

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Safety Open House	1
Confined Spaces	2
Employee Misconduct	3
Power Truck Training	4
Meetings & enforcement	5
Safety Incentives	6



We Dig Virginia!



SAFETY NEWS

THE SAFETY NEWSLETTER OF THE
HEAVY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

**.HCCA SAFETY OPEN HOUSE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2007**

The first HCCA Safety Open House will be held on Friday, October 19, 2007.

Safety directors, managers, supervisors, field superintendents, general superintendents, and foremen would all benefit from the **Safety Open House**. This is an excellent opportunity to meet those involved in local safety administration and enforcement. The networking will allow questions to be answered during the evening, as well as developing sources to resolve issues in the future.

The cost is **FREE** to those attending.

- 11:30-12:00 Lunch
- 12:00-12:30 Introduction to Presenters
- 12:30-2:30 Networking and Questions

Event will be held at:
The Anderson Company
12150 Tac Court, Manassas, VA 20109

Representatives from:
Prince William Co. Police: protecting job sites, safeguarding loads, highway laws

Prince William Co. Fire Dept.: trench rescue, what to do before rescue arrives

Coble Trench Safety

Paynes Parking Designs, Inc.: traffic control devices, work zone safety

C&P Off-Road Specialists: on-site maintenance

VA Department of Conservation and Recreation: Urban program compliance

Prince William Hospital: Occupational Health, Reasonable Suspicion

SEE (Safety Environmental Engineers), Inc.: Safety training, accident investigation, consultation & reviews of job safety

Safety Resource Associates LLC: safety training

Run Fast (Click Safety): online training programs

State Corporation Commission and Miss Utility

Plus many more...



Confined Space Facts by Chris Butler, S. W. Rodgers, Co.

The following facts are from newspaper articles in Dayton Virginia, Rockingham County. It was a tragedy for this family and community. Keep them in your thoughts as you read and learn the dangers of confined space.

A tragic farm accident claimed the lives of four Rockingham County Mennonite family members and a hired hand early Monday evening 7/2/2007. Scott Showalter, 34, his wife, Phyllis, 33, their two daughters, Shayla, 11, and Christina, 9, all died, apparently from deadly methane gas emanating from a manure pit, as did Amous Stoltzfus, 24, who worked at the Showalters' dairy farm. Following the end of the day's work, Scott Showalter apparently was transferring manure from one small pit to a larger one measuring 20 feet by 20 feet and 8 feet deep. At some point, the pipe that was transferring the manure from the smaller pit to the larger became clogged, and Scott Showalter climbed inside to fix the blockage, something Mr. Showalter had done probably hundreds of times. When he went into the pit to clear the obstruction, he apparently was overcome by methane gas, which is one byproduct of liquefied manure. Emergency workers speculate that Stoltzfus, (the employee) who was from Pennsylvania, climbed into the pit in an attempt to rescue Showalter. When the two men didn't come out, Phyllis Showalter who had first gone to neighbors for help, came to the barn also went in to the pit and then the couple's two daughters apparently made their way in, all succumbing to the deadly gas. "They were immediately overtaken by the gas," Rockingham County Sheriff Don Farley said. "We have recovered five bodies and are waiting the medical exam. "It was a domino effect with one person going in, the second person going after them. Maybe the girls went in because they saw mama going in."

Any of us who have been doing construction work for a number of years may say, "I have been in dozens, hundreds or thousands of manholes or confined spaces, and nothing has happened. The truth and hard fact is that if you ever do have a confined space incident, you **will not** be the one telling about it. While rare in occurrence, most confined space incidents, where no safety equipment is used, result in a death or multiple deaths. Statistics show the would be rescuers are quite often the next victims.

It is like playing Russian Roulette. Think about it! Somewhere on a job site, a new or existing manhole is waiting with a gas or insufficient oxygen—waiting for you to climb down without using any testing or rescue equipment. Then, after you, who will be next—the person you work with, a bystander, a fireman, or a relative? Think about it! Picture it in your mind! That manhole or confined space is out there, waiting!

