



Special Points of Interest

- Will More Orange Cones Bring More Roadway Deaths
- OSHA Recordkeeping – Quick Reference Guide
- Job Site Orientation
- Employee's Right to Know
- Driving While Dialing
- NEW On-Line Training now Available
- News and Events

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WILL MORE ORANGE CONES BRING MORE ROADWAY DEATHS

Anticipating the affect of the pending boom in Indiana highway construction.

By: Gary Gagliardi, Safety Specialist

I'll admit I did not give this article a catchy or cute title. I even used the word "deaths" instead of "fatalities". We are at a time when there is a need for direct and honest information to both the public and the construction sector. With the funds for massive Indiana highway development fairly secured, Indiana is looking at an increase in highway and road work that will have a major impact throughout the state. We are truly fortunate to have this opportunity before us.



However, with this opportunity there are consequences. As the funding is increased and the number of highway projects are increased, we are faced with the possibility of an equal increase in the number of highway work related accidents and deaths.

Contrary to some beliefs, it is not just the highway construction workers that face death and serious injury at road construction sites. Surprisingly, an estimated 90% of construction-zone deaths involve motorists rather than construction workers. Motorists killed each year in construction zones represent about 2% of all fatal accidents in the nation. In 2004, 1,068 people — drivers and construction workers — died in highway work zones, notes Brad Sant, vice president for safety at the American Road & Transportation Builders Assn.

Being faced with an increase in highway construction, are we accepting the fact that as the increase goes up, accidents and deaths will go up proportionally. Will our only course of action consist of telling people to slow down in work zones?



There is good news. We are fortunate in Indiana that we have an active organization that is already addressing these issues and working to take the actions needed. The Indiana Constructors Inc. Safety Council is working so that we can see a downward trend in highway work zone accidents even as there is a significant increase in projects. Indiana Constructors Inc. is headed by George Sheraw, and its members consist mostly of highway and bridge construction companies. The safety council is a dynamic combination of

company owners and representatives, the Indiana Department of Transportation, the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the Indiana Highway Patrol.

Many means are available to provide safer work zones in highway construction. All options are being explored in our efforts to keep the public and the workers safe, and will involve both the construction companies and motorists. There are actions that can affect change and reduce the rate of work zone accidents. In California, between 1999 and 2004, as construction-zone deaths shot up 43% nationwide, California's rate dropped 35%.

As I said in the beginning the increase in highway and road work will have a major impact throughout the state. It will be regrettable if that impact is due to the loss of a father, mother, son or daughter that died at a work zone.

Over the next several months, ideas will be formulated, and plans will be implemented. Many actions will need to take place to get where we want to be. My belief is that Indiana will be successful. Safety Resources as a member of the Indiana Constructors Inc. Safety Council is committed to this effort.

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OSHA Recordkeeping – Quick Reference Guide

By: Kristi VanSoest, Safety Specialist

The rules regarding OSHA recordkeeping and recordables seem to be an ongoing headache and concern for companies. The following is a “cheat sheet” of ways to get these questions answered:

OSHA 300 Log:

Replaces to 200 Log, effective January 2002



What has changed?

More strict definitions:

- ❖ Work environment-establishment or other locations...present...as a condition of employment. (Basically, the injury has to be related to the current job).
- ❖ Therefore no recording if:
 - Self-inflicted
 - During commute (parking lot)
 - Present as “general public”

General Rule:

- ❖ REPORT MEDICAL TREATMENT
- ❖ DON'T REPORT FIRST AID

What is First Aid?

- ❖ Using a nonprescription medication at a nonprescription strength.
- ❖ Administering tetanus immunizations
- ❖ Cleaning, flushing, or soaking wounds on the surface of the skin.
- ❖ Using wound coverings such as bandages, gauze pads, etc.; or using butterfly bandages or Steri-Strips
- ❖ Using Hot or Cold Therapy
- ❖ Using any non-rigid means of support, such as elastic bandages, wraps, non-rigid back belts, etc.
- ❖ Using temporary immobilization devices while transporting an accident victim. (e.g., splints, slings, neck collars, back boards, etc.)
- ❖ Drilling of a fingernail or toenail to relieve pressure, or draining fluid from a blister.
- ❖ Using eye patches
- ❖ Removing foreign bodies from the eye using only irrigation or a cotton swab.
- ❖ Removing splinters or foreign material from areas other than the eye by irrigation, tweezers, cotton swabs or other simple means
- ❖ Using finger guards
- ❖ Using Massages (physical therapy or chiropractic treatment are considered medical treatment for recordkeeping purposes)
- ❖ Drinking fluids for relief of heat stress.

