

DON'T MAKE THESE SAFETY MISTAKES

OSHA recently fined a window manufacturer for not correcting safety hazards following worker's finger amputation \$ 74,826.00

An inspection began after a complaint alleging that an amputation injury at a window manufacturer's facility **was not reported** to OSHA. It was also conducted as part of OSHA's **national emphasis program** focused on amputations.

Inspectors cited the company for **serious** violations involving:

- No established energy control program. (Lockout / Tagout) 1910.147(c)(1)
- Powered industrial trucks operated by employees without proper training. 1910.178(l)(1)(i)
- Unguarded machinery. 1910.212(a)(3)(ii)
- A mechanical power press operated without a single-stroke mechanism, which prevents worker exposure to amputation hazards and other injuries. 1910.217(c)(1)(i)
- Mechanical power presses not periodically and regularly inspected and tested. 1910.217(b)(3)(i)
- Damaged electrical equipment. 1910.217(e)(1)(i)

A "other-than-serious violation" was issued due to the lack of a written hazard communication program.

Take a moment to have your safety team inspect your facility for these and other safety violations. Make sure you have properly trained your employees and that they are complying with that training.

Also, According to the National Safety Council, the top causes of unintentional Injury and Death in homes and communities are:

#1: Poisoning

In 2011, poisonings overtook motor vehicle crashes for the first time as the leading cause of unintentional-injury-related death for all ages combined. Poisoning deaths are caused by gases, chemicals and other substances, but prescription **drug overdose** is by far the leading cause. (Does your company require pre-employment drug testing of your employees?)

#2: Motor Vehicle Crashes

No one wakes up thinking they will lose a loved one in a car crash, but motor vehicle crashes are the second leading cause of unintentional-injury-related death overall. **Impaired driving**, distracted driving, speeding and inexperience can cause a life to be cut short in the blink of an eye. (Do employees who operate your company vehicles have a good driving record?)

#3: Falls

More than 29,000 people died in falls in 2013. Falling is the third leading cause of unintentional-injury-related death over all age groups, but it's the #1 cause of death for those 71 and older, according to *Injury Facts 2015*. The good news: **Aging, itself, does not cause falls**.

#4: Choking and Suffocation

Suffocation is the fourth leading cause of unintentional injury-related death over all age groups, and choking on food or other objects is a primary cause. (Do you know how to perform the Heimlich Maneuver?) Suffocation is the second leading cause of unintentional injury death for people 87 and older. **Mechanical suffocation is the #1 cause of death for infants**.

#5: Drowning

Not including boating incidents, about 10 people drown every day. It's the fifth leading cause of unintentional-injury-related death over all ages, and the #1 cause of death for children ages 1 to 4, mostly due to children falling into pools or being **left alone in bathtubs**.

#6: Fires and Burns

Fire is the sixth leading cause of unintentional-injury-related death over all ages. About 2,200 deaths were caused by burns and injuries related to fire in 2013. Often fires **start** at night, when family members are asleep. A working smoke alarm will cut the chances of dying in a fire in HALF. (Do you conduct fire extinguisher training at your facility?)

#7: Natural and Environmental Incidents

Disasters are front-page news even though lives lost are relatively few compared to other unintentional-injury-related deaths. Weather-related disasters claim hundreds of lives per year. The National Safety Council encourages families to learn all they can about emergency preparedness, and always have an emergency kit on hand. (Have you conducted emergency drills at your facility or home this year?)

(For more information on the subject - where this information was taken - look at the National Safety Council website:

<http://www.nsc.org/learn/safety-knowledge/Pages/safety-at-home.aspx>)

If our Safety Director, Bob Revels, can help you with safety inspections, or safety training needs that you may have, give him a call. Bob is an Authorized OSHA 10 & 30 Trainer with over 30 years of safety experience. You can contact him by calling 828-335-0088. Some **examples** of help he might give: Forklift Training, Global Harmonized System (Hazard Communications training), Fall Protection Training, Lockout / Tagout Training, Recordkeeping, etc.

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