Use your air monitors and check the air in all confined spaces before entering them. Have the employee entering the space either wear the monitor while in the space, or keep the monitor or the remote sampling hose in there as long as they are in it. Fill out the confined space pre-entry check sheet or, if there is an identified hazard, fill out the confined space entry permit side, then use the needed rescue equipment such as a tripod, harness, blower and any other personal protection equipment.

**Let's be the companies that
do not have a worker die in a
confined space!**

Employee Misconduct

BY: Ed Boulanger – Safety Resource Associates, LLC

Can VOSH make allowances for employers who manage their operations safely, but an employee is caught violating a VOSH Standard?

The answer is yes! It seems VOSH has some real flexibility in this area, which is called Employee Misconduct.

Neither the employer nor the employee is expected to be perfect, but the employer must show continued good faith and documentation; it sets and enforces high standards for Safety which it expects all employees to follow.

How to Show Employee Misconduct

What if VOSH issues your company a citation when your employee is observed violating a VOSH Standard. Your company frequently inspects worksites and hazards are corrected quickly; you have a good safety record plus well-written Safety Manual and Procedures that accurately reflect the specific hazards found in your operations; you provide written documentation that employees are trained to perform their work safely. In this case there is a very good chance even a Serious Citation may be downgraded or vacated and the dollar fine reduced, but first you must be able to prove:

- Employees were provided with the proper safety training and equipment;
- Work Rules to prevent a violation have been communicated;
- Reasonable steps were taken to discover and correct hazards;

- You have documentation to show a pattern of consistent disciplinary enforcement when violations were discovered in the past; and
- An employee failure to observe accepted company work rules led to the violation.

The term “**Employee Misconduct**” doesn’t require intentional violation of a Safety Rule; it can simply mean an employee forgot. The next time an employee takes an unnecessary risk, hopefully a co-worker will remind him of the right way—the safe way—to do the job.

SAFETY RESOURCE ASSOCIATES, LLC

Ed Boulanger, (804) 310-6396

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Safety consulting & accident investigation;
Hazard assessment & site audits; Written safety manuals, programs & safe practice procedures;
On-site and computer-based training: including drug & alcohol programs; Services available in Spanish including professional translation;
Advise on VOSH inspections & negotiations



POWER TRUCK TRAINING BY: Ed Boulanger – Safety Resource Associates, LLC

OSHA Safety Standards require all Power Truck Operators to be trained and certified by their employer, but, often, there are questions about exactly what training is required and when it must be completed.

Let's see if we can remove some of the confusion.

POWER TRUCKS

Power Trucks are mobile, powered-driven vehicles used to carry, push, pull, lift, stack, or tier material. This includes equipment like forklifts, pallet trucks, and high lift trucks.

NEW OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

Most Operator training programs require 8 hours of training: 4 hours of hands-on in small groups and 4 hours in a classroom—passing an operating test and a written test—to qualify as a certified operator. Each segment ends with a written test, documenting that the employee has mastered the training. A written record of the training should be retained in the employee's safety training file and an employee wallet card certification (issued by the employer) should be carried by the employee

Some employers send Power Truck Operators for professional, outside training while others prefer to train operators in-house. Either way, the training must include:

- OSHA safety regulations
- Manufacturer's safety specifications and operating requirements
- Unique, site-specific hazards encountered on the job.

In-house trainers should receive their training from a qualified equipment vendor or manufacturer, then create their internal program based on the materials from the professional course. These generally include Power Point presentations, videos, tests, daily safety checklists, and manufacturer's manuals, which outline their safety specifications and operating requirements. These materials will be needed by the employer to train Power Truck Operators.

CERTIFIED TRAINING INCLUDES:

- Hands-on familiarization and practice with equipment
- Pre-start procedures and equipment check lists
- Safety equipment and operations
- Safe Operating techniques
- Restricted view operation
- The cost of Power Truck accidents
- Operator accountability for safety
- Copy of Manufacturer-supplied manuals

OPERATOR EVALUATIONS

When previously qualified equipment operators are hired, their operating should be evaluated on the actual equipment, under the direct supervision of a qualified instructor. You will need to provide additional training about unique site conditions, unfamiliar equipment, attachments, and company safety rules. Keep a copy of this written performance evaluation with documentation of past training in the employee's safety training file.

