

Price Industries Switches Gloves To Reduce Cuts and Costs



By Jerry Denney
Ansell Protective Products

It seems rather simple — supply workers with hand protection that provides an appropriate level of cut protection and the incidence of injuries resulting from cuts and lacerations will decrease. The problem is that workers are often more concerned about appearance and how gloves feel than they are about cut protection. They want gloves that look good and are comfortable enough to wear all day.

Price Industries Inc. is a metal fabricating company and the second largest HVAC manufacturer in the United States. Cut injuries had become a problem at the company's Georgia facility, where workers were wearing a glove that had become popular because of its pleasing appearance and comfort — not its ability to protect the hands from cuts and lacerations.

Safety Manager Ed Floyd was charged with identifying and eliminating hazards within the plant to reduce the frequency and severity of hand injuries. Floyd conducted a walk-through of the plant to analyze various tasks. He concluded that most hand injuries resulted from workers wearing gloves that did not provide an adequate level of protection.

HyFlex 11-920 gloves include patent pending Ansell Grip Technology™ coating to channel fluid away from the gloves' surface. This is important since workers handle oily parts during the production process.

"Workers were wearing a hodge-podge of hand protection and other safety products that came from many different suppliers," Floyd said. "No one ever performed an assessment to identify specific needs or support product usage."

Floyd considered various hand protection products and based his selection on each product's cut and abrasion resistance, comfort and affordability.

"The goal was to identify a suitable replacement that would provide a higher level of protection yet would cost about the same as the previous hand protection product," Floyd said.

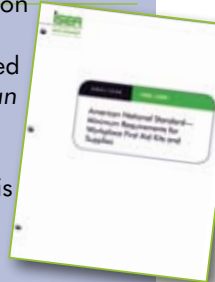
After comparing products, Floyd selected HyFlex-11-920 gloves from Ansell with superior abrasion resistance and an excellent grip. HyFlex 11-920 gloves include patent-pending Ansell Grip Technology™ coating to channel fluid away from the gloves' surface. ▶48

Updated ISEA Standard Designates New First Aid Kit Types, Expands Requirements

By Cristine Fargo
International Safety Equipment Association

The International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) has received American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approval on an updated version of ANSI/ISEA Z308.1-2009, *American National Standard – Minimum Requirements for Workplace First Aid Kits and Supplies*.

Significant updates in this version, which is a revision to the 2003 edition, include the designation of new kit types, expansion of the required supply list to include a ▶48



INSIDE: FIVE THINGS YOU CAN LEARN ABOUT PROTECTING WORKERS

1 Hey construction pros — Get new ARTBA PPE video at discount price

2 Make your job easier — Five ISEA members offer new resources for you

3 OSHA respirator guidance gives employers vital selection information

4 Steps to enhance women's workplace safety, health taken by NIOSH

5 Safety specs — Fire instructor's sight, possibly life saved from solid water stream

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Since they began wearing HyFlex gloves a few months ago, Price Industries workers have experienced no recordable hand injuries.

Protection UPDATE

News from the International Safety Equipment Association

Protection Update

is the newsletter for the ISEA Partnership for Worker Protection program. It is intended for anyone who specifies, purchases or uses personal protective equipment, and those who regulate it.

Protection Update is distributed without charge, and also is available via ISEA's website www.safetysiteequipment.org.

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ISEA
INTERNATIONAL
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GLOVES

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This quality is important since Price Industries manufactures products with oily parts, including ceiling and linear diffusers, laminar flow diffusers, displacement ventilation units, and fan-powered terminals. HyFlex 11-920 gloves also have a special nylon liner that is cool to the hands and improves worker fit.

"The HyFlex gloves cost more than competitive products initially, but we feel the product quality cannot be beat," Floyd said. "Since workers began wearing the HyFlex gloves a few months ago, we have had no recordable hand injuries and medical costs have been significantly reduced."

Floyd cited other benefits, including improved employee morale, higher productivity and less likelihood of a severe injury that could turn into an indemnity cost.

"Every dollar we spend on personal protective equipment saves the company money on medical services, lost time and other costs associated with handling workers' compensation claims," Floyd said. "Workers appreciate the quality of the gloves and feel confident they have the protection they need to perform their jobs safely. This impacts morale because it implies the company cares about its employees."

FIRST AID KIT STANDARD

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first aid guide, and a redesign of the product label. Kits in compliance with this standard will provide a basic range of products to deal with most types of injuries encountered in the workplace.

"During the revision process, much consideration was given to contemporary first aid protocols and the availability of products used to treat workplace injuries," said Bob Rock, chairman of the ISEA Industrial First Aid Group and product manager for North by Honeywell. "The updated document reflects an assortment of supplies in sizes and quantities that are best-suited to treat worker injuries."

