



Consider This

HEALTH & SAFETY NEWSLETTER
JULY 2014



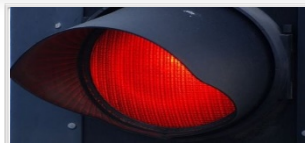
Why Having a
“We’ve Never Had
an Accident”
Attitude is Risky



Is Accepting Risk
Acceptable?



Captain Obvious



National Stop on
Red Week



Access to Medical
and Exposure
Records



How Do You
Manage Oily
Rags?



Why Having a “We’ve Never Had an Accident” Attitude is Risky

“We’ve never had an accident,” followed by, “knock on wood,” has been stated by many foremen and managers across industry. When things are going smoothly, sometimes this false sense of security allows companies to shift their focus from safety towards production, especially if the start of a safety program has been instituted. This sense of security is because someone (Risk Manager from the insurance carrier) has everything under control. Some say, “We have a binder that contains written safety programs, once a month we have a safety committee meeting. We put a lot of focus on safety and we’ve never had an accident.” When this feeling of invincibility starts, all too often it is met head on with an accident or injury.



So why should companies invest in safety even though they haven’t had an accident or an OSHA citation? Go back to the very first sentence. “Knock on wood” connects the reason for no accidents or injuries as stemming from luck—not their risk management. Compare it to car insurance. “I’ve never wrecked my car,” is not a sound argument for driving without the necessary insurance. To protect the health and wellbeing of employees and ensure production and projects are not hindered by incidents, a sound safety program needs to be implemented. From top management and maintenance to audits and training, lower your risk and increase your profits by building the best safety program for your company.

Investing in your safety program is an excellent start towards accident and injury prevention. Utilizing an outside safety consulting company, such as EHS Support, is a great way to bring in a set of fresh eyes. A thorough wall-to-wall audit can reveal hidden hazards you might be walking past every day.

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The Fatal Four

Is Accepting Risk Acceptable?

Have you made countless efforts and spent countless dollars to identify risk and implement controls in your facility or on large-scale projects, yet neglected seemingly small risks due to repetitive facility continuance or on smaller-scale projects? Take a moment and think about what risks are being focused on and what you may be unknowingly accepting.

Risk is not something a company can do away with entirely. When confronted with a risk, we have to choose how to manage it:

1. Transfer the risk to someone else
2. Mitigate the risk
3. Accept the risk.

Let's focus on accepting the risk (often times called acceptable risk or residual risk). How much risk will you or your employees accept? When we focus on safety, the impression is that no safety-minded company is going to choose to accept the risk. On the contrary, all companies have a level of acceptable risk and maybe this is where companies need to focus?

Can any of these 'lower-tiered' risks be found in your facility or on your jobsite:

- Areas where housekeeping issues are sub-par?
- Missing guards on machines and equipment?
- Improperly stored chemicals?
- Personal protective equipment not being worn?

Decisions are made every day to accept risks such as these—at the management level and worker level, but are both management and workers in agreement?

Continued on next page...



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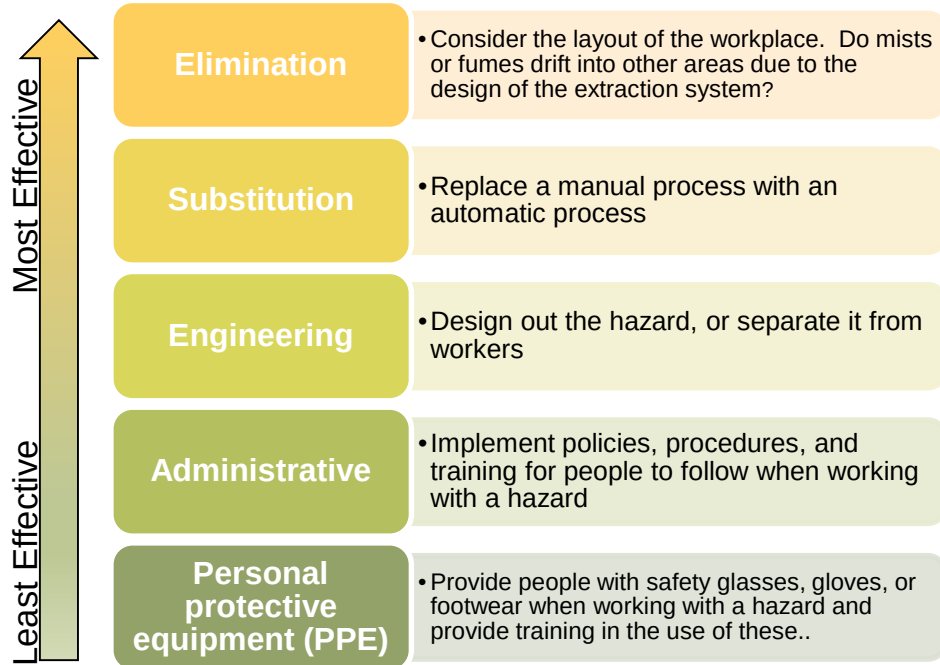
The Fatal Four

