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SAFETY AND GOVERNMENT NEWS



First Aid Changes

CAL/OSHA has approved changes in Title 8 so employers can no longer prevent workers from contacting emergency services on work phones. Revision to the General Safety Orders S3400 became effective September 26, 2009, and came about following a workplace accident that led to a death where a company blocked 911 calls. The revised regulation can be viewed at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/Title8/3400.html>

Foot Protection

CAL/OSHA also adopted a change to Title 8 to correct a reference number. The change became effective September 26, 2009. The revision states that protective footwear criteria published on or before January 26, 2007 shall meet the requirements of ANSI Z41-1999 standard. The revised regulation can be seen at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/Title8/3385.html>

Agriculture Safety

CAL/OSHA Chief Len Welsh will address the Western Center for Agriculture Health and Safety on October 5th in Davis. The seminar is at 4 PM in 3201 Hart Hall on the UC Davis campus. For more information see: www.agcenter.ucdavis.edu

H1N1 and Respirator Shortage

CAL/OSHA is working to make sure employees in health care are properly protected from the present H1N1 flu virus. The World Health Organization has classified H1N1 as an "unstoppable" Level 6 pandemic. The N95 Respirator has been identified as the respirator that should be used by health care providers in the prevention of transmission of the H1N1 virus. The trouble is that there are not enough of the N95 respirators in stock. CAL/OSHA says health care employers' policies should include:

- Determining what unnecessary employee contact with suspected or confirmed H1N1 cases can be reduced.
- Ordering respirators through non-medical supply chains, such as safety equipment suppliers.
- Using alternative respirators, such as N95s (which are not fluid-resistant).
- Using non-disposable elastomeric facepiece respirators or powered air-purifying respirators, that can be disinfected and reused.

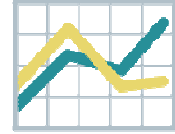
The above can also be polices for first aid responders. For more information see: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/Title8/5199.html>

WORKER SAFETY

Predicting Incident Rates

A number of safety professionals believe you can predict incident rates. A recent article in Professional Safety (September 2009) by Abdullah Al-Mutairi and Joel M. Height, Ph.D., P.E. demonstrated their research in this area. They used mathematical models looking at factors such as:

- Awareness, motivation, incentive interventions;
- Safety, skill and craft training and development interventions;
- New tools and equipment design method interventions;
- Equipment activities (e.g. inspections and preventive maintenance);
- Safety and Health Program Model.



Data collected and used in their research are issues that should be looked at by those in safety management:

- Safety Awareness and Motivation Activities:
 - Crew Inspections
 - Implementing Awards, Incentives, etc. Programs,
 - Reviewing and implementing Safety Programs,
 - Implementing Joint Health and Safety Committee Activities and Programs,
 - Developing and delivering safety related communications, bulletins, etc.,
 - Providing Safety Related Feed Back to Employees,
 - Job planning activities,
 - Morning Safety Huddles/Tailgate Meetings,
 - Safety Supervision.
- Skill Development and Training Activities:
 - Safety Training,
 - Technical Training,
 - Safety Meetings,
 - Drills (emergency, safety, rescue practice and drills, etc.).
- Equipment Related Activities:
 - Equipment Inspections,
 - Facilities Inspections,
 - Personal Protective Equipment Inspections,
 - Preventive Maintenance Activities.



They looked at the data above on a weekly basis to assign points for each item for a scorecard and record.

This is a very good article and it shows a very good process for predicting an incident rate. The above listed items used in their process are items the safety coordinator, safety committee, and/or management can review to see if their own safety activities are being properly conducted to prevent or reduce accidents. For additional information or to see this article, contact us at tperazzo@ramaticiins.com

SAFETY IN EARTHQUAKE COUNTRY



Loma Prieta Earthquake 20th Anniversary

On October 17, 1989, at 5:04:15 p.m. (PDT), a magnitude 6.9 earthquake severely shook the San Francisco and Monterey Bay regions. The epicenter was located near Loma Prieta peak in the Santa Cruz Mountains, approximately 14 km (9 mi) northeast of Santa Cruz and 96 km (60 mi) south-southeast of San Francisco.

Where were you at 5:04:15 pm on October 17, 1989? I, like many other Bay Area Baseball Fans, was getting ready to watch the SF Giants and Oakland A's World Series Game. I truly believe that event saved many from being injured or killed. So many people were home or at the game and not traveling on the freeways, bridges and streets in the area that were so badly damaged.