The kit label has been redesigned to draw specific attention to the fact that each workplace is unique and, as such, may neces-

Look for Hand Protection from ISEA Members

Protection Update readers are encouraged to specify hand protection that is rated in conformance with ANSI/ISEA 105-2005 – American National Standard for Hand Protection Selection Criteria from the following ISEA members:

- Ansell Protective Products
- Camelbak/SW Motorsports
- DSM Dyneema
- DuPont
- Ergodyne
- Kimberly-Clark Professional
- Lakeland Industries
- Magid Glove and Safety
- MCR Safety
- North by Honeywell
- OccuNomix International, LLC
- OK-1 Manufacturing Co.
- Sperian Protection

Price Industries' uses HyFlex 11-920 gloves throughout its Georgia plant and Floyd recommended providing the product to workers at the company's Arizona facility. The Georgia plant also uses Ansell Metalist® gloves and Assembler sleeves, which are made with DuPont™ Kevlar® brand fiber for a high level of cut resistance.

Price Industries, Inc. facilities are located in Suwanee and Winder, Ga., and Casa Grande, Ariz. ●

sitate the availability of additional first aid supplies.

The updated standard was prepared by members of ISEA's Industrial First Aid Group in conjunction with leading industry stakeholders.

Copies of the standard are available from ISEA, 1901 N. Moore Street., Suite 808, Arlington, Va. 22209; an order form may be downloaded from www.safetysiteequipment.org. The single-copy cost is \$27. Discounted rates for bulk orders are offered; contact ISEA at 703-525-1695 for more information. ●

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Cristine Z. Fargo is manager of membership and standards services for the International Safety Equipment Association. ISEA is accredited as a standards-developing organization by the American National Standards Institute. Reach her at cfargo@safetysiteequipment.org.

WASHINGTON WATCH

ISEA Advocates More Stockpiled Respirators for U.S. Pandemic Protection

By Daniel I. Glucksman

International Safety Equipment Association

Respiratory protection is a key part of the nation's response to an epidemic, pandemic or public health emergency where airborne transmission is a concern. However, the federal government's treatment of the use of respirators has been quirky. Emergency responders, health care workers and the public all may need the protection of respirators when potentially exposed to virus.

In 2005, in its pandemic flu preparations, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS') Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness announced it intended to purchase 50 million respirators and 50 million surgical masks. When compared with other regional and national governments, and even HHS draft guidelines, it becomes clear these quantities may not be enough.

For example, France stockpiled 685 million N95-equivalents for its first responders for a population one-fifth of the United States. Using that ratio, the United States would need a stockpile of over 3.42 billion N95 masks just for first responders. In 2007, the government of Ontario, where SARS killed 45 people including two nurses and one doctor, stockpiled 55 million N95 respirators in case of another outbreak.

The importance of respirators in the nation's defense against biohazards was evident again in the spring of 2009, when cases of H1N1 swine flu began to appear. With cases of swine flu in California, Texas, Kansas and New York, on April 26, Acting HHS Secretary Charles E. Johnson declared a public health emergency.

On May 1, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published an updated Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) that allowed the release of the 15 models of N95s from four manufacturers from the National Strategic Stockpile due to a shortage of four models of respirators cleared by FDA for use by the general public.

These 19 respirator models have been

granted federal liability coverage. This coverage applies to the manufacturers, their distributors and government officials involved in dispensing these devices.

Liability coverage is provided under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act), which was part of the 2006 Defense Appropriations Act (PL 109-148, signed into law in December 2005). Under the PREP Act, those who develop vaccines and biological hazard countermeasures — such as respirators — are largely shielded from lawsuits.

While the EUA provided broad liability protections to these 19 respirators models, the same respirators do not have federal liability protection when purchased through retail or industrial supply channels. In addition, respirators that are not part of the stockpile but that also have N95 certification are not covered under this federal liability program either, despite the current public health emergency. This gap in federal liability coverage is a source of concern for protective equipment manufacturers.

Although respirators are certified by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the FDA has authority to allow the expanded use of drugs, devices and biological products to combat a public health crisis. In this case, the emergency use of respirators extends to their distribution from the national strategic stockpile and their use against a biological agent for which there is no Permissible Exposure Limit.

NIOSH certifies respirators, OSHA requires their workplace use, and FDA has the authority to allow their emergency use, but still there is no exposure limit for swine flu or similar biological hazards. This situation puts manufacturers, distributors and others involved in public health response in a tenuous position, which has kept at least one manufacturer out of the U.S. market. To optimize public health preparedness, Congress and the Obama administration must assure that respirators are readily available when needed. To succeed here, lawmakers and administration officials must establish liability protection for the use of



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Dan Glucksman is director of public affairs for the International Safety Equipment Association, where he directs the legislative and regulatory program for the association and its product groups. His "Washington Watch" column is a regular feature of *Protection Update*. Reach him at dglucksman@safetysystem.org or 703-525-1695.