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



Is Accepting Risk Acceptable? (Cont.)

In safety, risk is mitigated using the hierarchy of controls, which is outlined as follows:



If your workforce, safety committee, or managers have not been trained in incident investigation and risk management, call EHS Support today to get them trained and ready to reduce risk and positively impact your bottom line.

Are your workers trained and encouraged to suggest or request engineering or administrative controls? What about substitutions or eliminations? As we move up the hierarchy, time and resources required to implement these controls also tends to rise; therefore, the initial thought for workers is to pick the quickest, cheapest, and easiest control to implement.

Workers should not be immediately branded as having a high-risk tolerance. They are great at identifying the hazards, but are often left in the dark when it comes to hierarchy of controls. Let's give workers the knowledge, encouragement, and means to reduce risk appropriately. It is a win-win for all.

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Exposed Chain and Nip Point

Rotating and tangentially moving parts also cause nip points.

Potential hazards include the points of contact between a power transmission belt and its pulley, a chain and its sprocket or a rack and pinion.

**CAPT.
OBVIOUS**

IT'S SO
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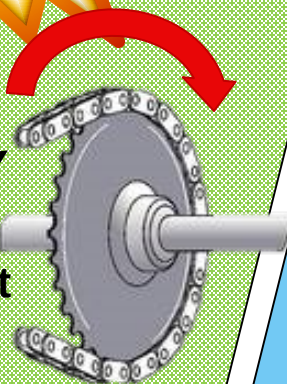
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Nip Point



CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

- Conduct machine guarding audit of equipment
- Identify hazards
- Determine needing guarding and install.
(Photo – Install guard to protect from nip point)