The basic training never 'expires', but, at least every 3 years, an operator must be formally evaluated to ensure they have retained, and continue to use, the skills and knowledge from their training. The results of this evaluation should be documented in an employee training file.

Hands-on training and performance testing should only be done in a controlled training environment under the direct supervision of a qualified instructor. This is not the time for on-the-job training under normal site operating conditions.

When the company is satisfied the operator is fully qualified, they should issue a wallet certification, authorizing the individual to operate the equipment.

Supplemental Training is required before a certified operator is assigned to significantly different equipment, or to a site where conditions are different or involve uniquely new hazards.

An operator's certification should be revoked if they are observed operating in an unsafe manner, are involved in a serious accident or near-miss incident, or receive an unsatisfactory performance evaluation.

FOOD! DID I GET YOUR ATTENTION? By Matt Murphy SEE, Inc.

Are you having a problem getting people in the office for safety meetings or training classes?

Think about doing these classes around a fun breakfast or lunch theme.

All too often, we are confined to classrooms, sitting around a table watching an instructor showing power-point or video. To engage people, consider making the classes more interactive. When possible, get outside—to the warehouse or a jobsite that best fits with your topic—and do some hands-on training. Make games around the event and, if you feel so inclined, offer prizes as well.

This is why SEE Inc. champions the idea of Safety Days, where people are brought in out of the field early and fed lunch, then play a little game and actually learn something that may help save their lives, or the life of someone they work with.

That's right: have fun with safety classes.

Of course, not all classes or weather conditions will allow such activity, but, next time you have a fall protection class or scaffold safety training, try it.

Get Creative!

The Little Things by Matt Murphy, SEE, Inc.

While on a project, Safety Personnel frequently get accused of citing “the little stuff.” Of course, this is all relative. What we prove, time and time again, is that if you take care of the small stuff, the big stuff will just about take care of itself.

For instance, have you ever been on a project that required 100% of your workers to wear hardhats and eye protection? When you get there, you realize that you are going to need to access an area where you will need personal fall arrest gear. **What did you do?** Did you go ahead, relying on your hardhats and eye protection or did you stop and get the equipment needed? If I had to guess, I would say that depended on the enforcement.

When the “little stuff” is enforced, it makes the statement, **“We will not tolerate anything less than compliance.”** If enforcement is lax, and the only consequence is a “Hey, don’t do it again”, then workers will probably try to slide by without getting caught. But, when these rules are consistently enforced, your workers will know that trying to get by without the proper equipment could get them sent home, called to the boss, or fined; they

won’t think twice when faced with a safety issue. They will go back and get the equipment necessary to do the job, and do it safely.

So, I’ll say it again, if you pay attention to the small stuff, the big stuff will take care of itself. This is true with anything—safety, quality, craftsmanship. For each item, the same rule applies.

In addition, let’s not forget, **the small stuff can kill you.** A little cut was in an electrical wire in contact with the duct work. A worker went into the ceiling and held onto a bar joist while reaching across the duct. Enough electricity was flowing from that small rub to kill him. **Is that a “small thing”?**

In the safety business, we look at everything the same. What might seem small to you could conceivably kill someone. Instead of arguing about what is noteworthy and what is not, enforce safety around all hazards. It is true almost every site will have hazards, but make yours the one with the fewest.

SAFETY INCENTIVES

BY MATT MURPHY, SEE, INC.

PART 4 OF 4

Alright, now it's time to start looking at your efforts with your safety incentive programs. The first thing you need to do is break out your goals. Have you met them or taken steps in the right directions? If so, great! If not, why?

Maybe, it's too early to tell. It maybe that the incentive didn't match the goal. You might try to get some feed back from those whom it effects the most. **The Field!** Look and see where improvements could be made.

Now, if it worked, great; it's time to start scouting for the next set of goals. It's never to early to see what you can do to change it up a little.

My program is going great, why change it?

Well don't make big changes, but changes will keep people looking ahead to the next program. If you want, you could wait to see how this program works for the next 6 months to a year. I would suggest you take that 6-12 months to start looking for improvements.

Now, take the goals and start looking at how you meet them or are working towards them, and show the results off. You may have skeptical management who may want to see how the accidents dropped, or that you got more people involved in training.