CONSTRUCTION CORNER

New ARTBA PPE Video and Laborers' Night Work Suggestions Highlight Construction Safety Advances

Like professional athletes, construction workers need the right equipment to perform their jobs effectively — and safely. A new training video from the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) on the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in roadway and heavy construction sites can help achieve this goal.

The “Last Line of Defense” video on the proper use of PPE was developed by ARTBA’s expert safety team and reviewed by leading road construction industry and PPE executives, including representatives from the International Safety Equipment Association.

“A clear understanding of PPE is important,” said Brad Sant, ARTBA’s vice president of safety and education. “Proper use requires more than just purchasing a vest and hard hat. As the video explains, there are many industry testing and certification standards, and your PPE must meet those requirements. While some non-compliant products may seem ‘cheaper’ in the short term, they could cost a lot down the road because of accidents, fines, and/or inferior quality requiring frequent replacement.

“Moreover, PPE is very important in our industry,” Sant continued. “Heavy construction and highway worker injury and fatality rates are the highest in the construction trades. The primary cause of death and injury: workers being run over by motorists and construction equipment.

“The fact that ‘struck by vehicle’ incidents make up nearly half of the industry deaths each year underscores the need for workers to be seen and protected. As such, PPE can play a critical role in your safety program. PPE is also much more than someone wearing a brightly colored vest and holding a ‘stop-slow’ paddle on the side of the road. PPE protects against flying/falling objects, falls, electrocution, skin cancer, respiratory illnesses, and many more hazards to which our workers are exposed,” Sant added.

Available in English and Spanish on the same disk, the DVD contains two segments:

(1) to help company managers understand what to look for when purchasing PPE, and providing tips on motivating workers to wear it, and (2) for company employees, comparing scenes from sporting events to roadway construction work, and educating workers about the importance of wearing their PPE properly even if they do not see the hazards around them.

The DVD is available to *Protection Update* readers for \$225 plus shipping and handling, which is a 10 percent discount off the regular price. To receive the special offer, call ARTBA’s Liz Cavallaro at 1-888-821-9868 and mention that you read about the video in *Protection Update* or *EHS TODAY*. To learn more about it, visit www.artba.org.

ARTBA also has introduced a redesigned Web site featuring a modern look, easier navigability, new videos and photos and expanded content on transportation development policy issues. The homepage includes a revolving series of images relating to timely topics. Users can access late-breaking developments from Capitol Hill affecting the transportation design and construction industry.

Making Night Road Work Safer

“Night work has become a fact of life in highway construction,” according to Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) General President Terence O’Sullivan, noting that the trend accelerates during summer months. “This work presents unique hazards, which raise the risk of work-zone injuries. Because of these special challenges, pre-planning is essential to protect our members and their fellow workers.”

Night work during warm weather benefits from reduced traffic volume, better access to the worksite, longer work shifts, cooler temperatures and reduced business impact, the Laborers Health and Safety Fund of North America (LHSFNA) reported in its June *Lifelines* newsletter.

However, it also carries the risk that ▶52



Scenes from ARTBA’s new PPE training video

CONSTRUCTION CORNER continued

Order Complete Set of ANSI/ISEA Standards at Deep Discount

ISEA is offering a complete set of its American National Standards and the use and selection guide for eye and face protection at 30 percent-plus off the price of purchasing the publications individually. For \$290 plus \$10 handling and shipping, safety officers can get all the following publications in a convenient three-ring binder:

- *American National Standard for Limited-Use and Disposable Coveralls - Size and Labeling Requirements*, ANSI/ISEA 101-1996 (R2008)
- *American National Standard for Gas Detector Tube Units - Short Term Type for Toxic Gases and Vapors in Working Environments*, ANSI/ISEA 102-1990 (R2009)
- *American National Standard for Air Sampling Devices - Diffusive Type for Gases and Vapors in Working Environments*, ANSI/ISEA 104-1998 (R2009)
- *American National Standard for Hand Protection Selection Criteria*, ANSI/ISEA 105-2005
- *American National Standard for High Visibility Safety Apparel and Headwear*, ANSI/ISEA 107-2004
- *American National Standard for Air-Purifying Respiratory Protective Smoke Escape Devices*, ANSI/ISEA 110-2009
- *American National Standard for Fixed and Portable Decontamination Shower Units*, ANSI/ISEA 113-2008
- *American National Standard for High Visibility Public Safety Vests*, ANSI/ISEA 207-2006
- *American National Standard for Occupational and Educational Personal Eye and Face Protection Devices*, ANSI/ISEA Z87.1-2003
- *American National Standard for Industrial Head Protection*, ANSI/ISEA Z89.1-2009
- *American National Standard - Minimum Requirements for Workplace First Aid Kits and Supplies*, ANSI/ISEA Z308.1-2009
- *American National Standard for Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment*, ANSI/ISEA Z358.1-2004
- *Eye and Face Protection Use and Selection Guide*

Download an order form at www.safetysolutions.org.

drivers are less attentive and drive at higher speeds at night, and facts show that more alcohol- or drug-impaired drivers are involved in work zone accidents at night. Along with decreased visibility, these factors suggest that lane closures are not as safe at night as during the day, and nighttime work zone crashes generally are more severe.

