

PSC Safety Fax

February 25, 2003



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Weekly Safety Meeting
“L P GAS SALAMANDER
HEATERS ”

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. **The form must be signed by the President or CEO of the company, not his designee as in the past.**

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

CONTRACTOR CITED FOR TRENCHING VIOLATIONS AT COBB PARKWAY JOB SITE

ATLANTA, Ga. --OSHA has cited Reynolds, Inc. for failing to protect workers from a potential trench collapse at a Cobb Parkway South construction site. The agency fined the Orleans, Indiana-based company \$77,500. OSHA began an inspection of the Cobb Parkway site after employees were observed installing a waterline in a six-foot-deep, unprotected trench.

"OSHA takes trenching hazards very seriously, particularly in the Southeast where excavation collapse causes numerous injuries and deaths," said Andre Richards, OSHA's Atlanta-West area director. "This employer had a trench box available on site, but did not use it to protect workers in the trench."

Reynolds was cited for three repeat violations for exposing workers to potential cave-in by failing to slope or shore the trench or provide other protection, such as a trench box; allowing excavated material to accumulate too close to the edge of the excavation, and failing to have a competent person on-site to ensure the safety of workers in the trench. With an accompanying fine of \$75,000, these repeat violations accounted for most of the penalties assessed. The remaining penalty of \$2,500 was proposed for a serious violation for failing to instruct employees on recognition of unsafe conditions and the proper steps to take upon entering an excavation greater than five feet deep.

OSHA has a national emphasis program that allows staff to inspect any trench or excavation that appears hazardous. The national program also includes a separate compliance assistance arm to help employers and workers recognize and reduce trenching hazards. **OSHA News Release**

NEW AND ONGOING ELECTRICAL SAFETY HAZARDS BRING \$82,500 IN ADDITIONAL FINES TO WARSAW, N.Y., NURSING HOME

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- A Warsaw, New York, nursing home's failure to correct electrical safety hazards has resulted in an additional \$82,500 in proposed fines from OSHA.

Manor Oak Life Center was first cited by OSHA in July of last year for 26 safety and health violations. At that time, \$44,000 in fines were proposed for bloodborne pathogen, lead, electrical, corrosive liquid, gas cylinder and permit required confined space hazards. OSHA began a follow-up inspection in August after Manor Oak failed to show that the cited hazards had been corrected. That inspection found that two electrical hazards remained outstanding. Specifically, employees had not been trained in electrical safety related work practices and exposed openings in electrical boxes remained uncovered. As a result, OSHA has proposed an additional \$77,500 in fines against Manor Oak for its failure to abate these hazards.

The follow-up inspection identified two additional electrical hazards involving a lack of safe procedures for de-energizing electrical circuits and equipment and failure to lock and tag out electrical equipment in accordance with OSHA standards. For these items, \$5,000 in fines are proposed.

OSHA issues a failure to abate notice when a subsequent inspection shows that an employer failed to correct a violation that has since become final. A serious violation is defined as a condition that exists where there is a substantial possibility that death or serious physical harm can result to an employee. **OSHA News Release**

L P GAS SALAMANDER HEATERS

L P gas Salamander heaters can be very useful for providing temporary heating on job sites, particularly when the size or location of the site makes other heaters impractical. They are ideal for heating because the Salamander is equipped with adjustable valves and regulators making it easier to control the heat source and quantity of gases. While these heaters can be very helpful to use for heating the work area, it is important that common sense precautions be taken to prevent fires or injuries that could result if they are improperly used.

Most L P Salamander accidents that occur are fires, usually caused when the units are placed too close to combustible materials (paper, wood, plastics, and etc.) or near flammable solvents or paints. Burns are the frequent source of injury, and they often occur when Salamanders are placed in the middle of walkways or too close to work areas.

As with any fuel/air heater, there is always a potential for oxygen deficiency and carbon monoxide poisoning in highly confined areas that do not have adequate cross ventilation. Some helpful tips for Salamanders and other portable heaters are:

1. Always maintain a distance of at least 2 1/2 feet from any combustible materials and observe overhead clearance of at least 6 feet to prevent fires.
2. Tarpaulins, canvas, and plastic coverings have been the major fuel source in many fires started with Salamanders, so keep these combustibles at least ten feet away from any open flame heater.
3. Always be alert for hot surfaces on and around the heater. Don't touch metal parts that could become heated. Even though they don't look hot, they can cause serious burns.
4. Salamanders are designed to be used in a horizontal position. Don't attempt to use them in other positions unless permitted by the manufacturers' instructions.
5. Always follow the instructions when lighting the heater or shutting it down. Don't attempt shortcuts, particularly when using a gas fuel.
6. After lighting the Salamander, check to be sure that it is functioning properly. If you feel that it's not working properly, shut it off and tell your supervisor.
7. It's a good idea to periodically check on a Salamander after it is lighted just to be sure that it continues to burn properly. A quick inspection takes very little time and you may prevent an accident.
8. Be very careful when you place a Salamander in a confined space. Some of these heaters use up oxygen quickly and generate carbon monoxide vapors. There should always be a source of fresh air when fuel - air heaters are used.
9. When fueling or changing L P tanks follow the manufacturer's instruction and be sure the unit is cool to the touch. It's a good idea to check for leaks in the fuel lines, hoses or connections.
10. Remember that L P gas is heavier than air. Leaks in cylinders tend to seek the lowest level of a room and could move to other areas easily. Be sure that leaks are reported. LPG cylinders not in use should be stored outside, away from the building.