

SAFETY SOLUTION

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY SOLUTIONS • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2004 VOL. 2, NO. 2

Safety Begins at Home

With summer almost over and back to school and work around the corner, it is a fitting time to discuss the home-work safety connection.

In 2002, 33,000 Americans died due to home accidents making it the second leading cause of accidental deaths. Some of the major causes of accidental death in the home are:

- 1) Poisoning from drugs, medicines, foods, gases, vapors (i.e. carbon monoxide), and other hazardous materials
- 2) Falls from elevations, stairs or inside bathtubs and showers
- 3) Suffocation from food or other objects
- 4) Drowning in pools or water.

According to the National Safety Council, off the job injuries:

- Cost American businesses an average of \$717 per employee per year
- Cost \$126.7 billion or the equivalent of 47 cents of every dollar paid on property taxes

- Resulted in an estimated 170 million days of lost production time

With statistics like these and other empirical evidence (i.e. Monday morning pains and strains along with absenteeism) there is no doubt that there is a direct line that connects home and workplace safety.

So as we prepare to return to work after some time off in the summer or prepare for our summer closeout barbecues, pool parties and back to school "celebrations" we ought to remember that safety is a concept that never ends. It starts at home, continues at work and ends.... Well it never does!



Accidents Happen... To Be PreventableSM

Safety and Public Health News

- **OSHA and the Right To Know** - OSHA has drafted a model training program for its Right to Know standard. The draft is available for comment. The document is designed to assist employers on how to comply with the OSHA Right to Know, which is one of the most frequently, cited OSHA standards.

- **Smoking toxins affects many organs** - The U.S. Surgeon General's Office released a report stating that smoking causes diseases in almost every organ in the human body. In addition to causing cancer of the lung, mouth and esophagus, it has been found that smoking is conclusively linked to leukemia, cataracts, pneumonia as well as cancers of the pancreas, cervix and kidneys.

- **Additional respirator protocol has been approved** - OSHA has issued a final rule, effective September 3, 2004, for inclusion of an additional quantitative fit testing protocol into Appendix A of the Respiratory Protection Standard. This protocol requires three different exercises followed by two redonnings of the respirator. Currently there are three quantitative fit testing protocols.

For more information contact us at 860-653-3580 or mjacobs@safety-solution.com.

OSHA 10-Hour General Industry, Worcester, Massachusetts, October 14 & 21st
Worker Safety and Emergency Response, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, Sept. 28-30

UPCOMING SEMINARS

- Prevention of "off the job" injuries which cost employers an average of \$717 per employee, per year
- A forum for employers to educate their employees on home and family safety
- Six yearly issues to create safety mindset
- Popular Ask Millit column, featuring common work and home safety questions and answers
- Can be mailed directly to employee
- Show your employees you care, while also saving money
- Available to every employee

*Accidents Happen...To Be Preventable!*SM Benefits of the bulletin include:

SSCI Announces a New Home and Family Safety Bulletin - Beginning in November 2004, SSCI will offer a subscription safety bulletin titled

SSCI NEWS

SAFETY INSIGHTS

Safety is 24/7

Below are some home safety tips to assist with preventing the leading causes of injury and death.

- Allow an outside contractor to clean your gutters, perform electrical work, and other jobs you are not intimately familiar with. Sometimes a simple task may result in a serious accident.
- Use slip resistant mats in the bathtub, on ceramic floors in bathrooms and all other areas where water may compromise slip resistance.
- Use protective equipment. A pair of safety glasses with side shields goes a long way towards preventing an eye injury during law cutting, drilling, sanding and even leaf blowing. Safety shoes, hearing protection, leather and rubber work gloves are also basic forms of protective equipment that should be used around the home.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector on every floor of your home or apartment to serve as an early warning device for the release of this odorless, colorless, toxic gas.
- Beware of chemicals. There are many chemicals/ substances used in the home that can be harmful. They are used for unclogging drains, cleaning, lawn/ insect control and for medications. Make sure you read the labels, before you purchase the product. If you have questions contact the manufacturer and request a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).

Accident's Happen...To Be PreventableSM • 888-240-7724 • www.safety-solution.com

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Occupational Safety and Public Health Solutions

SAFETY SOLUTION CONSULTANTS, INC.

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ASK MILT... is a new feature to The Safety Solution and our web-site. Each copy of *The Safety Solution* will feature a home or workplace safety question or concern encountered by one of our consultants. No personal or corporate information will be published. Individuals can write, fax

or e-mail questions to Milton relating to home, child or workplace safety and Milt will answer questions in this column. Milton Jacobs can be reached at mjacobs@safety-solution.com, 1-888-240-7724 or visit him online at www.safety-solution.com.

All submissions will become the property of SSCI and will be eligible for inclusion in all SSCI media. This means we can share your questions and our answers on the web and in other print materials.

SSCI LAUNCHES Accidents Happen... To Be Preventable!™ - Beginning in November 2004, SSCI will offer a new subscription safety bulletin titled *Accidents Happen...To Be Preventable!™*. This can be included with pay stubs, mailed directly to employees or distributed in the workplace. It is designed to educate your employees about preventing home and family related accidents. 33,000 Americans died because of home accidents in 2002 costing business \$717 per employee per year. Show your employees you care while saving money.

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