Practices LHSFNA suggests to reduce risks include:

- Use police officers and speed monitoring, including portable, changeable message signs to achieve speed compliance;
- Employ positive protection such as a jersey barrier or other device that prevents vehicle intrusion into the work zone. When possible a buffer lane between the open lane and the lane where the work is occurring also should be established;
- Require retro-reflective material on all workers. All workers should wear hard hats that have retro-reflective material that is visible from all sides and from a minimum distance of 1,000 feet. Retro-reflective clothing on workers must clearly identify the wearer as a person and be visible through a full range of motions.
- Improve the visibility and maintenance of traffic control devices. Where positive protection is not available, use retro-reflective material on all drums and cones.
- Appoint a full-time Traffic Control Crewperson, who is responsible for maintaining traffic control and should regularly monitor the work zone by driving through it several times a night.
- Reduce the glare from work lighting by positioning and aligning the lights to keep them aimed toward work areas and not toward traffic, where they could blind motorists.

Free Hispanic and Polish Construction Training Module

The Construction Safety Council (CSC) – www.buildsafe.org — has developed a new tool for Hispanic and Polish construction companies for training employees, especially those at most risk who do not possess a good understanding of English. These kits are available free until mid-September 2009, with the only requirement for obtaining a kit being an agreement to provide the CSC with sign-in sheets to authenticate the training. The training must be provided free to those persons in the target audience.

Topics include: employee general safety, housekeeping, material handling safety, PPE, health hazards, ladder safety, fall protection, scaffolding, aerial lifts safety tips, overhead power lines, electrical safety GFCI, power tool hazards, machine guarding, trench and excavation safety, cranes and rigging, work zone traffic safety. To obtain a free training kit or additional information, contact Beverlee Carrick at 800-552-7744, extension 202.

Web site Helps Construction Professionals Fulfill Worker Protection Needs

The CPWR — Center for Construction Research and Training has established a Web site where construction safety professionals can find solutions to their worker-protection needs. The free site, Construction Solutions (www.cpwrConstructionSolutions.org) enables visitors to identify hazards associated with certain construction tasks, and then find work practices and commercially available products that reduce or eliminate those hazards. The site was developed through a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

MAKING WORKERS SAFER AROUND THE NATION

The following new services and innovations have been introduced by International Safety Equipment Association member companies to help make workers safer:

- From **Avon Protection Systems** – www.avonprotection.com — comes word that its 15-minute NH15 escape hood has received full National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) air-purifying escape respirator (APER) approval (number TC-14G-0302). The company added that it is specifically designed for police, correction officers, emergency medical services and fire officers to offer instant CBRN protection
- From **Draeger** – www.draeger.com – is the *Draeger Tube & CMS Handbook*, which contains optimized graphics of Draeger Tubes and uses spiral binding to allow the user to better handle day-to-day work. All of the information about the Draeger Tube Method and the Draeger Chip Measurement System as well as the substance data has been updated, the company said.

- From **Ergodyne** – www.ergodyne.com – is a new Web site, redesigned to deliver news, product data and special features to both end users and authorized distributors. The redesigned site includes new ways for users of Ergodyne products to share their stories and pictures with other users, the company said.

- From **MSA** – www.msanet.com – comes word that its Ultima XA, XE and XIR gas monitor products have been assessed to IEC 61508 and are in compliance with the standard's Safety Integrity Level (SIL) 2 requirements. SIL compliance is increasingly required on general industry gas monitoring products, the company said.

- From **Sperian Protection's Howard Leight Division** – www.howardleight.com – is the QuietDose™ system for assessing personal workplace noise risk. The system uses a highly refined method of sound capture that provides precise data points that allow workers and management to make smart, well-informed hearing protection decisions, the company said.

The U.S. **Occupational Safety and Health Administration** (OSHA) – www.osha.gov – has published a new guidance document, **Assigned Protection Factors (APFs), that provides employers with vital informa-**

tion for selecting respirators for employees exposed to contaminants in the air.

