

PSC Safety Fax

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Weekly Safety Meeting
"Teamwork Prevents
Accidents"

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DULUTH, GA., COMPANY CITED FOR EXPOSING WORKERS TO CAVE-IN HAZARDS; OSHA PROPOSES \$65,800 IN PENALTIES

ATLANTA -- The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Rooter Plus for exposing employees to the risk of trenching hazards at an Atlanta job site. Proposed penalties total \$65,800.

OSHA began an inspection of the Clairmont Road site July 3, after receiving complaints of unsafe conditions at the excavation where Rooter Plus workers were repairing and replacing existing sewer lines. Investigators found company employees working in a 15-foot-deep trench without adequate cave-in protection.

The company had installed a trench box at the location, but the height of the system was inadequate for the depth of the trench. OSHA issued an alleged willful citation to the company for failing to follow the manufacturer's instructions to install a second trench box on top of the first when the depth of an excavation exceeds the height of the first trench box. The citation carries a proposed penalty of \$49,000.

"Safety standards for trenching work are aimed at preventing a cave-in," said Gei-Thae Breezley, OSHA's Atlanta-East area director. "This company is well aware of what the standards require, but instead risked a tragic accident." The company also received six alleged serious citations with proposed penalties totaling \$16,800 for placing loose rocks and soil at the edge of the trench and allowing excavated material to accumulate where it could fall into the trench; failing to provide employees with adequate protective equipment while they worked and a ladder to enter and exit the trench; failing to provide safety training, and failure by the designated competent person to correct hazardous conditions as they occurred. **OSHA News Release**

OSHA LAUNCHES TEEN SAFETY AND HEALTH SITE PART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S YOUTH RULES WEB SITE

WASHINGTON -- Keeping America's working teens safe and healthy while on the job is the goal of a new web site unveiled today by OSHA. The Teen Workers safety and health page is part of the agency's contribution to the Department of Labor's new initiative on young workers and is now OSHA's premier site for teen worker safety and health information.

"Every year 70 teenagers die from work-related injuries and 77,000 more are injured seriously enough to require emergency medical treatment-and that's just not acceptable," said OSHA Administrator John Henshaw. "This site is one more way to provide our young workers with the knowledge they deserve so they can have safe and positive work experiences."

The teen safety and health site educates young workers, parents, employers and educators on workplace safety. The site offers educational resources such as fact sheets on workplace rights and responsibilities, hazards on the job, ways to prevent injuries, work hours, job restrictions, and more. It also links to states that have special web sites or initiatives designed for young workers.

The new teen safety and health site can be accessed from the Department of Labor's YouthRules! web site, or through the OSHA web site A-Z index under "Youth" or under What's New. **OSHA News Release**

Teamwork Prevents Accidents

Teamwork is what keeps production high on any job. In fact; it's teamwork between workers and management that has pushed production in this country to an all-time high. Teamwork prevents accidents; too. Teamwork for safety can push accidents down to an all-time low. All we have to do is to think of the other fellow's safety as well as our own. It's just a matter of maturity.

Take the matter of safe driving. The really safe driver not only looks out for his own safety but he makes sure he doesn't endanger the life of anyone else. He gives up his right-of-way sometimes to help another driver out of a jam. He slows down to let a driver cut back in after he has tried to pass and discovered something was coming in the other direction. It is not just a matter of the one driver having the right-of-way or being right; it's a matter of a little teamwork preventing accidents. The safe driver knows that someday he may do a foolish or reckless thing on the road and that it will take some teamwork from some other fellow to prevent an accident.

What applies on the road also applies on the job. It's not just a matter of your working safely and following all the rules yourself.

You've got to think a little bit about the other fellow's safety too. You've need to lend a hand occasionally to prevent or avoid an accident that may involve him. You can never tell what kind of situation is going to arise in which teamwork is needed to prevent an accident. You've got to solve each one as it arises by working together and helping the other fellow.

For teamwork in safety; remember the following points:

1. If you have suggestions for making the job a safer place to work; don't keep them to yourself. Let others know about them; especially at safety meetings.
2. If you see something wrong; don't pass the buck. If you can't correct it easily yourself; report it and make sure that someone takes care of it.
3. If a job is too big for one person; get help; and give the other fellow a hand if tie needs it.
4. Think a little for the other fellow - his safety may depend on you.

Start the New Year Right Be a Team Player for Safety