app is now available from the App Store and Google Play. Search "National Safety Council" to find and install the app.

The **Professional Safety Academy** is a specialized course series developed to address the needs of safety professionals, those who have been assigned safety responsibilities, and even the safety curious. It addresses detailed information on a variety of individual subjects that are integral parts of a safety program. The courses will be offered in an ongoing basis. They can be taken together or one-by-one as convenient.

Successfully completing ten (10) courses in the series will earn an Professional Safety Specialist Certification. Eight (8) courses are required, plus two (2) electives of your choice. Participants can take the courses in any order they wish but must complete the series within 2 years to earn certification. Learn more about the certification here or REGISTER HERE.
Question: My team is telling me not to keep going with our ISO/AS9100 implementation. They say we don’t have time to make things perfect. We have come so far. What should I do?

Q&A With Sarah Stuart is a new monthly blog feature. Submit your question HERE for an answer from our resource partners and on-staff experts on anything related to manufacturing. YOU have questions; WE have answers. View last month’s Q&A.

An Employer’s Online Toolkit to Protect Employees and Volunteers
This resource provides tools and best practices intended to help support organizations in their efforts to enhance safe working environments.

Aerospace Small Business Industry Day In partnership with NASA at the Museum of Flight in Seattle, WA
This event is a unique opportunity for small and diverse manufacturers, suppliers, engineers, and others to meet with knowledgeable agency representatives from NASA and NASA prime contractors including Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Sierra Nevada Corporation, Teledyne Brown Engineering, and others. More information HERE.

Learn About Our Made in Washington Program
Manufacturing is a vital arm of Washington’s economy, and it’s our mission to support and energize our local industry. The Made in Washington program is a free service to the community that certifies, promotes, and connects Washington State manufacturers. Check out our directory of Made in Washington businesses, or get certified and listed.
Don't Get Burned By the Eclipse
A total solar eclipse visible in the United States is rare – and precious, just like your vision.

When the moon crosses in front of the sun on Monday, Aug. 21, skies will darken, stars will twinkle and millions of Americans will be treated to an astronomical show last observed in the U.S. in 1979. The only safe way to look directly at the sun is through special-purpose solar filters, according to the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Find out more HERE.

Washington Labor Laws
The Washington Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) covers most public and private-sector employees, exempting federal employees, the United States Postal Service, floating maritime operations, and those working on today! The program is at no cost to join and includes such benefits as listing in our on-line guide and use of the Made in Washington logo on your website. For more information or to sign up, visit our Made in Washington page.

ONLINE SAFETY AND SECURITY
Small manufacturers are at risk of becoming targets of cyber attacks. Cyber criminals are seeking information including employee and customer records, banking and financial data, and access to larger networks. Small manufacturers are often seen as an easy entry point into larger businesses and government agencies. Start protecting your business with Cybersecurity resources and materials from NIST MEP. For local resources, contact us for more information.

Washington Labor Laws
The Washington Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) covers most public and private-sector employees, exempting federal employees, the United States Postal Service, floating maritime operations, and those working on
military reservations, national parks, and on Indian reservations and Trust Lands. Issues DOSH helps businesses with are:

- What to do if your employees are injured
- Find a safety rule
- File a Quarterly Report
- Find safety training materials
- Permits and inspections
- Check L&I business requirements
- Help for small business owners

THE MANUFACTURING DAY MISSION

Manufacturing Day addresses common misperceptions about manufacturing by giving manufacturers an opportunity to open their doors and show, in a coordinated effort, what manufacturing is — and what it isn’t. By working together during and after MFG DAY, manufacturers will begin to address the skilled labor shortage they face, connect with future generations, take charge of the public image of manufacturing, and ensure the ongoing prosperity of the whole industry.

MFG DAY is designed to amplify the voice of individual manufacturers and coordinate a collective chorus of manufacturers with common concerns and challenges. The rallying point for a growing mass movement, MFG DAY

The Washington Manufacturing Awards recognized companies making important progress in productivity, growth and innovation. 16 companies were honored in seven categories: Company of the Year, Executive of the Year, Innovation of the Year, Food & Beverage Processor of the Year, Emerging Manufacturer of the Year, Building Trades Manufacturer of the Year, and Nonprofit of the Year. Winners were announced at an awards dinner on April 26 at the Museum of Flight and were featured in the May edition of Seattle Business magazine.
empowers manufacturers to come together to address their collective challenges so they can help their communities and future generations thrive.

How will you be celebrating MFG DAY? Let us know and we will help spread the word by posting your event on our website and here in our newsletter! Don't forget to register your event! This is also where you can find events going on in your area.

Submissions are welcomed! Please submit entries or report errors to our newsletter editor.