OSHA revised its existing respiratory protection standard in 2006 to add APFs and Maximum Use Concentration provisions. APF means the workplace level of respiratory protection that a respirator or class of respirators is able to provide to workers. The higher the APF number (5 to 10,000), the greater the level of protection provided to the users. APFs are used to select the appropriate class of respirators that will provide the necessary level of protection against airborne contaminants; such exposures can come from particles, a gas or vapor.

Also, OSHA announced that it has **strengthened the integrity of its "Outreach Training Program," has revised its *Field Operations Manual* to enhance enforcement and compliance assistance, and will pursue vigorously employers who are indifferent to worker safety.**

Strengthening of the training program represents an effort to crack down on fraudulent trainers by improving how trainers become authorized to teach and ensuring that trainers are in compliance with OSHA program guidelines. Some trainers have fraudulently not provided the appropriate training in accordance with the program, OSHA said.

The revised *Field Operations Manual* "will be a resource for workers and employers, giving them a consolidated reference on how OSHA expects workplaces to be safe and healthful," said OSHA Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor Donald G. Shalhoub.

The agency is aggressively redesigning its "Enhanced Enforcement Program" to place accountability on employers who disregard workplace safety and health rules," acting administrator Jordan Barab told the House Education and Labor Committee's Workforce Protection Subcommittee. Barab said that additional resources would be directed toward the program, which would be renamed the Severe Violators Inspection Program.

New publications available from OSHA cover:

- "Employer Payment for Personal Protective Equipment," "Fire Protection in Shipyard Employment," and a section on "contamination issues related to hexavalent chromium" added to the Shipyard Industry Standards.



NIOSH-approved NH15 escape hood from Avon Protection Systems



Draeger Tube & CMS Handbook

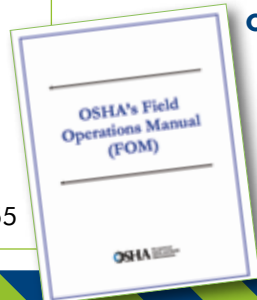


New Ergodyne Web site

QuietDose noise assessment system by Howard Leight



Field Operations Manual from OSHA



MAKING WORKERS SAFER AROUND THE NATION

continued

- Worker safety and health guidance in English and Spanish for H1N1 (swine) flu, including fact sheets on "Respiratory Infection Control: Respirators Versus Surgical Masks," "What Employers Can Do to Protect Workers from Pandemic Influenza," and "Healthcare Workplaces Classified as Very High Exposure Risk for Pandemic Influenza."
- "Controlling Silica Exposures in Construction," "Small Business Guide for Ethylene Oxide," and "Pneumatic Nail Gun Safety Tips."

New from the **National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)** – www.cdc.gov/niosh – are a number of communications products, including:

- **Podcast that addresses workplace health and safety issues for women.** "Workplace Safety and Women" focuses on four important issues for women at work: job stress, work schedules, reproductive health and workplace violence. For information, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/women> or contact Dr. Naomi Swanson at nws3@cdc.gov or 513-533-8165.
- Comes word that it and the National Hearing Conservation Association are accepting nominations through August 1 for the **2010 "Safe in Sound"** award, which is given to companies or organizations that exemplify excellence in hearing loss prevention. Nomination details are available at <http://www.safeinsound.us>.
- Updated **"Recommendations for the Selection and User of Respirators and Protective Clothing Against Biological Agents."**
- **Power Tool Database that promotes hearing protection;** it can be used to find such information as sound power levels, sound pressure levels and downloadable exposure and wave files related to commonly used power tools.
- **H1N1 (swine) Influenza Web page** that addresses occupational health issues associated with the exposure to or infection from the virus; it includes technical guidance for healthcare and transportation workers.
- A report warning firefighters about the **risks of falling through fire-damaged floors**, and several firefighter fatality investigation reports covering topics ranging from cardiac events, to a "struck-by" accident, to rapid fire progression.

- Guidelines for health care facilities on the use of **UV light to kill tuberculosis bacteria** as part of strategic systems to protect employees from risk of work-related infection.

- Interim Guidance for Medical Screening and Hazard Surveillance for **Workers Potentially Exposed to Engineered Nanoparticles.**

- **New Topic Pages** available in Spanish covering confined spaces; noise and hearing loss prevention; ergonomics and musculoskeletal disorders; stress; and violence.
- A report on **horse racing industry risks** urging jockeys to wear properly fitted personal protective equipment (PPE), and suggesting that workers consider wearing PPE near horses (Publication No. 2009-128).

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) – www.csb.gov – has unveiled a **redesigned Web site** that includes imbedded flash videos, a photo gallery and a new accident news feed. The homepage features a newly released 14-minute video, "About the CSB," describing the agency's investigations, recommendations and outreach programs, and includes footage of chemical accidents and investigative activities and interviews with CSB officials.

