

# PSC Safety Fax

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<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](mailto:psc@pscsafe.com)

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**Weekly Safety Meeting**  
**"Carelessness and**  
**Fatalism "**

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

**DOUBLE FATAL CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT RESULTS IN OSHA CITATIONS & OVER \$27,000 IN PROPOSED PENALTIES FOR BROOKLYN, NY, EMPLOYER NEW YORK --** Exposing employees to fatal safety hazards at a Manhattan construction site has resulted in a Brooklyn, N.Y. employer being cited and fined \$27,200 by the U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

OSHA has cited Atlantic Heydt Corp., of 1281 Metropolitan Ave., Brooklyn, for alleged serious and repeat violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act after the agency investigated an accident on Aug. 23, 2002, in which two employees of the company were killed at a construction site at 300 Madison Ave. in New York City.

The two most significant citations, both alleged "repeat" violations, relate directly to the accident, in which the two workers fell to their deaths when the material hoist on which they were working plunged 280 feet to the ground. One charges the employer with failing to provide employees working at an elevation of 280 feet with proper fall protection. The other is for failing to comply with the manufacturer's safety requirements for securing and rigging the material hoist on which the employees were working. "This employer was cited previously for similar violations on another project, yet exposed employees on this project to the same hazards with full knowledge of the potential dangers," said Richard Mendelson, OSHA's area director in Manhattan. "That's totally unacceptable."

OSHA is also citing the company for five alleged "serious" violations, including: unsafe stacking of stored materials at the construction site; exposing employees to the hazards of uncovered floor holes; failing to require employees to use hardhats to protect against falling objects; failing to post the rated load capacity on material hoist cars; and exposing employees using unevenly spaced ladders to fall hazards.

**OSHA News Release**

**OKLAHOMA METAL PRODUCTS MANUFACTURER FACES \$102,600 IN OSHA FINES FOR VIOLATIONS OF WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS**

WASHINGTON -- Security Metal Products Corp. of Clinton, Okla., is facing multiple citations and proposed fines of \$102,600 for alleged violations of workplace safety and health standards, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced today. The company, a metal fabricating corporation which manufactures custom door frames, is being cited with one alleged willful, five alleged serious, and four alleged repeat violations, with a total proposed penalty of \$102,600.

"Security Metal Products failed to protect its employees from numerous hazards which could cause serious injuries," said John L. Henshaw, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health. "OSHA's aim is to ensure that this company will take responsibility to step up and protect its workers."

The alleged willful violation is for lack of or inadequate guarding at the point of operation on press brakes. The company is also being cited for ergonomic issues related to material handling under the General Duty Clause of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. The alleged serious violations include failure to use lockout/tagout procedures; failure to guard mechanical power press flywheels; failure to protect against accidental activation of foot pedals; and failure to report mechanical power press point-of operation injuries. **OSHA News Release**

## **CARELESSNESS**

Many of us use the word "carelessness" to cover a number of inadequacies, when in reality it is meaningless as far as determining accident causing factors. Too often the word is merely a synonym for attention to safety regulations, overconfidence; poor safety indoctrination or a single case of buck passing.

A man carelessly steps on a nail which has been carelessly left upright in a board carelessly left lying in a walkway; or an employee carelessly leaving a pair of goggles hanging on a hook and carelessly continues to work in the presence of an eye hazard and later suffered the loss of vision in an accident caused by sheer carelessness!

The dictionary defines carelessness as "freedom from care, anxiety, or solicitude: having no concern with consequences;" etc. it would seem; therefore, that a surprisingly large proportion of our employees can be charged with complete indifference to the possibility of, or immunity to; the results of pain; suffering and financial loss.

### **SPIRIT OF FATALISM**

Every day you read or hear of accidents happening — on the job, on highways, in the home; or in public places. A great many are bad accidents because of failure to wear or use protective clothing or equipment. A few are less serious because protective clothing or other safety devices were being worn or used. Today more than two and one-half million workers belong to the wise owl club of America; whose membership is restricted to those having their eyesight saved by wearing safety eye gear at the time of the accident. Another such club is for those whose lives were saved by the wearing of hard hats. This is called the turtle club.

Year after year, workers are urged to take advantage of every piece of protective equipment they can use on their jobs, including safety shoes, face shields; safety glasses and goggles; glasses of all description; shin guards; arm guards; or whatever other personal equipment that can help save them from injury or death. But some people have accidents because they have a "Spirit of Fatalism." maybe you have heard them express it this way: "Why Try to Avoid Accidents?"

If you are going to get hurt; you are going to get hurt. Accidents are bound to happen; and nothing you can do can prevent them." these people are dangerous - to themselves and to those who must work with them.

Would you want to ride in a train whose locomotive engineer didn't believe in safety signals? Do you like to work beside another worker whose every attitude is "to hell with safety?" would you like to have the druggist who mixes drugs and fills prescriptions for you and your children shrug his shoulders and say, "Why Be Careful?"

Life would indeed be hazardous if no one believed that accidents can be prevented. You can bet your last dollar that those who believe in safety; from the top of their heads to the tip of their toes; will be around a lot longer than those who don't.

## **THE BEST WORKERS ARE SAFE WORKERS**