Real Life (hurt at work or play?)

- ❖ Work or Home...You decide
- ❖ Preexisting condition ...
- ❖ No medical treatment required BEFORE the workplace exposure...
- ❖ Restrictions that would not have happened except for work activities

Recording Injuries and Illnesses

- ❖ You are not required to record injuries and illnesses if:
 - ❖ At the time of the injury or illness, the employee was present in the work environment as a member of the general public.
 - ❖ The injury or illness involves signs or symptoms that surface at work but result solely from a non-work related event or exposure that occurs outside of the work environment.
 - ❖ The injury or illness results solely from the voluntary participation in a wellness program or in medical, fitness, or recreational activity such as blood donation, physical examination, flu shot, exercise class, racquetball, or baseball.
 - ❖ The injury or illness is solely the result of an employee eating, drinking, or preparing food or drink for personal consumption.

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OSHA Recordkeeping – Quick Reference Guide (cont)

- ❖ The injury or illness is solely the result of an employee doing personal tasks at the establishment outside of the employees assigned working hours.
- ❖ The injury or illness is solely the result of personal grooming, self medication for a non-work-related condition, or is intentionally self-inflicted
- ❖ The injury or illness is caused by a motor vehicle accident and occurs on a company parking lot or company access road while the employee is commuting to or from work
- ❖ The illness is the common cold or flu
- ❖ The illness is a mental illness. Mental illness will not be considered work-related unless the employee voluntarily provides the employer with an opinion from a physician or other licensed health care professional with appropriate training and experience stating that the employee has a mental illness that is work related.

OSHA's Basic Rule:

- ❖ The DOCTOR's opinion counts most!
- ❖ What if the employee is told to stay home and yet comes to work?
 - Employees must have a work release from their physician to come back to work. Always use the original doctor's statement, for example, if the doctor says the employee must miss 3 days of work, and he doesn't miss any because he continues to work, you count the 3 days on the log regardless. If an employee returns to work without being released, you may send that employee home.
- ❖ How do you count LOST and RESTRICTED work days?
 - There is a cap at 180 days. If the restriction goes beyond that, you may stop counting. Always count calendar days.

Doctors are important to the record keeping process

- ❖ Restricted work days are recorded.
- ❖ You keep the employee away from scheduled work,
- ❖ Doctor recommends an employee not perform a certain routine function,
- ❖ Routine functions are tasks that employees do at least once per week

Significant changes from 200 to 300:

- ▶ Changes regarding lost/restricted work
 - ▶ Change in terminology
 - ▶ Eliminates "lost workdays"
 - ▶ Focuses on "days away" or "days restricted or transferred"
 - ▶ Includes new regulations for counting days
 - ▶ Rely on calendar days instead of workdays
- ▶ Changes to employer requirements
 - ▶ Employers must establish procedure for employees to report injuries and illnesses
 - ▶ Employers must tell employees how to report
 - ▶ Employers are prohibited from discriminating against employees who report

With change of ownership, seller must turn over OSHA records to buyer
- ▶ Changes to employee rights
 - ▶ Privacy rights (i.e.: 300A, summary sheet)
 - ▶ Prohibits employers from entering an individual employee's name on Form 300 for certain types of injuries/illnesses
 - ▶ Sexual assaults
 - ▶ HIV infections
 - ▶ Mental illness
 - ▶ Provides employers the right not to describe the nature of sensitive injuries where the employee's identity would be known
 - ▶ Gives employee access to portions of Form 301 relevant to the employee they represent

Requires employers to remove employees' names before providing data to persons not provided access under the rule (i.e.: lawyer)

"By taking the time to conduct a job site safety orientation, you will help to reduce accidents, injuries, and you will also help to reduce confusion in emergency situations."