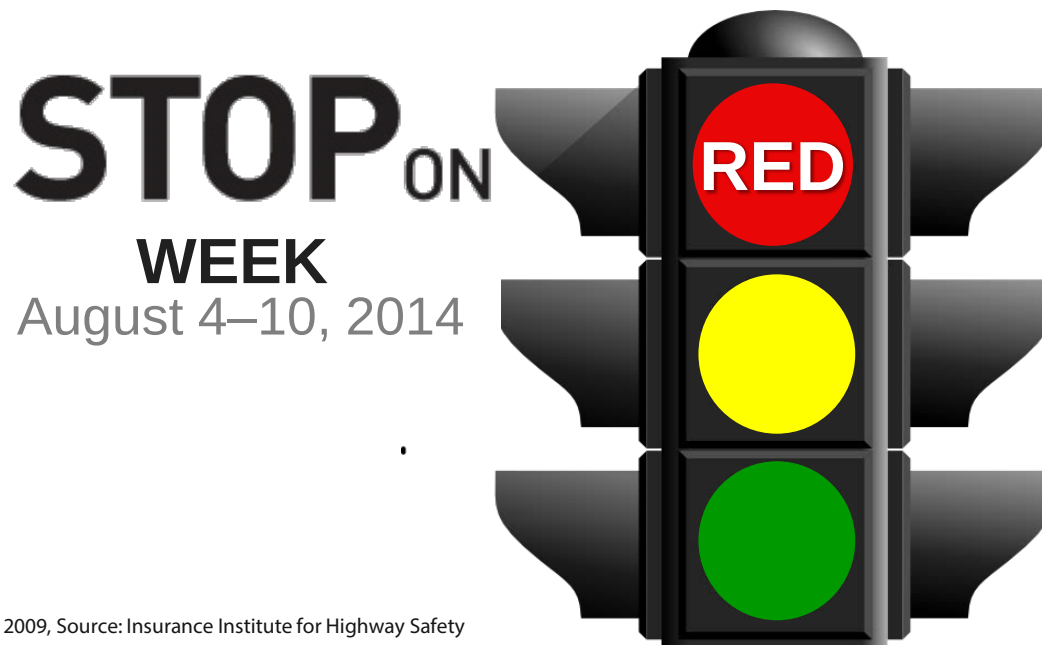
National Stop on **Red** Week

National Stop on Red Week takes place the first week of August each year and is dedicated to educating Americans about the dangers of red-light running.

The reason cited most often for not stopping: "being in a hurry."

Saving a few minutes per trip is simply not worth endangering innocent lives. Unfortunately, it's not just the perpetrators who pay the price. Two out of every three deaths¹ are inflicted on pedestrians and occupants in other vehicles who are hit by stop sign and red light runners.

Great Toolbox Talk for July! Get your folks to pledge for the month of August!



¹ National data for year 2009, Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety
Graphic from <http://ncsrsafety.org/stop-on-red/>

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Access to Medical and Exposure Records

As an employer, what do I need to know about this OSHA standard?

If you are an employer who has a possible exposure to or used toxic substances or harmful physical agents at your work site or an employer who has employees that may be exposed, you need to know your rights and responsibilities under 29 CFR 1910.1020.

If you are an employer, you must do the following:

- Preserve and maintain accurate medical and exposure records for each employee.
- Inform workers of the existence, location, and availability of those medical and exposure records.
- Give employees any informational material regarding this standard that OSHA makes available to you.
- Make records available to employees, their designated representatives, and to OSHA, as required.



Do employers have to make all records available?

No. If you are an employer, the following records are not considered “medical records” under this standard:

- Physical specimens, such as blood and urine samples.
- Records concerning health insurance claims if they are (1) maintained separately from your medical program and its records, and (2) not accessible by employee name or other personal identifier (e.g., social security number or home address). Records created only for use in litigation that are privileged from discovery.
- Records created as part of voluntary employee assistance programs, such as records for alcohol and drug abuse or personal counseling, if they are maintained separately from your medical program and its records.
- Trade secret information involving manufacturing processes or a percentage of a chemical substance in a mixture, as long as you inform health professionals and employees and their designated representatives that you have deleted that information from medical and exposure records. If the exclusion of the trade secret information substantially impairs the evaluation of when and where the exposure occurred, however, you must provide alternative information to the employee consistent with the requirements of 29 CFR Part 1910.1020.

Reference: Access to Medical and Exposure Records, OSHA Publication, OSHA 3110, 2001(revised)

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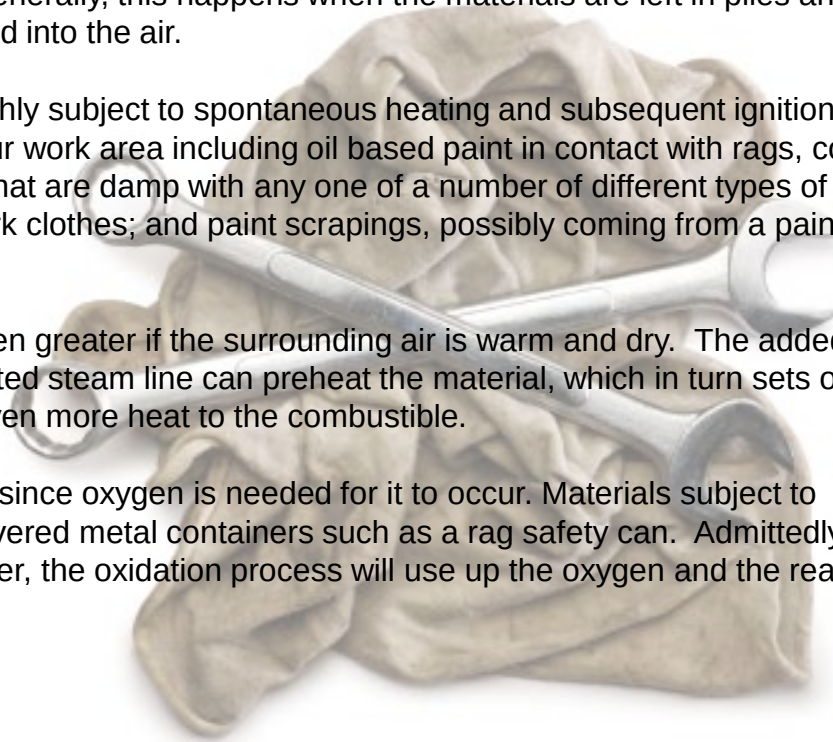
Oily rags left in a closed container can become a safety nightmare. Many people do not believe it can happen, but many times fire erupts for no apparent reason and usually during off hours, as the materials have had time to react. This is called spontaneous ignition, and **preventing it is part of your job.**

