

Consider This

HEALTH & SAFETY NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2016



Trash Blocking Exit
Routes Leads to
Costly Penalties



Hard Hat Inspections
and Safe Practices



Safety Training:
No Budget + No Plan =
Now What?



Captain Obvious



Join the National
Safety Stand-Down:
May 2-6, 2016



Monitoring Noise –
How Loud is Too
Loud?

Work Safe. Live Safe. Stay Safe.



Trash Blocking Exit Routes Leads to Costly Penalties

On January 28, 2016, the Dollar General store in O'Fallon, Missouri was cited for two willful, six serious, and one other-than-serious violations. These penalties, potentially costing \$163,000, were found when the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) inspected the store after an employee claimed upper management repeatedly ignored request to remove hazards blocking exit routes. The hazards included a 5-foot high, 15-foot long pile of trash.



"Blocked exits can be the difference between life and death in an emergency. Carelessly piling up trash and debris is also unsanitary,"

Bill McDonald, OSHA's area director in St. Louis.

OSHA investigators also found:

- Workers exposed to fall hazards because stairs lacked railings.
- An exit sign posted at a door that was not an exit.
- An unlit exit way and emergency exit lighting that did not work.
- Circuit breakers were not labeled.
- Electrical panels blocked by miscellaneous material.
- Workers were not trained in fire extinguisher use.

Penalties such as this are careless and show a lack of respect for the work environment and the lives of personnel and customers. Inherently less risky hazards which are ignored often lead to high-risks hazards which if left as is, can lead to injury or death. EHS Support has dealt with circumstances such as these and encourages decision makers to do the right thing. If you are not sure where to start, call us for a free consultation about your business, compliance needs, incident frequency and severity, current status or your health and safety program – or lack thereof, and let us guide you on your efforts. EHS Support has conducted numerous mock-OSHA audits and assisted companies in identifying hazardous situations and behaviors, compliance gaps, training needs and supported each with the development or advancement of a specific health and safety program tailored to their business needs. Reach out to us today at 724-762-7951 or monica.meyer@ehs-support.com.

Source: https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=29508

Trash Blocking Exit Routes
Leads to Costly Penalties

Hard Hat Inspections and
Safe Practices

Safety Training: No Budget +
No Plan = Now What?

Captain Obvious

Join the National Safety
Stand-Down: May 2-6, 2016

Monitoring Noise – How
Loud is Too Loud?



Hard Hat Inspections and Safe Practices

The hard hat is one of the most recognizable pieces of safety equipment in the industrial workplace. Unfortunately, this common piece of personal protective equipment (PPE) is a forgotten item of an inspection, maintenance, or replacement program.

The durable exterior of the rugged-looking hard hat often times makes it easy to overlook its safety and can mask the need for replacement. Hard hats must be replaced when they can no longer provide the protection intended, and sometimes this can be difficult to detect. Workers who use gloves on a regular basis can obviously see (and feel) the need for new gloves; wear and tear is readily apparent. Conversely, many workers may be wearing a hard hat well past its useful life without even knowing it. In every organization where workers wear head protection on the job, a regular hard hat replacement program should be clearly defined and implemented.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) does not specify the service life of a hard hat, and there is no standard expiration time frame for hard hats. The hard hat manufacturer can recommend a replacement guideline for its products, but hard hat life span may vary significantly based upon the conditions at each work site. Ultimately, an employer is responsible for defining a responsive and appropriate solution for hard hat service life issues.

To ensure hard hats are safe, employers and employees alike should use the following practices



Inspect hard hats regularly.



Check for signs of damage such as dents gouges, cracks, scrapes, or holes.



Inspect the inside suspension for fraying, cuts, tears, and dirt.



Examine shell for fading or chalkiness, as these could be signs of aging.



Check inside hat for manufacture date. Use a permanent marker to record date **used** in case of injury or accident

Continued on Next Page

Trash Blocking Exit Routes
Leads to Costly Penalties

**Hard Hat Inspections and
Safe Practices**

Safety Training: No Budget +
No Plan = Now What?

Captain Obvious

Join the National Safety
Stand-Down: May 2-6, 2016

Monitoring Noise – How
Loud is Too Loud?



Hard Hat Inspections and Safe Practices

Hard Hat Care

To maximize the safety of hard hats, the following steps should be taken:

- Clean hard hats with soapy water; don't use cleaning products because they may have chemicals that could damage the hat.
- Keep hats out of the sun when not being used
- If replacing the hats' suspension, use only products from the same company that made the hat.
- Don't paint hard hats. Paints can contain chemicals that will damage the hat.