Management is not the only one to tell of your success. Let the workers know they played a huge role and you look forward to this type of cooperation in the future.

All too often Safety is only on the front burner if there is a major accident, loss, or fatality.

THAT IS WAY TOO LATE!!!

Keep things changing and keep focusing on the improvements you are making. The problem is, if your safety program is that good, then people often think they can slack up. **DON'T**. If you do, things will be back to how they were, or worse. Employees need to see consistency and dedication

Concrete Saw Operator Pinned by Boom

from *Safety and Health Magazine*, August 2007

A concrete saw operator working alone at a road construction site was using a backhoe to transport saws to a maintenance building. The backhoe, which did not have a boom swing lock pin, was left running.

The victim laid a portable saw on the floor of the backhoe, hitting the right boom swing pedal. The boom swung to the side, pinning the victim between the boom arm and the rear of the backhoe.

To Prevent Future Occurrences:

- Ensure machine guarding is in place prior to equipment operation.
- Ensure all employees receive documented training on hazards of mobile and stationary equipment.
- Ensure special work procedures are in place for all employees working alone.
- Review modifications or additions to equipment with the manufacturer.

SAFETY TIPS: KEEPING TOOL SAFETY IN MIND

Article from Safety and Health Magazine, August 2007

Big hazards come in small packages. Although hammers and saws may not be the largest equipment used in the workplace, improper use of these and other hand tools is a common cause of injury. The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety in Hamilton, Ontario, suggests reminding workers about a few commonsense tips that will keep them off the injured list.

Tool maintenance is key

Inspect tools for defects before use, and replace or repair any defective tools or part. Make sure handles on axes, hammers or other tools fit tightly. Keep cutting tools sharp. Keep all tools clean and dry, and store them properly after each use.

Know when to discard a tool

For example, a hammer with a mushroomed or chipped face, or with cracks in the claw or eye sections, is a hazard and should be discarded.

Practice good housekeeping

Clutter causes accidents. Keep the work environment clean and tidy.

Choose the right tool

Select the right tool for the job according to manufacturer's directions. Substitutes increase the chance of having an accident.

Wear protective equipment

Wear safety glasses, goggles or face shields, and well-fitting gloves appropriate for the hazards to which you may be exposed.

Other commonsense reminders:

- Do not carry tools in a way that interferes with using both hands on a ladder, while climbing on a structure or when doing any

hazardous work. If working on a ladder or scaffold, tools should be raised and lowered using a bucket and hand line.

- Ergonomically, a good general rule is to use tools designed to allow the wrist to stay straight. Avoid using hand tools with your wrist bent.
- Pull on wrenches or pliers. Never push unless you hold the tool with your palm open.
- Point sharp tools lying on benches away from aisles, and handles should not extend over the edge of the bench top.
- When using a saw, make sure the teeth and blades are properly set. Apply pressure on down strokes only. Hold stock firmly in place. Use a helper, a supporting bench or vise to support long stock if required.
- When using a hammer, look behind and above before swinging. Watch the object you are hitting, and strike the blow squarely with the striking face parallel to the surface being struck. Always avoid glancing blows and over-and-under strikes.



SEPTEMBER, 2007**9/5 Safety Committee Meeting at Noon****The Anderson Co.**

12150 Tac Court, Manassas

9/12 DOT Training**8:30 AM—3:30 PM****Luck Stone Corp.**

7730 Jefferson Davis Hwy.

Fredericksburg

OCTOBER, 2007**10/11 & 12 Fork Lift and Aerial Training**

Time & Location TBD

10/19 HCCA Safety Open House**11:30 AM—2:30 PM****The Anderson Co.**

12150 Tac Court, Manassas

NOVEMBER, 2007**11/28 OSHA 30/OSHA 10****7 AM—5 PM****The Anderson Co.**

12150 Tac Court, Manassas

DECEMBER, 2007**12/5 OSHA 30/Confined Space/ Competent Person Sub Part P****7 AM –5PM****The Anderson Co.****12/6 OSHA 30/DOT/ Reasonable Suspicion/ Miss Utility, etc****7 AM-5PM****The Anderson Co.****MORE TRAINING CLASSES ARE BEING PLANNED.**

The Heavy Construction Contractors Association
of Northern Virginia

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