



The CHESS Tournament

Safety News and Views you can use.

Complete Health, Environmental & Safety Services, Inc.

Complete Health Environmental & Safety Services, Inc. Newsletter

In This Issue

[OSHA 300 Electronic Reporting](#)

[First Aid/CPR/AED Classes](#)

Quick Links

[Visit our website!](#)
[About Us](#)
[Read our blog](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Regulatory Updates

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (MnDLI) recently launched their new website. As part of this, they've issued a new workers' compensation employee information sheet, with updated web addresses. This form is supposed to be given to any employee who files a First Report of Injury, along with a copy of their injury report.

<http://www.doli.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/pdf/wceeinfo.pdf>

They also removed their instructions (which provide guidance to their inspectors on how to interpret the regulations) from the website. We lobbied hard to have those put on the website initially, and are lobbying hard to get them back on. We've been assured that they'll be replaced soon.

The EPA is moving towards all electronic hazardous waste manifests. This national electronic tracking system gives haulers the option of not using paper manifests at all. Facilities receiving hazardous waste must submit the manifests electronically to the EPA. Some are choosing, for now, to scan the paper manifest. Of course, there is a cost for all this - between \$5 and \$15.

OSHA Recordkeeping

Just a reminder that any company in Minnesota with 20 or more employees during the year must file their OSHA 300A-Summary of Injuries and Illnesses in the Workplace on federal OSHA's recordkeeping website:

<https://www.osha.gov/injuryreporting/index.html>

Even if there were no recordable injuries in your workplace, the information must be submitted. If you have not submitted your 2017 information, you still should (the deadline was July 1, but you can submit late). Your 2018 log information must be submitted by March 2, 2019.

New Products

Safety glasses are an important and inexpensive tool for protecting your eyes, yet many people do not wear them. There are enough brands and styles available that everyone should be able to find a pair that fit so comfortably that you forget you have them on. One brand we recently tried is HexArmor. They have lightweight styles, adjustable glasses, readers, glasses with anti-fog just on the outside and some with anti-fog on both inside and outside of the lens. We've also found their over-the-glasses safety glasses (LT200) to be very comfortable, lightweight, and able to stay in place. This may work for many people as an inexpensive alternative to prescription safety glasses. Most major safety suppliers will carry these. The glasses may run \$10-16 a pair. You can find more information on their web site:

[https://www.hexarmor.com/products?q=&hFR\[product_type.lv10\]\[0\]=Eyewear](https://www.hexarmor.com/products?q=&hFR[product_type.lv10][0]=Eyewear)

Two interesting products we've heard of, but haven't seen yet:

1) MSA's Latchways Personal Rescue Device, a backpack worn on a fall harness. It allows someone who has fallen and is dangling from the harness to lower him or herself to the ground in a controlled manner.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C12-e0q6V8>

or more dramatic,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XvDaLh8M-I>

2) Weldcote Metals has introduced low manganese emission welding electrodes. The benefit of lower manganese levels: it's hard to adequately control manganese exposure, because the recommended exposure limit (set to protect against neurological effects) is very low, and manganese melts at a lower temperature than iron.

<https://www.ien.com/new-products/processing/product/21023096/weldcote-metals-wcm-low-manganese-stick-electrodes>

Product Recall

Harbor Freight chainsaws have been recalled because they can restart even when turned off. While these are not likely to be used in industry, employees may have them at home. Please share this information.

https://www.ien.com/safety/video/21006528/recalled-chainsaws-can-accidentally-restart?utm_medium=email&utm_source=IEN+Today+05242018&utm_term=22224&email=chess%40chess-safety.com

Speaking of chainsaws, they don't discriminate between whether you are at work or at home. Either place, wear your personal protective equipment: chaps, safety glasses, face shield, hearing protection. This picture is from a recent event where a running chainsaw got too close to an employee's leg. The chaps were cut all the way through, as were the employee's jeans underneath, but not the employee. Imagine that with no chaps.



Fire Prevention Week: October 7-13

Fire Prevention week is coming up. This is a good time to review your fire prevention plans, to review emergency procedures and to have a fire drill. The Minnesota State Fire Marshal recently published this:

The theme for 2018 [Fire Prevention Week] is: "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware - fire can happen anywhere." In the fire service we know how quickly fire moves and that people have just a couple minutes to escape a fire today. The theme this year is to focus on what every person needs to do to stay safe in the case of a fire:

- Look for potential places fire could start.
- Listen for the sound of smoke alarms.
- Learn two ways out of every room.

For more information and educational material (tip sheets, games): <https://www.nfpa.org/fpw>

Why We Do Audits...

When we begin working with a maintenance client, we do an audit - a detailed review of the facility's safety, health and environmental (SH&E) program. We look at existing safety programs, injury records, environmental reports, other inspection reports.... By the time we're done writing up the audit, we think we have a pretty good feel for the strengths and weaknesses of the SH&E program. But that audit, that deep dive, is usually a one-time event. It takes a lot of time and a lot of effort from both our clients and ourselves.

Why do we do this deep dive?

The obvious reason is to learn where you are vulnerable, where you are not in compliance with OSHA and environmental regulations and where you are exposing employees to excessive hazard. But there's more to it than that.

- We learn what you do or, more specifically, how you do what you do. We see the different processes that go into making your widgets.
- The audit provides a baseline from which we can help you build your safety program. From observing your processes, we get a feel for your potentially hazardous exposures. From looking at your injury records and loss run reports, we know where problems have already occurred. We'll learn what existing programs you have. We can build on those. Or if they're good and fit your needs, we'll know we don't need to redo them, so we can put our efforts elsewhere.
- Once we've done the audit, we can provide training that focuses on your operations and your exposures. We can make the training relevant to your employees, because we can show them the shop and hazards they work with daily.
- The audit ensures that we can draft the programs that work for your operations. We can include information about processes and equipment unique to you.
- The audit gives us enough information to begin drafting an emergency plan that spells out where people should gather in inclement weather or where they need to go if there's a fire. If you are a hazardous waste generator, we learn the information about waste and chemicals needed for a contingency plan.

Our long-term goal for you as a client is that we continue to help support your operations, keeping programs up to date, providing required training, and helping with any questions that come up. But we hope, from the audit report and working with us, that you and your employees will have a good sense of what is required. So we hope that future walkthroughs confirm that you're on the right track.

Think of the audit report as a teaching tool. When we write up the audit report, we try to tell you what's good, as well as what we think needs improvement. We tell you what we looked for and why we looked for those things. Instead of simply saying, "extension cords were misused," we explain what's required. We prioritize, letting you know what things require your immediate attention and what things we'll be helping you with.

The one thing we can't do, in the audit report, in the walkthroughs, or in working with you long term, is make your workplace a safe place to work. ["But that's why we hired you!?!"] That's your responsibility. We're consultants. We can provide you with the knowledge and guidance. Implementation is up to you.

Your accountant can tell you that you need to pay taxes and can provide guidance on how much to pay and to whom. But you're the one who has to write the check. Your doctor can tell you to exercise. You're the one who needs to get on the treadmill. We can advise and coach and train. We can draft the programs and coordinate the safety committee. Ultimately, the responsibility for your safe workplace comes down to you.

Questions? Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have safety-related questions or just need more information about something or the services we offer. Please contact us by phone (651-481-9787) or email (eparrish@chess-safety.com) if you no longer want to receive newsletters or if you want them in a different format (mail).

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