SAFETY BULLETIN

July 2006 – September 2006

Special Points of Interest

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FYI: Have you heard about the recent changes in Indianapolis?

By: Kristi VanSoest, Safety Specialist

If you resemble most companies, you're often wondering what's new in the "safety world" as it pertain to Eli Lilly, Clarion and the Metro Indianapolis Coalition for Construction Safety (MICCS) in the Indianapolis area. This article won't explain everything that's happening, but hopefully, it should clear up some of the changes that have been made in these areas in the recent months.

Beginning with the most recent, Clarion Health Partners has issued new changes as it pertains to the pre- and re-qualification process to enable companies to bid work at their sites. In the past, Clarion stated that each contractor, which works for them or as a subcontractor to another company at one of their sites, must have at least a "participation" status in the MICCS program. As of July 7, 2006, Clarion declared that their system has changed to one of the following options when attempting approval to bid work:

1. Participate in the MICCS Certification Program
    a. Follow existing MICCS Certification Program Requirements for submission and renewal

2. Participate in the Clarion Prequalification Process
    a. Submit the Clarion subcontractor Safety Information Sheet
    b. Submit in CD or electronic format a copy of your company safety manual
    c. Submit previous 3 years OSHA 300 Log Summary, including total man-hours
    d. Submit letter from your insurance carrier listing your EMR fro the previous 3 years
    e. Annually submit your OSHA 300 Summary, man-hours, and EMR renewal by February 1 of each year

This basically means that you don't have to participate in the MICCS program any longer, but if you do there's quite a bit less paperwork required for submission each year.

On Eli Lilly sites, contractors are required to follow very specific safety rules, and as this is above and beyond a great idea, sometimes the word doesn't always get out to everyone. Recently, it's been stated that safety glasses with tinted shades are prohibited on Lilly construction sites. Also, along the lines of personal protective equipment, it is allowed to wear a brightly colored, highly visible shirt as a replacement of reflective vests when work is classified as "road or highway construction". Also, since Lilly has been named as an OSHA Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star status site, there will be a recognition event for all contractors to attend later this month. The last but least, since we are well into the summer months, there has been a notice sent out to all contractors stating that because of the construction growth in 2006 at Lilly Technology Center (LTC), jogging, walking and other recreational pedestrian activities are permanently restricted on LTC roadways. This seems to be all of the latest useful changes that have been made on Eli Lilly construction sites.

Finally, MICCS has made a few changes in the recent months. Gary Price has now become the president of MICCS, and Scott Grimes, Executive Director, will assume all the operations of MICCS.

Hopefully this clears up any of the questions you, as Indianapolis contractors, may have had. Check out our next newsletter for any updates of these changes.

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Respiratory Protection Training Requirements

By: Chris Hall, Safety Specialist

Today, over 5 million employees, employed by an estimated 1.3 million employers, perform work that requires the use of respirators. Respiratory protection is crucial to ensuring employees are protected from some of the most dangerous conditions that exist. Serious injury, long term disease, or death in many industries have long been linked to the inadequate use or complete lack of proper respirators. In many cases today, employers recognize the need to use the right equipment, but many do not follow up the requirements by providing the necessary training. OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard (1910.134) gives guidelines for the information that must be contained in any respiratory protection training.

Employers must provide annual training to ensure that employees are able to demonstrate their knowledge in the following categories:

1. **Risks of improper use** – Why the respirator is important and how improper fit, use, and maintenance will effect its operation.
2. **Limits and capabilities** – What the respirator is designed to protect you from, and what are situations where it will not protect you.
3. **Emergency use** – How to use the respirator in emergency situations including equipment failure.
4. **Donning equipment** – How to put on, remove and use the respirator as it is designed. This also includes how to perform user seal checks.
5. **Maintenance and storage** – How to care for, inspect and properly store a respirator to ensure proper function.
6. **Medical signs and symptoms** – How to recognize signs and symptoms of medical conditions that may affect the proper use or breathing functions of the user.
7. **General requirements** – Detail any other applicable requirements of the standard as they apply; respirator and cartridge selection, specific work conditions, facial hair and sealing surfaces, fit-testing, etc…

Training must be conducted in a language the employee can understand and provided prior to the use of a respirator. The training must be provided on an annual basis or when employee use has demonstrated lack of knowledge. Retraining will also be required if changes in respirator types or hazardous conditions are made.

OSHA's training requirements for employees wearing respirators are important to ensure that future generations of workers know and understand the hazardous conditions they are exposed to, and what they can do to protect themselves.

NEW

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Need an OSHA 10 or 30 Hr. Course?

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Hot Work Safety

By: John Webb, Safety Specialist

A lot of companies today depend on hot work activities in order to complete the job. Almost every company has some sort of task that would involve hot work, whether it is a demolition contractor using an oxygen & acetylene outfit to cut a steel I-beam, or a plumber using a small butane torch in order to cap off the end of a pipe, most of us use it. I would like to take the time to discuss a few precautions to take when utilizing hot work.

- **Fire Prevention:**
  1. Make sure that you have removed any flammable or combustible materials from the area where the hot work activities will be performed. If the materials can't be moved then you must protect them. One the most common forms of protection would be covering the materials with fire blankets. You want to make sure that the fire blankets completely cover the material.
  2. It is a good idea to have a fire watch present during hot work activities. A fire watch should be properly trained in the use of a fire extinguisher and should know who to summons for emergency services when necessary. A fire watch should be present during all hot work activities and should remain in the area for at least 30 minutes after the hot work has been completed as a safety measure. One of the biggest complaints about fire watches that I hear is that why should a company pay somebody to watch someone else work. My response to them is that it is cheaper to pay a fire watch then it is to pay for damaged caused by a fire.

