

PSC Safety Fax

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Page 2 Weekly Safety Meeting "Cell Phone Safety"

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.

OSHA FORM 300A MUST BE POSTED BY FEBRUARY 1, 2003

You must post your 2002 Summary Of Work-Related Injuries And Illnesses form (OSHA Form 300-A) by February 1. It must remain posted in a conspicuous place where notices to employees are customarily posted through April 30, 2003. You do not have to post the Log 300 form itself but you must keep the Log 300 and Summary for five years after the year to which it pertains.

If you have any questions or concerns please call our office for assistance

OSHA FINES ST. MARY'S, GA., PAPER PLANT \$258,000 FOLLOWING INSPECTION OF FATAL EXPLOSION

ST. MARY'S, Ga. -- OSHA today cited Durango-Georgia Paper Company and assessed fines totaling \$258,000 for safety hazards at its St. Mary's, Ga., plant. The citations resulted from inspection of an explosion at the plant on Aug. 17 that killed two workers and seriously injured a third. As two employees attempted to relight a recovery boiler, an explosion occurred, forcibly scattering steam, hot black liquor, smelt and boiler parts throughout the area. The two workers and a third almost 50 feet away suffered severe thermal and chemical burns. Two of the victims later died of their injuries.

OSHA found that the company allowed employees to work at heights of up to 50 feet without providing fall protection, and required employees to stand on a conveyor belt to remove jammed logs without assuring that the machine was first "locked out," which would have rendered it inoperable during the activity. These workers were exposed to being struck by moving logs, falling from the conveyor or being thrown into the chipper machine. The agency issued two willful citations with penalties of \$55,000 each for these violations. Another \$17,500 fine accompanied a repeat citation for seven instances of accumulation of debris in various locations throughout the plant. The company had been cited for a similar violation in August 2000.

One hazard, directly related to the explosion, was among the 45 serious violations cited. The employer allowed workers to light the boiler using a continuous flow of fuel oil for at least several minutes, resulting in excess accumulation of explosive gases in the boiler, rather than following industry-recognized start-up procedures which call for closing an igniter shutoff valve if a flame is not established within 10 seconds. According to the National Fire Protection Association, waiting at least a minute before again trying to ignite the boiler prevents build-up of combustible gases.

A second serious citation concerned exposing employees to injury from falling concrete, brick and glass in areas of the plant that were experiencing structural deterioration. The falling debris also posed a potential threat of damaging lines carrying chlorine dioxide in these areas. Vapors and fumes from the lethal gas can be fatal.

Other serious violations included several incidents of unguarded machinery and equipment, lack of confined space entry precautions, "lock-out/tagout" violations, missing handrails for fall protection, lack of personal protective equipment, blocked exits and numerous electrical hazards. Fines for the serious violations totaled \$130,500. **OSHA News Release**

BLAST HURLED PIECES OF KINSTON, N.C. PLANT NEARLY A MILE AWAY

Four workers died and at least 37 were injured January 29 in a shattering blast that blew the roof and doors of a Kinston, N.C. medical devices plant 400 feet in the air and created a toxic plume of black smoke visible for miles. Hundreds of firefighters and emergency medical workers rushed to the 28-year-old West Pharmaceutical Services factory, where officials estimated 134 people were working when the explosion occurred.

Sources say investigators are focusing on two types of airborne dust, a rubber dust created during the production of rubber stoppers and a polyethylene powder used to treat rubber before production, as possible culprits.

Cell Phone Safety

Used wisely, vehicle cell phones can present safety benefits; for example, to call for help or report dangerous situations. As for other types of calls such as business calls, they usually require a high level of concentration. Hands and feet may operate the controls but the eyes and brain are what really drives the vehicle. The following suggestions are for using cell phones safely in the vehicle but never while the vehicle is moving.

1. If possible, dial while the car is not in motion, such as at a traffic light or stop sign.
2. Learn to operate the phone without looking at it.
3. Never allow a phone conversation to distract you from driving.
4. Keep calls brief.
5. While talking, keep your head up and your eyes on the road, with frequent checks of side and rearview mirrors.
6. Always use hands-free devices when driving and talking; when you turn your phone on, make sure your hands-free device is on and working.
7. Pre-program important and frequently-dialed numbers including home and the office, so you can dial them by pressing only a few buttons. (Press the SEND button after dialing 9-1-1. Help is only a few buttons away, but you must press SEND for the call to go through.)
8. Know your wireless phone number so emergency personnel can call you back. You may want to write it down and keep it in your car for quick reference.
9. If traffic conditions warrant your undivided attention, turn your phone off, and let calls go to the voice mail or activate call forwarding.
10. Do not take notes or look up phone numbers while driving.
11. Pay attention to lane choice and traffic flow. Remind yourself to continue checking mirrors each 5 seconds.
12. Watch out for other drivers using a cell phone. Signs include irregular speed, wandering in their lane, slow response to changes in traffic flow, and lack of signals and general sloppiness.
13. Manage your time well. The over-use of the cell phone while driving represents poor time management. Driving time is not a chance to catch up on calls.