New from the **American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)** – www.aiha.org – are **three publications**: "Continuous Monitoring for Hazardous Materials Releases" (No. SHWB09-759); "Mathematical Models for Estimating Occupational Exposure to Chemicals, 2nd Edition" (No. AEAM09-379), and "the Ultimate CD Reference Series: Noise Edition" (No. ENOC09-762). To order any of the publications, contact AIHA customer service, 703-849-8888, or visit the "AIHA Marketplace" on the Web site.

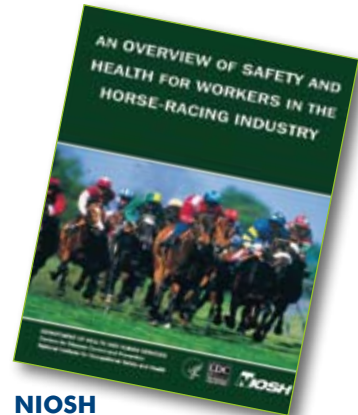
The American Nurses Association — www.nursingworld.org – has launched a program to recognize health care facilities for implementing a **safe patient handling program** to prevent debilitating injuries nurses frequently sustain from lifting, repositioning and moving patients. The "Handle with Care Recognition Program" will recognize facilities that have had a safe patient handling program in place for at least 3 years and meet stringent assessment, planning, policy and training criteria. ▶56



Logo for NIOSH hearing loss prevention initiative



Web page with podcast on women's workplace safety and health at cdc.gov



NIOSH publication on horse racing industry risks



"About the CSB" video on the redesigned CSB.gov Web site



Logo for ANA's safe patient handling program

MAKING WORKERS SAFER AROUND THE NATION

continued



Profile of APIC's online courses dealing with prevention of health care-associated infection risks



Interactive newsletter from ASSE

The Association for Professionals in Infection Control (APIC) – www.apic.org – has launched the first of six online courses to educate healthcare professionals on preventing the transmission of healthcare-associated infections. The **“Healthcare-Associated Infections Elimination Library”** compiles APIC’s evidence-based elimination guides into an interactive, online format.

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) – www.asse.org – has:

- Announced availability of a revised American National Standard ANSI/ASSE Z490.1-2009, **Criteria for Accepted Practices in Safety, Health, and Environmental Training**. The standard calls for qualified training to ensure that workers and safety, health and environmental professionals have the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to protect themselves and others in the workplace.
- Distributed new **interactive newsletters for each of its 16 Practice Specialty groups**, providing members with live links to videos, documents and Web sites with capabilities to email leadership and article authors.

New from **The Chlorine Institute, Inc.** (CI) – www.chlorineinstitute.org – are:

- An updated version of its **“Sodium Hypochlorite Incompatibility Chart,”** which provides guidance to avoid accidental mixing of sodium hypochlorite – often called bleach – that could lead to dangerous conditions. The free chart may be downloaded free in PDF format from the Web site; click on the “About Chemical Stewardship” button on the left side of the home page. Sodium hypochlorite should not be mixed with any other chemical unless adequate engineering controls are in place and personal protective equipment is used, CI said.
- **Nineteen free technical pamphlets** to help water, wastewater and swimming pool operators keep their facilities more safe and secure. All are downloadable in PDF format from CI’s Web site.

The International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) – www.ipaf.org – is calling for a **“radical re-examination” of harnesses used by female operators** of boom-type aerial work platforms (AWPs)

and has announced a competition to find the best new design. “[W]omen operators regularly complain that the design of traditional harnesses makes them uncomfortable and could cause serious pain and damage to breast tissue in the event of a catapulting incident,” said IPAF Managing Director Tim Whiteman. “AWPs are the safest way to perform temporary work at height, but without appropriate harnesses, women expose themselves to unnecessary risk.” Details of the industry recommendations are set out in IPAF Technical Guidance Note H1, available in the publications section of the Web site.

The National Fire Protection Association – www.nfpa.org – has made nearly **3,000 codes and standards**, with editions for years prior to 1997, available for purchase through its online catalog. Documents are available in PDF format and date back as early as the 1800s. For additional information, contact NFPA Customer Service, 800-344-3555 or custserv@nfpa.org.

New from the **National Safety Council (NSC)** – www.nsc.org – is the **“Distressed Driving Resource Kit”** on CD to help employers communicate the risks of using hand-held and hands-free communication devices while driving. It also helps companies create and implement individualized distracted driving policies and present them in a positive manner. The kit is available for \$39.95 for NSC members and \$49.95 for non-members; to order, call 800-621-7619, or visit www.nsc.org/product.

The *Perspectives* newsletter of the **University of California-Berkeley’s Health Research for Action** — <http://healthresearchforaction.org> – reports that **airborne lead exposure remains a major concern to workplace health**. In the paper, authors cite data indicating that nearly 3,000 workers in California were reported to have blood lead levels five to 39 times that of the average adult worker.

