



The CHESS Tournament

Safety News and Views you can use.

Complete Health, Environmental & Safety Services, Inc.

Complete Health Environmental & Safety Services, Inc. Newsletter

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Hands-Free Law Don't hold your phone.

As of August 1, if law enforcement sees any driver with a phone in hand, even when stopped at a red light, the driver may be ticketed. A new Minnesota law only allows drivers to use their mobile devices (such as cell phones) by voice commands or single touch activation without holding the phone.

That means no sending or receiving phone calls unless you can do it with a single touch or voice command. No text messaging, watching Netflix, using your iPad, playing games or Snapchat while driving.

But surely people don't do that while driving! They certainly do - just read the MN State Patrol's tweets ([@MnDPS MSP](#)), such as this one from April 23: "Lt. Shank to motorist not wearing seat belt and watching Law and Order (yes, you read that right) behind the wheel: 'I'm here to educate you, not lecture you.' Driver received 2 citations." #BackseatTweets#JustDrive

There is no exemption for Public Works employees. The only time you can have a cell phone in your hand when driving is if you are calling for emergency assistance, if there is an immediate threat to life and safety, or if you're in an authorized emergency vehicle performing official duties.

If your employees answer calls when driving, make sure they are able to do this hands-free. For ideas on going hands-free and for answers to frequently asked questions about the new law, go to the Office of Traffic Safety, <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/hands-free/Pages/default.aspx>.

Whether your job is affected by the weather or not, everyone should be taking precautions:

Construction Season and Safety in Work Zones

The orange cones have gone up in force. Public Works departments are scrambling to make up for the very long winter - potholes the size of Lake Mille Lacs need to be filled, parkways need to be cleaned up and grass needs to be mowed.

Construction season means work zones are popping up. When these are for very short-term projects, such as filling potholes, they won't have as many signs and barriers.

Give these workers a brake - slow down and be extra attentive when you see workers on or by the roads.



Welcome Noel Schneider

CHESSESS welcomes our newest team member: Noel Schneider. He will be taking over YaVone's place, so expect to hear from him when we are scheduling training. Noel is a graduate of Mizzou (University of Missouri), with a major in English. He worked in Strategic Communications for the Athletic Department during a time of student athlete protests. We hope that his job at CHESSESS won't be quite that exciting.

If you need to schedule training, Noel can be reached at 651-842-9215 or nschneider@chess-safety.com

Air Quality Rules - Exempt Notification Due May 14 (if you don't have a permit)

Last February, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency finally released new rules addressing air emissions from very small shops. Automotive collision repair, wood finishing, and some other operations that do spray finishing and coating may now be conditionally exempt from air emissions permits. If you do any spray finishing, you may now be an "insignificant facility" or conditionally exempt. If you do not have an air emissions permit, you should have filed a one-time notification with the MPCA by May 14, 2019. If you missed that deadline or are a new shop, file anyway.

Those with air emissions permits, such as registration permits (Option B or C), might qualify for conditional exemptions and be able to void their permits. There is no deadline for that.

Contact us if you want to find out what you qualify for.

Voluntary Use of Respirators

If you have employees who wear respirators on a voluntary basis, you need to provide them with a copy of Appendix D of OSHA's respirator standard. That applies for any respirator use, if its use is not required.

What qualifies as a respirator? Full face and half mask respirators that require cartridges are clearly respirators. But so are filtering facepieces, those paper masks that have two straps. Those may also be called dust masks or N95 masks (N95 refers to the filtering ability - they're rated at 95% efficient against very small particles).

What about the single strap masks? Don't use them. They meet no standards for protection.

We recommend you post the Appendix D in a break room or somewhere employees are likely to read it. Better yet, give each employee a copy and have them sign off as having received and understood it.

If employees are wearing tight fitting respirators, even for voluntary use, they must have medical clearance to wear them. Fit testing is not required for voluntary use.

Hazards of Hydraulic Presses

From MNOSHA's serious accident and fatality investigation log:

In February, in a Minneapolis machine shop, an employee's hand was caught between the upper and lower dies of a hydraulic press. Minnesota requires that hydraulic presses be guarded to protect the operator from ejection of parts. Usually, that guard would block the employee from being able to put a hand between the dies. We don't know any details of this case, such as whether a guard was present.

This serves as a reminder, though: employees need to be trained on the safe use of this equipment. Make sure your press is guarded and employees use the guard. You can fabricate your own guards, purchase guards (such as mesh ejection curtains) or use a ballistic blanket. If you need more information, contact us.

Silica Resource: OSHA Video on Handheld Saws

OSHA has released a five-minute video on controlling silica dust in construction when using a handheld power saw. This is a good refresher on the requirements for safe saw usage. It could easily be used for a short training. You can find the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfYI31pF4Ng>

Looking for a Special Product?

Carol is headed to the American Society of Safety Professionals' professional development conference and expo. There will be

over 600 safety vendors there. So, if there is a special product or an exhibitor you want her to talk with, let her know.