



SAFETY BULLETIN

Winter 2009

Workers' Comp Group Rating Saves Premium \$\$\$\$



Now is the time to enroll in OCSA's Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program for the Plan Year beginning July 1, 2010. OCSA's Group Rating program offers a high level of service and satisfaction.

Also offered to all enrolled in the program are services for claims management and unemployment consultation provided by Compensation Specialists Company. If you are currently in another group rating program, compare your savings and program quality to OCSA's.

If you wish to make application for group rating, please call Charlotte at 800/282-4632.

Save this Date – 2010 Ohio Safety Congress

The Ohio Safety Congress & Expo is scheduled for March 30-April 1, 2010, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The event will offer dynamic keynote speakers, a variety of educational sessions and displays of occupational safety and health products. There will be 150 education sessions to choose from.



Free registration makes attending the Ohio Safety Congress a smart move for improving your company safety & injury prevention program.

New Employees Face More Risks

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, approximately 35% of all workers injured on the job have been with their employer for less than twelve months. There are a number of things you can do to lessen the injury risk for new employees:



- Explain safety rules before assigning jobs,
- Encourage employees to ask questions and discuss safety concerns,
- Point out workplace hazards and discuss how to avoid injury,
- Make sure employees understand never to operate machines unless they have been trained on the machine and are authorized to use it,
- Explain how lockout devices prevent injuries and demonstrate correct lockout/tagout procedures..

Discounts Available through Drug Free Work Place

For employers who are not qualified to participate in a group-rating program, the Drug Free Workplace Program is a discount program that should be considered.

DFWP discounts of 10-15% are still the highest non-group discount available. The DFWP discounts can benefit companies who are penalty rated, thus offering some premium "relief". In addition, DFWP programs can help position companies for future entrance back into group rating.

OCSA recommends Working Partners® as our DFWP provider. Working Partners can tailor your DFWP program to suit your specific company needs. Contact Jim Diehm at 614/337-8200 to learn more about how DFWP can benefit your company.

Act Quickly! For the January 1, 2010 program year, the DFWP application deadline is December 31, 2009.

Top Ten Workplace Safety Violations

OSHA has released its preliminary list of the top 10 most frequent workplace safety violations for 2009. The number of violations in the top ten increased almost 30% over the same time period in 2008.

How many of these violations could OSHA find at your workplace?

The violations are:

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| 1) Scaffolding: 9,093 | 6) Electrical (wiring) 3,079 |
| 2) Fall Protection: 6,771 | 7) Ladders: 3,072 |
| 3) Hazard communication: 6,378 | 8) Powered Industrial Trucks (forklifts) 2,993 |
| 4) Respiratory protection: 3,803 | 9) Electrical: 2,556 |
| 5) Lock out / tagout: 3,321 | 10) Machine guarding: 2,364 |

Prevent Losses During Loading/Unloading

Truck drivers are getting injured on the job, not just from vehicle accidents on the road, but simply being around trucks being loaded and unloaded in lumberyards. Pennsylvania Lumbermens Mutual (PLM) has identified loading and unloading as a major cause of personal injury for drivers. The following article, written by Randy Zellis, Assistant VP of Technical Services for PLM, is reprinted below with permission from the Summer 2009 edition of Lumber Memo.



The emerging loss trend is a direct result of materials falling off trucks and truck trailers falling onto drivers who are standing around vehicles during loading operations. Drivers who are in close proximity to vehicles during the loading/unloading operations are becoming injured as a direct result of items falling off vehicles. This usually happens when a forklift operation is loading the materials from the opposite side of the truck from where the driver may be standing or working to arrange or secure the load. The forklift operator on the opposite side of the vehicle does not have clear sight of the driver and in most cases is not even aware that the driver is on the opposing side of the vehicle. The types of items that are falling off the vehicles include single pieces of lumber or entire

loads of materials that the forklift driver inadvertently tips off the backside of the vehicle. Whether it is a single piece of lumber or an entire load of product, the items in question fall off the vehicle and strike the drivers. This often results in serious personal injuries.

As a way to control this type of avoidable loss from occurring, PLM recommends designating a specific location in the yard where drivers must go while their vehicles are being loaded and unloaded. Several examples of designated driver locations would include a driver's lounge area, a building bay, a yard barn, picnic table or even a painted-off yard area. Forklift operators should be instructed to not load or unload trucks unless drivers are visible inside the designated area. In addition to staying inside of the designated area, drivers should not be allowed to stay in the vehicle's cab during loading and unloading operations. Simply put, it should be the responsibility of the driver and the forklift operator to prevent drivers from being injured during all loading and unloading operations. If the driver is not in the designated area, the truck does not get loaded or unloaded.

Safety is a frame of mind – So concentrate on it – all the time.

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