Washington State’s Department of Labor and Industries — www.lni.wa.gov — in partnership with four business and labor organizations, has launched an **advertising campaign to raise awareness**



Newsletter from USC-Berkeley

IPAF’s guidance note on safety harnesses



“Homecomings” ad from the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries

about the importance of workplace safety. Television, radio and Internet ads are spreading the message that the most important reason for making your workplace safe is not at work at all. Instead, workplace safety is important as a means of sustaining relationships with family and friends outside the

workplace. The centerpiece ad, called “Homecomings,” shows people coming home from work to their loved ones, juxtaposed against one boy who is worried that his dad is not home from work yet. Visit www.WorkSafe.Lni.wa.gov for more information. ●



OSHA \$100,000 CLUB OF SAFETY CITATIONS

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has proposed penalties of \$100,000 or more for the following recent alleged failures to protect workers from potential hazards, including many that could have been avoided or mitigated by personal protective equipment (PPE). Companies have 15 business days from receipt of citations and fines to request and participate in informal conferences with OSHA or to contest the citations before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission:

- Phenix Lumber Co., Phenix City, Ala., \$293,700 for 36 safety and health violations. The proposed penalties include \$202,500 for four safety citations and one health citation resulting from the company’s failure to correct violations identified during a previous inspection. The citations include failure to obtain audiograms for employees exposed to noise hazards.
- Dehler Manufacturing Co. Inc., Chicago, \$229,500 for willful, serious and repeat violations at its steel furniture fabricating plant, including failure to provide PPE.
- Delek Refining Ltd., Tyler, Texas, \$217,350 for 29 serious violations after a fire and explosion claimed the lives of two workers and injured three others.
- John Prouty Construction Inc., O’Neill, Neb., \$201,600 for violations found during an investigation of a trench collapse near Verdel, Neb., that took the lives of four workers. Serious violations included lack of hard hat use.
- Brunalli Construction Co., Southington, Conn., \$180,950 for 13 willful and serious violations of construction safety standards, including failing to protect employees against fall, drowning and other hazards during the rebuilding of a bridge over the Housatonic River in Canaan, Conn.
- W.G. Yates & Sons Construction and Spectrum Concrete Services, \$175,000 following the November 2008 collapse of a wood shoring system at Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian, Miss. Workers were pouring concrete for the second floor of the building when the floor collapsed, injuring eight employees of the two companies.
- Miranda Roofing, Omaha, Neb., \$148,400 following a jobsite inspection that found employees exposed to fall hazards without fall protection.
- JSW Steel (USA) Inc., \$146,500 following an inspection at the company’s facility in Baytown, Texas. The investigation found 29 serious violations, including failing to evaluate the worksite for confined spaces to prevent possible entrapment of employees.
- Hess Corp., \$141,500 for 31 serious workplace safety and health violations at its oil refinery in Port Reading, N.J.
- H P Pelzer Automotive Systems Inc., Thomson, Ga., \$135,000 after a health inspection at the parts supplier’s plant revealed seven serious violations, including not protecting employees from noise hazards and exposing them to an airborne concentration of formaldehyde.
- Suncor Energy (U.S.A.) Inc., \$130,500 for safety and health violations at its petroleum refinery in Commerce City, Colo. A willful violation was issued for failure to appropriately test gas monitors for hydrogen sulfide and combustible gas in the HVAC systems for the control rooms.
- Oxbow Calcining LLC, Kremlin, Mo., and Geo. P. Reintjes Co., Inc., Kansas City, Mo., a total of \$124,650 for safety and health violations, including failure to ensure workers were using the required PPE, following the death of a worker.
- McLendon Enterprises Ind., Vidalia, Ga., \$124,250 for six workplace safety violations, including allowing workers inside an 11-foot trench at a Hinesville, Ga., jobsite without safe egress and without cave-in protection.
- Indspec Chemical Corp., \$121,500 for safety and health violations associated with process safety management, hazardous waste and emergency operations at its organic chemicals manufacturing plant in Petrolia, Pa.
- 4 Brothers Stucco Co. (also operating as VP Stucco Co.), Cleveland, Tenn., \$118,650 for 15 repeat and serious violations of safety standards at a Torrington, Conn., worksite, including workers exposed to falls of up to 22 feet.
- J.P. Carroll Construction Inc., West Hartford, Conn., \$113,200 after an employee was seriously injured when he fell 24 feet from a roof at a residential construction project in West Hartford. An investigation found that the roofing contractor failed to supply the needed fall protection for employees.
- Wyman Gordon Co., \$109,500 following two inspections that found 29 serious violations at the company’s metal forging manufacturing plant in Grafton, Mass.
- Victoria-Calhoun Grain Co., \$109,050 for 32 violations (including failure to provide PPE) found during an inspection after a worker fatality at the company’s Placedo, Texas, facility.
- JD Manufacturing Inc. (doing business as Arrow Waste), \$108,000 in failure-to-abate citations after a follow-up inspection revealed previous violations had not been addressed. The initial inspection followed the electrocution death of a worker at the company’s facility in Houston, which manufactures and repairs debris containers. ●