OSHA Recordkeeping – Quick Reference Guide (cont)

- ▶ Requires the annual summary to be posted for three months (Feb. 1 to April 30) instead of one
- ▶ Requires certification of annual summary by a company executive
- ▶ Changes reporting of fatalities and catastrophes to exclude some motor carrier and motor vehicle incidents
- ▶ Allows all forms to be kept on computer equipment or at alternate location
- ▶ Form 300A
 - ▶ Requires increased employer review of data and additional data on the average employment/hours worked at establishment
 - ▶ Changes result in higher quality data, but more time and cost to employer
- ▶ Changes to the definitions of medical treatment and first aid (*will result in more cases being recorded*)

Areas of Potential Cost Increases:

- ▶ Change to the criteria for recording needle stick and sharps injury (*will result in more cases being recorded*)
- ▶ Increased employee involvement
- ▶ Employee privacy protections

Bloodborne Pathogen Standard:

An employer can choose to keep a separate sharps injury log to satisfy the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.1030, in addition to recording injuries on the OSHA 300 Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses.

Basically, you need 2 logs:

OSHA 300 Log	Sharps Injury Log
On case line, write "Privacy Case"	Name of the employee
Reference to "Sharps Injury Log"	Where the incident occurred
Do not fill in all information listed	When the incident occurred
	What was the sharp...who did it belong to
	Reference to case line on 300 Log

Job Site Orientation

By: John Webb, Safety Specialist

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) standards mandate that employers provide training to their employees whenever they are exposed to occupational hazards. For instance: if you require employees to work from scaffolding, then you must provide them with training on scaffolds. This training is to familiarize employees with the dangers with working from scaffolds in order to help prevent accidents and injuries. The best way to accomplish this is to mandate job site orientations. Job site orientations can provide valuable information that will help reduce injuries and accidents that occur on the job site. The orientation should last long enough so that each employee has a good understanding of what the site expectations are. The orientation should contain at a minimum the following:

Job Site Orientation

The employer or responsible contractor or project owner must provide training on the OSHA 300 Log.

1. *Site Specific Emergency Action Procedures* – Informing all employees of the emergency action plan for the job site is necessary in order to prevent confusion in the event of an emergency. You should inform employees of where to go in case of severe weather, or in the event the evacuation is needed due to fire or other emergency.

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Job Site Orientation (cont.)

2. *Site Specific Rules and Regulations* – You should inform employees during the orientation of any site specific rules and regulations that may be different from other job sites. For example: OSHA requires that employees wear safety glasses when there is an exposure to flying particles. However, you may want to mandate the use of safety glasses 100% of the time while on the project. This is the best time to inform employees of these site rules.
3. *Expectations* – You should also use this time to explain any type of job site safety expectations that you may have. The expectations are good to share with everyone who works on the job site.

By taking the time to conduct a job site safety orientation, you will help to reduce accidents, injuries, and you will also help to reduce confusion in emergency situations.



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Employee's Right to Know

By: Chris Hall, Safety Specialist

The most common OSHA violation for employers is the failure to follow the rules set by the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS). Also referred to as "Right to Know," this program is intended to inform employers and employees of the dangers associated with the different chemical products used or stored on site. The Hazard Communication Standard specifies that employers are required to provide training to their employees on these dangers, and make available the appropriate reference materials. In short, employees should be able to learn anything they would like to know about any chemical product that is used or stored at their facility.

For most employers this is no easy task. Depending on the number of chemical products, work areas, and employees, meeting the requirements of the HCS could prove to be extremely complex and time consuming. This article is intended to provide a brief explanation of the Hazard Communication Standard and what it takes to stay in compliance.

To better understand the Hazard Communication Standard it is easiest to divide it into five essential categories:

- 1) The Written Plan
- 2) Chemical inventory
- 3) Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
- 4) Proper Labeling and Hazard Warnings
- 5) Employee Training

In any business environment it is commonly stated that "If it is not documented, it didn't happen." This is especially true when it comes to a Hazard Communication Plan. The written plan is designed to be a guide for how a business is going to meet the regulatory requirements of the HCS and a reference for the management of the program's specific components, listed above. The written program must be made available for review by any employee at any time. As mentioned in the beginning of this review, the complete lack of this written program is a commonly cited OSHA violation and without it, the employees don't know that they NEED to know.

One thing employees need to know is what chemicals they are using or may become exposed to. Each facility must have a listing of the all of the hazardous chemicals that are used and stored on-site. This list must be maintained and updated when new products are acquired. This master list is important to not only keep track of what is there, but also to ensure that the appropriate Material Safety Data Sheets are also on-site and available for employee review at any time.