- **Storage:**
  1. Oxygen & Acetylene, when in storage, the bottles must be separated by at least 20 feet or they must have a fire rated wall separating them at least 5 feet in height.
  2. The bottles must be stored in the upright position and secured.
  3. The regulators must be removed and the caps must be placed back on the bottles.
  4. Hoses must be stored in a well ventilated area not in the gang box. If you store the hoses in the gang box then you run a risk of having the remaining gas leak out into the box causing an explosion hazard.

- **Personal Protective Equipment:**
  1. Employees should wear fire protective clothing when using a torch, welder, or any other type of spark producing tool.
  2. A proper face shield or welding helmet should be worn at all times with a protective lens that is rated for the specific type of work. This will help to prevent the employee from getting a "flash burn".
  3. Employees should also do the hot work behind a protective screen or in an area that does not expose other employees to the hazardous flash from the welders.
  4. Respirators may also need to worn depending on what type of material you are cutting or welding. Please consult the MSDS on the material to determine if respiratory protection is needed.

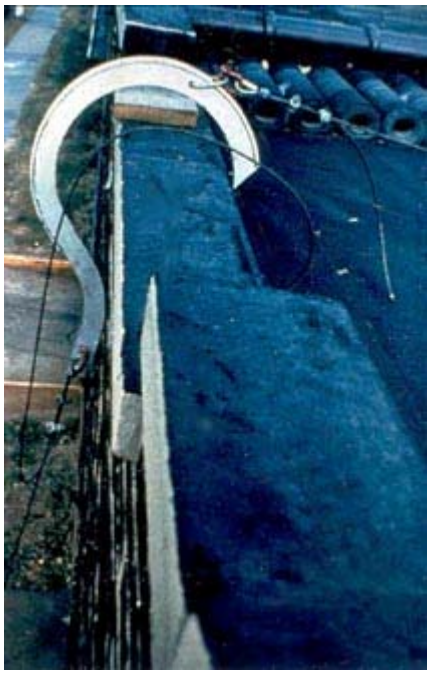
By following these simple steps you can prevent you hot work activities from getting out of control.

The Parapet Wall Dilemma

By: Matt McCreery, Safety Specialist

"Awareness is the key to all safety measures and this particular issue is no different. Roofing employees, especially the foreman in charge of site safety should be aware that a parapet wall…"

Most if not all OSHA standards have some vagueness to exactly what needs to be done or to what specifications one must meet to be fully compliant. One of the standards that seems to cause the most disagreement and discussion, among roofers, is the parapet walls. This is because most roofers and foreman tend to believe that a parapet wall of any height is enough to ensure a safe working environment and to be in compliance with OSHA regulations. This misinformation is to the fault of OSHA as much as anyone for their ambiguity on this matter. While it is clearly stated that guardrails must be 42 inches plus or minus three inches, and that their accompany mid-rail should be approximately half the distance of the top-rail, the mention of parapet walls in the standard only goes as far to say that a parapet wall may be used as a mid-rail when it meets the minimum 21 inches.



While no mention of a parapet wall that is fully compliant to fall protection issues exists in the OSHA standards, parapet walls should be considered a "guardrail" that meets minimum OSHA standards if its height reaches at least 39 inches from the working surface. Where does the confusion come in with the typical roofer? The fact is that a parapet wall that does not reach the minimum requirement of 39 inches is more of a hindrance than it would be if the roof had open edges. On a typical flat roof "alternative fall protection" is a designated area where warning lines are set at least 6 feet from the roof edge. This is what is normally used because of ease to set-up and move. This also allows for roofers working close to the edge to be monitored by a safety monitor who is easily distinguishable from the rest of the crew usually by a bright colored vest. These "alternative fall protection" methods can be used in conjunction with a short parapet wall however this greatly reduces the work-area and it is especially noticeable on some of the smaller roofs and sections. In the case of parapet walls that are less than 39 inches a guardrail must be built on-top of the parapet to reach the designated height and to be OSHA compliant. Most of the time this is not feasible since the construction of these guardrails take considerable more amount of time than the warning line system and can also cause damage to the weatherproofing already installed on the parapet wall.

Awareness is the key to all safety measures and this particular issue is no different. Roofing employees, especially the foreman in charge of site safety should be aware that a parapet wall of less than 39 inches does not meet OSHA regulations. Therefore, the only acceptable answer at this time is to either build or buy a suitable guardrail to install on the existing parapet or use warning lines coupled with the safety monitor to be in compliance.

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Check out our new website www.safetyresources.com

News and Events

New Employees Announcement

In April of 2006, SRI added two new employees to their staff. Chris Hall and Matt McCreery were brought on as Safety Specialists.

Chris is a 2003 Indiana University Purdue University graduate with a degree in Environmental Geology. With a background in automotive environmental and safety, he will bring a new dynamic to Safety Resources, Inc.

Matt is a 2006 graduate from Indiana University with a degree in Occupational Safety from the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

On-Line Training NOW AVAILABLE

Safety Resources, Inc. has provided another avenue for individuals to ensure OSHA training compliance.

SRI is now offering a wide variety of on-line courses. Including the OSHA 10 Hour Construction/General Industry Courses. The OSHA 30 courses will be available soon.

Visit our on-line training page to begin
Safety Resources, Inc. On-Line Training

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Job Opportunities

Staff level position available for practicing Safety Professional. Position expectations will require that the successful candidate have 2-5 years of practical experience as a Safety Director/Risk Manager in a fast paced self directed environment. Career advancement in this position will depend heavily upon both technical communication and training skills. Up to 20% travel.

Please email resumes to hr@safetyresources.com or fax resumes to 317-871-8148.

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