Spontaneous ignition occurs when a combustible object is heated to its ignition temperature by a chemical reaction involving the oxygen in the air around us. This “oxidation” process creates heat that, if not dissipated, will build until ignition occurs. Generally, this happens when the materials are left in piles and the heat generated in the pile cannot be released into the air.

A number of materials are moderately or highly subject to spontaneous heating and subsequent ignition. Many of these materials can be found in your work area including oil based paint in contact with rags, cotton, or other fibrous combustible material; rags that are damp with any one of a number of different types of oils, including vegetable oils; oily uniforms or work clothes; and paint scrapings, possibly coming from a paint spray booth cleaning project.

The possibility of spontaneous ignition is even greater if the surrounding air is warm and dry. The added heat from nearby machinery or a non-insulated steam line can preheat the material, which in turn sets off the reaction, or can hasten ignition by adding even more heat to the combustible.

It is simple to prevent spontaneous ignition, since oxygen is needed for it to occur. Materials subject to spontaneous ignition should be stored in covered metal containers such as a rag safety can. Admittedly the container will contain oxygen at first. However, the oxidation process will use up the oxygen and the reaction will stop—**fire prevented.**



Source: <http://wyomingworkforce.org/employers-and-businesses/osh/Pages/toolbox-topics.aspx>

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THE "FATAL FOUR"

The top 4 injuries that lead to **fatalities** in the construction industry (2012)



FALLS



CAUGHT BETWEEN
OBJECTS

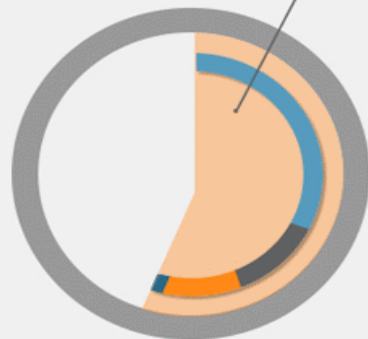


ELECTROCUTIONS



STRUCK BY
OBJECT

These "FATAL FOUR" were responsible for **57%** of **CONSTRUCTION WORKER DEATHS** in 2012



OF THAT 57%



36% were from falls



10% were from being struck by objects



9% were from electrocutions



2% were from being caught between objects

The OSHA Outreach Training Program for the Construction Industry provides training for workers and employers on the **recognition, avoidance, abatement, and prevention** of safety and health hazards in workplaces in the construction industry. The program also provides information regarding **workers' rights, employer responsibilities, and how to file a complaint**. This is a voluntary program and does not meet training requirements for any OSHA standards.

Through this program, workers can attend **10-hour** or **30-hour** classes delivered by OSHA-authorized trainers. The 10-hour class is intended for entry level workers, while the 30-hour class is more appropriate for supervisors or workers with some safety responsibility.

Call EHS Support today to arrange your 10-hour or 30-hour training.

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Source of Infographic: Viewpoint <http://ehstoday.com/construction/fatal-four-safety-construction-industry-infographic>

Work Safe. Live Safe. Stay Safe.