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"Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are one of the most valuable tools in the HCS. . . MSDS's must be made available to any employee who desires to review them. "

Employee's Right to Know (cont)

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are one of the most valuable tools in the HCS. These may be obtained from the manufacturer or distributor and are required to contain almost everything about a chemical product; manufacturer's information, chemical composition, physical hazards and properties, health effects, first aid and emergency response procedures, and personal protection equipment requirements. MSDS's must be made available to any employee who desires to review them. Many businesses are now finding it useful to create a supplemental electronic MSDS database. In the event of an emergency, it is easier to use a desktop computer to find a document than to dig through a book with possibly hundreds of pages.



Just as it is important to have an MSDS for each hazardous chemical, it is also crucial that all chemical containers are properly marked and labeled. This is required to identify each product for use and convey the hazards of the material. Manufacturers and distributors of chemicals are required to properly label or mark containers with their company name and business address, contents of the container, and applicable hazard warnings. It is the responsibility to the employer to ensure that all chemicals retain their labeling or are marked accordingly. Employees must know how to read the labels and also apply them when necessary.

Employee training is an annual requirement that brings the Hazard Communication Standard's requirements together. Training must be organized to explain details of the "Right to Know" program and how their jobs are affected by the use of these hazardous chemicals. It is important to inform the employees on the location, availability, and usefulness of Material Safety Data Sheets. Other topics that must be covered include: methods to detect hazardous releases or exposures, health hazards and physical properties of chemicals in use, personal protection equipment and environmental controls used to limit exposure, and an explanation and proper use of hazard labels. An effective and comprehensive training program will meet the requirements of the HCS and provide valuable information to your employees that may prevent a disaster or save lives.

The Hazard Communication Standard is intended to inform all employers and employees of the hazards associated with the chemical products that may affect them. Uninformed businesses and employees are more likely to be the cause and victim of accidents. They will also be unprepared to respond to such an incident. Failure to meet any or all of the Hazard Communication requirements is OSHA's number one violation, and it will continue to be the primary topic of enforcement because of the millions of workers affected and the numerous associated injuries and fatalities.

More information regarding the Hazard Communication Standard may be found on the [OSHA website](#).

Driving While Dialing

By: Marc Brewer, Safety Specialist

Cell phones can not only be a necessity for this day and age, but can also be a lifesaver to a stranded motorist. Cell phones can be especially useful if you find yourself stranded in severe weather or in secluded or remote areas where walking is out of the question. Unfortunately we can't always trust a person who stops to help; therefore being able to call someone is a great comfort to many. But cell phones and cars don't always mix. Cell phones can be a distraction when the driver should be more concerned on operating his or her vehicle in a safe manner.

This topic is part of an intense debate that has already caused some areas to ban hand held cell phone usage in cars if you are the driver and it will continue for some time.

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Driving While Dialing (cont)

Opponents of cell phones in cars point to a New England Journal of Medicine study that shows drivers who regularly talk on cell phones are 4 times more likely to be in an accident during a call than a motorist that does not use a cell phone while driving. Four times is nearly the same risk as driving while intoxicated.



Supporters of cell phones in cars say talking on a cell phone is no more distracting than holding a conversation with a passenger, changing a CD, or eating and think that a ban on cell phones in cars is an infringement on personal rights. They point to a study by the American Automobile Association (AAA) that showed cell phones caused only 1.5 percent of all accidents nationwide from 1995 through 1999.

In recent years the cell phone industry has grown exponentially so the number of cell phones in vehicles has also risen. At least if you are in a conversation with a person in the same car, they are experiencing and seeing everything the driver is and sometimes can help you avoid an accident. The passenger might see a car that slammed on their brakes in front of you that the person on the other end of a cell phone wouldn't be able to see.

No matter which side of the issue you are on, most experts agree that if you drive with a cell phone, avoid unnecessary calls and always make the driving task your top priority. If you must make an extended call, pull off the road and park in a safe place. If you must make a call when you are behind the wheel it is suggested that you are familiar with the phone's features, the less you have to look at the phone the better. Keep the call short or if possible ask a passenger to place the call for you and to do the talking as well. Telling the person on the other end of the line that you are driving and get off the phone as soon as possible especially in traffic or bad weather. Also, try not to combine a phone call with other distractions like eating and always make sure your phone is secured, you don't want it to become a projectile in a crash. And remember, driving requires your full attention.

News and Events

On-Line Training NOW AVAILABLE

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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.

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