

January 15, 2003



<http://www.pscsafe.com>
P.O. Box 18352
San Antonio, TX 78218
1-800-216-7233
(210) 654-1122
(210) 650-0035-Faxline
E-Mail - psc@pscsafe.com

Page 2
Weekly Safety Meeting
"Machine Guarding"

If you would rather receive your Safety Fax via E-mail please let us know by sending a request to psc@pscsafe.com.

The fax is sent in Adobe PDF format, which is free to download.

PSC Safety Fax

LITANY OF HAZARDS RESULTS IN OSHA CITATIONS FOR SYRACUSE, NY COMPANY FEDERAL SAFETY VIOLATIONS CARRY A PROPOSED \$133,500 PENALTY

SYRACUSE -- An East Syracuse, N.Y. company exposed employees to an extensive list of safety hazards, including unguarded moving machinery and electrocution hazards, according to citations issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Proposed penalties total \$133,500 for New Venture Gear of New York, LLC, which produces transfer cases for 4-wheel drive vehicles. OSHA is citing the company for 32 alleged violations of the safety standards.

OSHA conducted the inspection from Aug. 6 through Jan. 3, as part of its "site-specific targeting program," under which it inspects certain worksites with high rates of lost workday injuries and illnesses. The company was previously inspected in 1999 under a similar program and was issued citations with a proposed penalty of more than \$100,000 at that time.

According to Diane Brayden, OSHA's area director in Syracuse, 27 of the citations were classified as serious. Examples include failure to provide fall protection on aerial lifts, failure to maintain dry floors and failure to guard floor openings. Poor maintenance was also cited for ladders and stairs, fire extinguishers, exits, forklifts and slings, as well as failure to provide guarding on grinders, shafts, belts and pulleys and to maintain electrical equipment, conduit and flexible cords and guard electrical equipment.

Three alleged "repeat" violations include the company's failure to maintain overhead hoists, below the hook lifting devices and bridge rails; inadequately guarded moving parts on machinery; and inadequately guarded points of operation on machinery. Two alleged "other-than-serious" violations were cited for the company's failure to provide adequate general housekeeping and to properly maintain stairway treads.

OSHA News Release

WORKER'S DEATH AT BAY CITY, TEXAS, WORKSITE BRINGS OSHA PENALTIES OF \$168,000

DALLAS -- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Brigham Exploration Co. in Austin, Texas for alleged willful violations of safety standards in the death of a worker who was killed in July while preparing the ground to install a pressurized gas line that ruptured and struck him. Proposed penalties total \$168,000.

OSHA began its investigation following the July 11, 2002, accident that took place at Brigham, the primary contractor's worksite in Bay City. Three of the company's workers, none of whom were injured, along with other subcontractor employees, were at the worksite when the pressurized gas line ruptured. Brigham Exploration, an oil and gas exploration company, is headquartered in Austin, Texas.

The alleged willful violations were for failing to properly secure and/or restrain the pressurized flow line, failing to restrict the operation of vehicles or equipment in flammable areas exposing employees to fire hazards, failing to adequately protect employees working in and around the flow line, and failing to properly maintain operating equipment. In addition, employees were not given emergency response training in the form of first aid or phone numbers for immediate medical attention.

Tetra Technologies Inc. of Victoria, Texas, employed the worker who died. Tetra was cited with two serious violations and proposed penalties of \$9,000. Tanner Construction Co., headquartered in Eunice, La., was also cited with two serious violations and proposed penalties of \$11,200. **OSHA News Release**

Weekly Safety Meeting

MACHINE GUARDING - FOR YOUR PROTECTION

Do you look at machine guards as a hindrance to doing your job? Do you think, if only that guard wasn't there, I could do my job easier and faster? If you do, take what might be the last look at your hands. Statistics reveal that three out of every ten lost-time injuries involve the hands and arms and almost ten percent of all disabling injuries are caused by machinery.

While machine guards cannot prevent all injuries to the hands, guards do prevent many accidents that in the past have crippled or maimed.

Guards are designed to protect, not hinder. They are engineered to provide as much protection as possible, even to machine operators who take chances or who are distracted while on the job.

Machine guards protect against direct contact with moving parts, flying chips, kickbacks, and splashing of metal or corrosive liquids. Guards are also used for machine operator protection in the event of a mechanical or electrical failure.

A guard cannot be effective without the cooperation of the person operating the machine. It is very important that anyone working with or around machinery understands the following general safety rules.

Before operating machinery always check to be sure that the proper guards are in place and in good condition.

No machine should be operated without guards in place.

If guards are defective or missing, report this unsafe condition to your supervisor, **IMMEDIATELY.**

Only authorized personnel should make guard adjustments.

Guards should never be adjusted or removed unless authorized by your supervisor.

When guards are removed for adjustment or repair, the main power switch for the machine should be locked in the off position.

Remember, safe guards are installed on machinery to protect your safety and health.

If they are to protect you effectively, they must be in position and maintained in good condition.