As we remember this event and the days and years after, we should make sure we are prepared for the next big one. For those of us who live or work in the North Bay, there are a number of earthquake faults that can be expected to become active. The San Andreas Fault, which runs through Marin and Sonoma Counties, etc. has a 21% probability for one or more magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquakes from 2007 to 2036. The Rodgers Creek Fault, which runs through Sonoma County, has a 31% probability as does the Hayward Fault. The earthquakes on all three faults have been felt in our area and have caused damage, injury and fatalities.

Local History

On April 19, 1892 an earthquake centered north of Santa Rosa, in the Healdsburg Fault Area, caused damage as far away as Vacaville, Winters, and Dixon. As the result of the Great Earthquake of April 18, 1906, centered in San Francisco, there was much damage and some deaths in the Santa Rosa Area.

EQ Info References

A great reference for Earthquake Information and Earthquake Preparedness is the US Geological Survey. At <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/eqcenter/recenteqsus/Maps/US2/37.39.-123.-121.php> you can see the latest earthquakes for our area. As I prepare this article I can see that there were a series of earthquakes, on September 18-20th, 6-miles WNW from Calistoga, 8-miles NE from Windsor, 8-miles NNE from Larkfield-Wikiup, and 12 miles NNW from Santa Rosa. These were in the neighborhood of 1.0 to 3.1. For great Earthquake Preparedness information go to: <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/regional/nca/prepare/index.php>

Other good sources of Earthquake Preparedness information are:

<http://www.preparenow.org/prepare.html>

<http://www.californiasciencecenter.org/GenInfo/NewsAndEvents/CAlifestyleTips/EarthquakePreparedness/EarthquakePreparedness.php>

<http://www.disastercenter.com/>

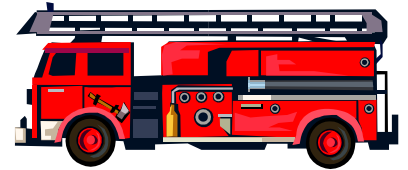
<http://www.redcross.org/portal/site/en/menuitem.d8aaecf214c576bf971e4cfe43181aa0/?vgnnextoid=72c51a53f1c37110VgnVCM1000003481a10aRCRD&vgnnextfmt=default>

<http://www.oes.ca.gov/WebPage/oeswebsite.nsf/Content/A1F2F25F0947AF848825741F006015EF?OpenDocument>

The Great California Shake Out

On October 15th at 10:15 AM millions of Californians will take part in one of the largest earthquake drills ever. Drop, Cover and Hold On will be a part of the drill. Workplaces and homes are places where everyone should be participating in earthquake drills including evacuation drills. For information see: <http://www.shakeout.org/drill/>

FIRE SAFETY

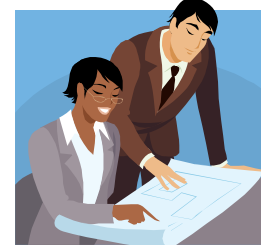


Fire Stats

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has released its 2008 National Fire Experience Survey, showing reductions in structure fires. Some 78.2% of structure fires are residential with a 2.7% decrease from 2007. Some 56.5% of those were one and two-bedroom homes, and apartment fires accounted for 18.5% of the structure fires. There were 3,320 civilian fire deaths and 16,705 fire injuries in 2008. That's down 3.2% and 5.5% respectively, from 2007. There were 236,000 vehicle fires, down 8.5% from 2007.

Other 2008 stats:

- The fire department responds to a fire every 22 seconds.
- A fire occurs in an outside property every 45 seconds.
- A structure fire occurs every 61 seconds.
- A residential fire occurs every 78 seconds.
- 350 civilians died in highway vehicle fires.
- Home fires accounted for 83% of all civilian fire deaths.
- 120 civilians died in non residential fires.
- A civilian fire death occurs every 158 minutes.
- A civilian fire injury occurs every 31 minutes.



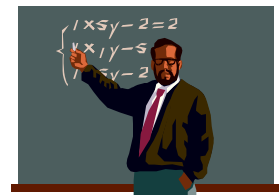
The best way NOT to be a part of the above stats is to practice good fire prevention methods at home and work, 24/seven.

Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week takes place October 5th-11th. This is a good time to take a fire prevention survey; hold a fire prevention meeting; check out fire and smoke detectors, to make sure they are working; check fire extinguishers and other fire protection systems, to make sure they have been inspected and tagged during the last year. These suggested things should be done at home as well as at work. For additional information, see the website of your local fire department/district or www.nfpa.org

SAFETY TRAINING

- Forklift and Loader
- First Aid/CPR/AED
- Excavation and Fall Protection—Competent Person
- Accident Investigation Techniques and Defensive Driving



There are many safety training classes and webinars being offered in our region by insurance companies, associations and others. See our website: <http://ramaticiins.com/> for a complete list. We update the list weekly. Check your insurance company and/or trade association website for additional training opportunities

CLAIMS MANAGEMENT



Accident Reports, Pictures, and Video Clips

What is the best way to manage a claim? Those of us in the loss prevention field believe it is preventing the claim in the first place. But, if you do have an accident and/or claim the best thing you can do is develop a well prepared accident report. What makes a good accident report great? Attached pictures or video clips showing that the other party was at fault or heavily contributed to the accident, is the best answer.

A good case in point is from one of our clients: Their driver was parked at a curb, with his emergency lights flashing, and a car clipped the front side of their truck. The other driver claimed that the truck pulled away from the curb and hit the side of her vehicle. Our client's driver took his cell phone and took a video clip of the two vehicles. The video clip showed: the other vehicle, with it's left turn signal on, turning into the left turn-lane ahead of our client's vehicle which was parked at the curb, before the turn-lane, with the 4-way emergency flasher lights on. Who are you going to believe caused this accident? The parked vehicle or the vehicle changing lanes? The video clip, accident report, and witness statements will be used by the insurance claims adjuster to support our client's "not at fault" and not responsible for damages to the other vehicle as the claim is handled by the insurance company.

At your next safety meeting bring up the subject of accident reports, pictures and video clips. The recommended SOP for accident reports and pictures/video clips:

- Make sure all parties are safe, or make sure EMT's are called if needed.
- Notify police or highway patrol if accident caused serious injuries or high value property damage.
- Eliminate or control any immediate hazards your vehicle may have caused, if safe to do so.
- Document the accident scene and start your accident report.
- Note if the other party was talking on their cell phone or texting, eating, etc.,
- Take pictures and/or video clips keeping yourself in a safe position while doing so.
- Back up and get as much of the scene in the pictures as possible along with the close ups, as well.
- If there is previous damage to the other vehicle, get pictures of that damage too.
- Try to get pictures/video clips of the spot of impact, show accident debris, trail of brake marks, trail of engine liquids, etc.
- Get witness statements and try to get them one at a time.
- Ask them what they saw, what they heard, where were they standing/sitting at the time of the accident, etc.
- Get the witness name and phone contact number.
- Diagram the accident scene and show the location of the vehicles.
- Give out only that information required by law, name, contact information, drivers license number, and insurance company information.
- Admit no fault, it's OK to say your sorry for our accident.
- Take care of yourself and make arrangements to move your vehicle from the scene.
- Notify your insurance claims representative as soon as you can.
- Get the completed accident report and copies of the pictures/video clips to them ASAP.

THIS MONTH'S HEALTH & SAFETY CAMPAIGNS

October:

4th-5th American Heart Walk/American Walk for Diabetes

5th-9th Drive Safely Work Week

- <http://trafficsafety.org/>

5th-11th Fire Prevention Week

- <http://www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=1203&itemID=28255&URL=Learning/Public%20education/Fire%20Prevention%20Week/Fast%20facts%20about%20fire&cookie%5Ftest=1>

6th Child Health Day

7th Walk to School Day

- <http://www.walktoschool-usa.org/>

15th White Cane Safety Day

18th-24th National Safe Schools Week

- <http://www.schoolsafety.us/Safe-Schools-Week-p-24.html>

19th-25th National Health Education Week

19th-25th National School Bus Safety Week

- <http://www.napt.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=7>



All Month:

- Health Literacy Month
- National Animal Safety and Protection Month
 - http://www2.aspc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=edu_calendar#October
- National Breast Cancer Awareness Month
 - <http://www.nbcam.org/>
- National Car Care Month
- National Crime Prevention Month
 - <http://www.ncpc.org/programs/crime-prevention-month>
- National Cyber Security Awareness Month
 - <http://www.staysafeonline.info/ncsam>
- National Dental Hygiene Month
- National Domestic Violence Awareness Month:
 - <http://dvam.vawnet.org/>
- International Walk to School Month
 - <http://www.iwalktoschool.org/>

