

SAFETY

Company Name

Meeting Date

Employees Present:

SUBJECT OF THE MONTH: **TARGETED SAFETY TRAINING**

Perhaps the most important part of your safety program is the training you give to your employees. When you consider all of the tools that your employees use, the hazards they face, and the work practices they're involved in on a daily basis, figuring out the type of training to focus on can be difficult. This month's topic provides you with the information necessary to help make training decisions.

CHECKLIST ITEMS

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| _____ Electrical Cords Checked & GFCI's to protect employees | |
| _____ Required Jobsite Postings: | |
| _____ (Emergency Phone #'s and "Safety & Health Protection on the Job" Poster | |
| _____ Emergency Medical Plan | _____ Tool Guards |
| _____ Fire Protection/Prevention | _____ First Aid Kit |
| _____ Hazard Communication Program | _____ Fall Protection |

JOBSITE REVIEW: Inspection Notes/Concerns/Action Plan

Company Safety Officer: _____

NOTICE OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Oregon Building Industry Association's Central Safety Committee's purpose is to provide safety guidelines, information and resources to help our members work more safely and reduce jobsite accidents. Full and active monthly participation in safety meetings using the Central Safety Committee's agendas, topics and checklists will only meet safety committee requirements. It remains your responsibility to comply with all aspects of safety rules and regulations.

0807

TARGETED SAFETY TRAINING

Submitted by Bob Harris, Marion-Polk BIA
and

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One of the best ways to determine your training needs is to look at the types of injuries you're likely to face. We looked at the injuries that have occurred in the SAIF/Home Builders Association workers' compensation group and found that most injuries can be lumped into just a few categories. In fact, almost two-thirds of all of the injuries are cut/puncture, sprains/strains, or scratch/abrasion injuries. To develop training programs to address these hazards, let's look at each one individually.

1) *SPRAINS/STRAIN INJURIES*

Extra attention needs to be paid to sprain/strain injuries because they are the most expensive types. The majority of sprains/strains result from lifting heavy objects. Your employees need to be trained in how to lift safely, using their legs rather than their back muscles. Train your employees not to lift heavy or awkward objects by themselves.

2) *CUT/PUNCTURE INJURIES*

Most cut/puncture injuries involve the hands or feet. Employees get cut with saws, knives, nails, etc. Train your employees to take extra caution with sharp objects. Require that gloves be worn when performing certain tasks that are more prone to cut injuries.

3) *SCRATCH/ABRASION INJURES*

These injuries usually involve an employee getting something in their eye. Fortunately, simply requiring and training your employees to wear eye protection when performing tasks that produce airborne particles, such as sawing or sanding operations, these injuries can be easily prevented.

One of the most effective ways to determine what kind of training your employees need is to examine a list of the claims that your company has had over the past few years. These lists can be easily obtained from your workers' compensation carrier. (For those employers in the SAIF/Home Builders Association group plan, you can get a list by calling the **Marion-Polk Building Industry Association at 399-1500** if you're in the Marion or Polk counties or **Contractors Insurance Services at 639-8432** if you're located elsewhere in the state.)

Such a list might reveal that 60 percent of your injuries involved a nail gun, or that 55 percent of your injuries were back strains. This information allows you to conduct training targeted toward preventing these injuries in the future. You might also discover that even though most of your employees have been with you for more than two years, 80 percent of your injuries are happening to employees who have worked for you six months or less. This tells you that you need better training for your newer employees. Employees need to be trained in all aspects of safety, but you want to spend your valuable time as effectively as possible. By discovering where your problems lie, you'll be better prepared to prevent future injuries.

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