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Works
for You

Safety Specs Save Fire Instructor's Sight, Possibly Life

It was the first day of fire school at Texas A&M University. Before the first burn of the morning a fire instructor had told the students: "No solid streams! Straight is OK if you need the reach, but break it up a little. Solid streams take people's heads off!"

Five minutes later, he noticed one of the students shooting a solid stream of water – a one-and-a-half-inch bore running 150 pounds per square inch at 150 gallons per minute — and moved to address the dangerous situation. Another instructor was giving different instructions to other students and confusion ensued. At one point, the rookie shooting the solid stream turned his head to shout "Straighten the hose," and turned his entire body, including the high-powered stream directly into his instructor's cheek and left eye.

"My eye swelled shut for several days," the instructor recalled. "When it opened, it was like looking through a bottle of cloudy yellow water for a few weeks. It finally healed after several trips to the eye doc and a few months of misery. High-velocity water streams can kill you. My brain wouldn't have had a chance without those Smith & Wesson (safety spectacles). No doubt your safety glasses have saved countless eyes... Thanks for providing a product that works as advertised."

Find Smith & Wesson safety spectacles by Jackson Safety, a division of Kimberly-Clark Professional, at www.jacksonsafety.com. ●

WASHINGTON WATCH

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NIOSH-certified respirators by workers and the general public during any public health emergency.

The International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) is working with House and Senate appropriators to seek adequate funding to allow the administration to purchase and provide recommended pandemic personal protective equipment (PPE) to all who need it. ISEA also has asked Congress to tell the administration to immediately replenish and increase the supply of PPE found in the National Strategic Stockpile. As the U.S. swine flu count reached 13,000 (as this column is written), all of these measures are needed as soon as possible to protect the American public. ●

Protection Update welcomes contributions from readers for our regular "Safety Equipment Works for You" feature. Email examples of where PPE has saved workers' lives or prevented injuries to Editor Joe Walker, jwalker@safetysafetyequipment.org, or mail them to the Editor, *Protection Update*, International Safety Equipment Association, 1901 N. Moore Street, Suite 808, Arlington, VA 22209. Photos are welcome.

MSHA \$100,000 Club of Safety Citations

The U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) – www.msha.gov – has proposed penalties in excess of \$100,000 for the following recent alleged failures to protect workers from potential hazards. Companies have 30 business days from receipt of their citations and fines to appeal:

- Hiawatha Coal Co., \$342,800 for a powered haulage accident in 2008 at its Bear Canyon Mine, Huntington, Utah. A miner suffered serious head injuries when the personnel carrier he was operating rolled over on a steep grade after the brakes failed. MSHA's investigation found that the rear brake linings were worn to metal-on-metal contact and the front braking system leaked brake fluid.
- Shelby Mining Co. LLC, which operates a coke mine in Shelby County, Ala., \$280,000 resulting from a methane ignition in October 2008 that left two miners seriously burned. An air-methane mixture was frictionally ignited by worn cutter bits coming into contact with roof rock.
- Intrepid Potash NM LLC, \$165,000 in fines after a 38-year-old shift foreman was electrocuted in August 2008 when he came into contact with energized parts of a steel water line at the company's mine in Eddy County, N.M.

In addition, MSHA has asked the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission (FMSHRC) to order a West Virginia mine operator to pay fines of \$608,182. Pay Car Mining, 17 other mine operators and 33 mines controlled by James C. Justice II, McDowell County, W.Va., filed a request with the FMSHRC to reopen the final orders alleging that it missed the deadline to contest the penalties due to an "inadvertent mistake," MSHA said.

MSHA asked the commission to order the operators to pay the full amount of the penalty as a condition of reopening – subject to refund by MSHA – pending an administrative law judge's decision on the merits of the citations and penalties.

Also, MSHA:

- Issued a closure order to Snapco Inc., Buchanan County, Va., after the mine operator failed to pay \$396,577 in delinquent penalties for health and safety violations and then ignored a demand to correct the failure. The order closes production at the company's Mine No. 2; the penalties stem from at least 360 violations cited at that operation.
- Announced that an administrative law judge at the FMSHRC approved a settlement between MSHA and Tri-Star Mining Inc. under which the company will pay \$105,324 in penalties resulting from an April 2007 highwall failure that caused the deaths of two coal miners at the company's western Maryland surface operation. ●