A Common Question: Can Labels Be Placed On Hard Hats?

ANSI Z89.1 does not restrict the application of hard hat labels. Labels may be applied to hard hats to the extent that they do not interfere with the ability to inspect the hard hat for cracks or other damage. Hard hat labels and stickers are commonly used to identify the employer, and may at times are used to identify the trade, union membership or project, as well as to provide the name of the employee using the hard hat.

Quick Tips:

- Labels should be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from the edge of the hat to reduce the chance of it acting as a conductor.
- Stickers should not cover large areas of the hat, which could make difficult to inspect.
- Stickers can't cover any of the manufacturers' labels or markings.



Trash Blocking Exit Routes
Leads to Costly Penalties

Hard Hat Inspections and
Safe Practices

Safety Training: No Budget +
No Plan = Now What?

Captain Obvious

Join the National Safety
Stand-Down: May 2-6, 2016

Monitoring Noise – How
Loud is Too Loud?

Safety Training: No Budget + No Plan = Now What?

Challenge: *How do we offer safety training to employees when we have a limited budget and no plan to create a training program?*

Let's first dispel the myth of what safety training should look like. It does not have to be elaborate or costly. Buying safety videos is not building a training program – it may be one of the tools in the process, but it is not the end all.

Companies with strong safety cultures desire to empower personnel in safety leadership and implementation to reach beyond zero injuries and focus on doing it safely the first time. Get the employees involved in the training process, engage them in creating company-specific details that personnel need to know, and ensure the training is progressing correctly, meaning – what is taught to personnel is being carried out by personnel.

So where do we go next?

Know the basic requirements of the facility as well as how to do the job or job tasks safely and create trainings that incorporate these key ideas. When you use photos of the facility/site, equipment specific to your operations and tasks that your personnel complete, you are engaging them in in company-specific knowledge that they need to know and understand.

Determine the employee's level of understanding and the employee's level of knowledge. Yes, these are two different things:

- The employee's level of understanding – years on the job, knowledge operating this equipment, understanding of the facility and requirements of the company.
- The employees level of knowledge – ability to grasp the concepts that are being taught. There is no point creating fancy training if the employee's ability to follow your direction or educational level is limited or if language barriers prevent total understanding of the concept being taught.

Figure out where your employees are before you embark down the training road. Develop a training tracker/matrix that provides you with a blue print of the necessary training required.

Continued on Next Page

Trash Blocking Exit Routes
Leads to Costly Penalties

Hard Hat Inspections and
Safe Practices

Safety Training: No Budget +
No Plan = Now What?

Captain Obvious

Join the National Safety
Stand-Down: May 2-6, 2016

Monitoring Noise – How
Loud is Too Loud?



Safety Training: No Budget + No Plan = Now What? *Continued*

OSHA Compliance

The Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) mandates all companies to ensure the safety of their workers. This means companies are legally liable to provide safety exercise courses relevant to their industry. It is important for employers to match their trainings to the demands and conditions of their business.

Implementation

Select relevant topics for your safety training program. Base your subjects on the nature of your business and job function of your employees. Options for delivery methods vary to what is best for the business and employees – webinars, online courses, classroom sessions, videos, or similar methods.

Time Frame

Conduct safety training courses at regular intervals. You can only ensure worker safety if you provide continued safety training, and evaluate it. Regular reminders will emphasize the risks involved and keep safety in the minds of employees. The more aware the employees are about the risks involved, the more attentive they will be on observing and executing safety policies.



EHS Support has extensive experience creating, implementing, and conducting H&S training programs. Let us help you create a training program specific to the needs of your organization and personnel.

Trash Blocking Exit Routes
Leads to Costly Penalties

Hard Hat Inspections and
Safe Practices

Safety Training: No Budget +
No Plan = Now What?

Captain Obvious

Join the National Safety
Stand-Down: May 2-6, 2016

Monitoring Noise – How
Loud is Too Loud?



Why is it that safety professionals are getting heckled when we provide reminders on basic safety information and then go into a facility to conduct a mock-OSHA audit and find the same type of potential hazards or non-compliance items over and over again? Each month we feature a "Captain Obvious" photo to share simple safety reminders that are found on jobsites every day.



**Burnt, Charred
and Melted
Fibers on
Harness**



CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

- To maintain their service life and high performance, all belts and harnesses should be inspected frequently. Visual inspection before each use should become routine, and also a routine inspection by a competent person. This harness shall be discarded.

