

PSC Safety Fax

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Page 2 Weekly Safety Meeting "Gasoline 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

INADEQUATE RESPONSE TO HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL LEAK AT MASS. FREIGHT TERMINAL LEADS TO \$83,500 IN OSHA FINES

METHUEN, Mass. -- A freight hauler's failure to adequately train and equip its workers to respond safely to a chemical release has resulted in a total of \$83,500 in fines from the U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Yellow Freight System, based in Overland Park, Kansas, has been cited for alleged repeat and serious violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act following an OSHA inspection prompted by a Sept. 16, 2002, spill of the hazardous chemical pyridine/2-chloropyridine at its North Reading, Mass., terminal.

OSHA's inspection found that the employees who responded to the release lacked the required training to do so and also failed to wear required personal protective equipment, including appropriate respirators, hand protection and impervious chemical protection suits, explained Richard Fazzio, OSHA's area director for northeastern Massachusetts.

"The lack of these basic safeguards can only increase the dangers posed by a hazardous chemical release," he said. "It's imperative that workers be properly trained and equipped to respond to such incidents, both for their own health and that of their fellow workers."

Fazzio explained that the bulk of the fine, \$75,000, is for four alleged repeat violations, so classified because Yellow Freight has previously been cited for substantially similar violations at facilities in Houston Texas, Tampa, Fla., Albany, N.Y., and Shreveport, La. Two of the citations address the lack of training and appropriate protective equipment for the workers who responded to the release while the other two concern the use of defective forklift trucks and fall hazards from missing guardrails. OSHA issues repeat citations when an employer has previously been cited for substantially similar violations and those citations have become final.

The inspection also identified three alleged serious violations, with \$8,500 in proposed penalties, for exposed live electrical conductors, a slipping hazard, and a ladder with inadequate side railings. OSHA defines a serious violation as one in which there is a substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result, and the employer knew, or should have known, of the hazard. **OSHA News Release**

OSHA ASSISTANT SECRETARY ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Washington, DC -- John L. Henshaw, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health today announced the appointment of John Ferris as OSHA's new Special Assistant for Emergency Preparedness. Ferris will coordinate OSHA's efforts to address emergency preparedness and response in workplaces around the nation.

Ferris comes to OSHA from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), where he served for 13 years as a technical expert in chemical emergency preparedness and prevention. He led the team for the development of regulations under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act and the Clean Air Act's Risk Management Program. John also was the Co-chair of the EPA/OSHA Standing Committee that oversees the coordination of risk management program and process safety management regulations.

"John's skills and experience will serve OSHA well in working with other agencies and organizations to ensure that worker safety and health is addressed in emergency response and preparedness efforts," said Henshaw. **OSHA News Release**

GASOLINE SAFETY

Normally used to power automobiles and lawn mowers, gasoline is too often thought of as fairly safe. The truth is, there is no such thing as a safe flammable liquid.

Gasoline can ignite with explosive force, if confined. Once ignited, it can easily cause severe burns or even death. Gasoline can ignite at -36°F which makes the product extremely hazardous. When vaporized and ignited, one gallon of gasoline has an equivalent heat release of 10 pounds of dynamite or 20 sticks of 50% nitro-dynamite.

You should store gasoline in approved metal or plastic containers only. When transporting gasoline you should take the following safety precautions.

1. While filling a container with gasoline, only fill to the capacity listed on the container. Leaving a vapor space in the can, will allow the gasoline to expand during temperature changes.
2. While transporting gasoline in a vehicle, always place the container in the bed of a pickup truck or the trunk of a car—never in the passenger compartment. Placing a container of gasoline in the passenger compartment can create a hazardous atmosphere inside the vehicle, which can ignite and is harmful if inhaled.
3. Never use the trunk of a car to store a gasoline container; remove the container immediately upon arrival. Your trip should be a short distance, such as to a nearby gas station.
4. Store gasoline cans in a shed or fireproof container when not needed for immediate use.
5. Always move the gas container at least 50 feet from a lawn mower or other gas-powered equipment after fueling and before starting the machine.
6. Always allow gas-powered equipment, such as a lawn mower to cool before refueling. Refueling a hot mower can cause the vapors to ignite or explode, resulting in severe injury or burns to anyone close by.
7. Never smoke or keep an open flame within 50 feet of a gas pump or any refueling activity.
8. Always wash your hands thoroughly after handling gasoline, even if you didn't spill any. Otherwise, you may transfer gasoline to food or inhale it while eating or smoking.
9. Don't use gasoline to start charcoal or other fires. Using gasoline to light charcoal can result in an explosion. Many individuals who try this are badly burned each year. Also, gasoline residue remains after ignition and will permeate into your food during cooking.

Following these rules for the safe handling of gasoline will reduce your chance of injury or even death.

REMEMBER TO PRACTICE SAFETY. DON'T LEARN IT BY ACCIDENT.