

PSC Safety Fax

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Weekly Safety Meeting
"EVERYONE IS
RESPONSIBLE FOR
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. **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

WORKER'S DEATH AT SEGUIN, TEXAS, WORKSITE BRINGS OSHA PENALTIES OF \$70,000

DALLAS -- Two workers were burned in an explosion and one of them later died from his injuries because a Seguin, Texas, company allegedly failed to provide a safe working environment, according to citations issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Structural Metals Inc. (SMI), a steel manufacturer, was fined \$70,000 for an alleged willful violation of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, following an inspection that began Sept. 27 in response to the explosion at the company's worksite in Seguin.

The willful citation was for allowing employees to continue to work on a metal melting process despite water leaking into the furnace, exposing them to an explosion. A willful violation is defined as an intentional disregard of or plain indifference to the requirements of the OSHA law and regulations.

"The employer knew there was a leak in the roof cooling panel and chose not to repair it," said Paul Brantley, OSHA's area director in Austin. "It's quite possible this explosion could have been avoided had the employer made the necessary repairs."

SMI, a subsidiary of Commercial Metal Inc in Dallas, Texas, manufactures metal beams and rods, and employs about 5,000 workers nationwide and 600 in Seguin.

OSHA News Release

MEAT PACKING COMPANY FINED FOR EXPOSING WORKERS TO HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS, DANGEROUS WORKING CONDITIONS

DALLAS -- Failure to protect workers from hazardous chemicals and provide personal protective equipment against falls and fires, will cost Sam Kane Beef Processors Inc. in Corpus Christi, Texas, \$60,525 in proposed penalties for citations issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Sam Kane Beef Processors, a meat packing business, is headquartered in Corpus Christi and employs about 700 workers. The violations cited were a result of two OSHA inspections, a safety inspection that began April 1 and a health inspection that began April 30.

The company was cited with 17 alleged serious violations including failing to implement elements of the Process Safety Management Standards for Highly Hazardous Chemicals, failing to implement lock out/tag out procedures to stop and secure the energy source, failing to provide employees with personal protective equipment and failing to protect employees from exposure to corrosive materials. The proposed safety penalties totaled \$40,275.

Additionally, the company was cited with nine alleged serious health violations for exposing employees to a high level of noise, failing to follow bloodborne pathogens standards and failing to properly fit test employees with respirators.

A serious violation is one in which the hazard could cause death or serious physical harm to employees and the employer knew or should have known about it.

The Process Safety Management Standard must be followed by facilities that utilize certain thresholds of hazardous chemicals. It requires the training of workers and an analysis of potential hazards and how to correct them. **OSHA News Release**

EVERYONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFETY

Safety is everyone's responsibility! As an employee, you should:

- a. Learn to work safely and take all rules seriously.
- b. Recognize hazards and avoid them.
- c. Report all accidents, injuries and illness to your supervisor immediately.
- d. Inspect tools before use to avoid injury.
- e. Wear all assigned personal protective equipment.

On the other hand, it is management's responsibility to:

- a. Provide a safe and healthy workplace.
- b. Provide personal protective equipment.
- c. Train employees in safe procedures and in how to identify hazards.

Everyone must be aware of potential hazards on the job:

- a. Poor housekeeping results in slips, trips and falls.
- b. Electricity can cause shocks, burns or fire if not handled properly.
- c. Poor material handling may cause back problems or other injuries.
- d. Tools and equipment can cause injuries if guards or protective devices are disengaged.

Always use the protections that are provided on the job:

- a. Guards on machines and tools keep body parts from contacting moving equipment.
- b. Insulation on electrical equipment prevents burns, shock and fire.
- c. Lockout/tagout assure equipment is de-energized before it is repaired.
- d. Personal protective equipment shields your body from hazards you may face on the job.

In case of emergency:

- a. Understand alarms and evacuation routes.
- b. Know how to notify emergency response personnel.
- c. Implement a procedure for leaving the scene safely so emergency personnel can do their job.
- d. Wipe up spills promptly and correctly.

Safety benefits everyone! By incorporating safety rules, employees avoid injury as well as illness from exposure to hazardous substances. With less injuries, a business can be more productive and profitable. The welfare of the community is also enhanced by providing cleaner air and water and less chance of dangerous accidents that can put lives and property at risk.