Trash Blocking Exit Routes
Leads to Costly Penalties

Hard Hat Inspections and
Safe Practices

Safety Training: No Budget +
No Plan = Now What?

Captain Obvious

Join the National Safety
Stand-Down: May 2-6, 2016

Monitoring Noise – How
Loud is Too Loud?

Join the National Safety Stand-Down: May 2-6, 2016

The purpose of the National Safety Fall Prevention Stand-Down is to raise awareness of preventing fall hazards in construction. Fatalities caused by falls from elevation continue to be a leading cause of death for construction workers, accounting for 337 of the 874 construction fatalities recorded in 2014 (BLS preliminary data). **Those deaths were preventable.** Fall prevention safety standards were among the top 10 most frequently cited OSHA standards, during fiscal year 2014.

2016 Stand-Down Goals

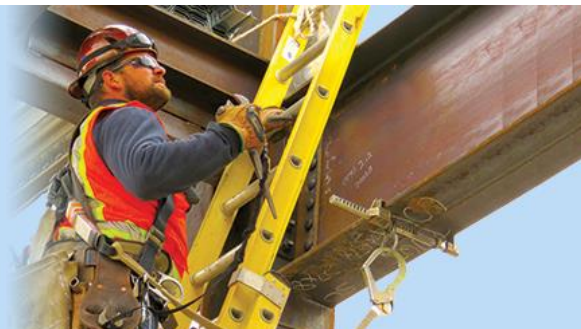
Last year's Stand-Down was a tremendous success, reaching more than 2.5 million workers. This year, **OSHA's goal is to reach 5 million workers.** If we meet this goal, we will have touched more than half of the construction workers in the country.

How to Conduct a Safety Stand-Down

Companies can conduct a Safety Stand-Down by taking a break to emphasize the importance of protecting oneself from falls or another safety activity such as conducting safety equipment inspections, developing rescue plans, or discussing job specific hazards. Engage personnel, let them share stories, encourage them to lead the charge and plan the Stand-Down. Companies are encouraged to plan a stand-down that works best for their workplace anytime during the May 2-6, 2016.

Join the
National Safety
Stand-Down
To Prevent Falls in Construction

MAY 2-6, 2016



Source: www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown

Trash Blocking Exit Routes
Leads to Costly Penalties

Hard Hat Inspections and
Safe Practices

Safety Training: No Budget +
No Plan = Now What?

Captain Obvious

Join the National Safety
Stand-Down: May 2-6, 2016

Monitoring Noise – How
Loud is Too Loud?

Contact Monica Meyer at
[Monica.Meyer@ehs-
support.com](mailto:Monica.Meyer@ehs-support.com) today to learn
more about how we can help
you manage your health and
safety risks.

Work Safe. Live Safe. Stay Safe.



Monitoring Noise – How Loud is Too Loud?

It is not necessary for every employer to measure workplace noise. Noise monitoring or measuring must be conducted only when exposures are at or above 85 dB. Factors that suggest noise exposures in the workplace might be at this level include employee complaints about the loudness, indications that employees are losing hearing, or noisy conditions that make conversation difficult. The employer should consider any information available regarding noise emitted from specific machines. In addition, actual workplace noise measurements can suggest whether a monitoring program should be initiated.



What is the Purpose of Noise Monitoring?

This revised amendment requires employees to be placed in a hearing conservation program if they are exposed to average noise levels of 85 dB or greater during an 8-hour workday. In order to determine if exposures are at or above this level, it might be necessary to measure or monitor the noise levels in the workplace and estimate the noise exposure or "dose" received by employees during the workday.

How is Noise Measured?

There are two different instruments to measure noise exposures: the sound level meter and the dosimeter. A sound level meter is a device that measures the intensity of sound at a given moment. Since sound level meters provide a measure of sound intensity at only one point in time, it is generally necessary to take a number of measurements at different times during the day to estimate noise exposure over a workday. If noise levels fluctuate, the amount of time noise remains at each of the various measured levels must be determined.

How Often Should You Monitor Noise Levels?

The amendment requires that when there are significant changes in machinery or production processes that may result in increased noise levels, re-monitoring must be conducted to determine whether additional employees need to be included in the hearing conservation program. Many companies choose to re-monitor periodically (once every year or two) to ensure that all exposed employees are included in their hearing conservation programs.

Trash Blocking Exit Routes
Leads to Costly Penalties

Hard Hat Inspections and
Safe Practices

Safety Training: No Budget +
No Plan = Now What?

Captain Obvious

Join the National Safety
Stand-Down: May 2-6, 2016

Monitoring Noise – How
Loud is Too Loud?