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INSIGHTS

ChemStation

Your Commitment...Their Protection

Those heads, eyes, ears, and lungs you're protecting with your PPE program are attached to men and women who keep your business alive. Return the favor by providing effective personal protective equipment (PPE) and making sure employees use it. In the eyes of many people, PPE is workplace safety. A hard hat, steel-toed shoes, and goggles are the most visible symbols of protection.

But safety and health professionals know these items—as important as they are—are only part of a bigger picture that includes a commitment to:

- Writing comprehensive PPE policies
- Selecting equipment that is appropriate for the risk and has the highest chance of being used
- Monitoring employee compliance
- Meeting the requirements of OSHA standards



Be Hard-Headed about Head Protection

To be effective, OSHA says all head protection should meet five basic criteria. It must:

1. Absorb the shock of a falling object
2. Prevent an object from penetrating it
3. Resist water
4. Burn slowly
5. Fit properly

Beyond that, different types of helmet may be appropriate, depending on how much protection is needed based on the hazard faced by the employees. In some circumstances, accessories such as earmuffs or head lamps may be fitted to be worn with the protective helmet. But these must never hinder or interfere with the safety features of the head protection.

THINKING GREEN

Reuse and Recycle

Go the reusable route: What's worse than throwing out barely used paper towels? Spending all that money on them. The cheapest paper towels on the market are about a dollar a roll. If you go through two rolls a week, that more than $200 a year! Save that money and keep dish towels and rags handy. It's much more eco-friendly to launder them than it is to keep buying one-use paper towels.

There are other ways to go the reusable route every day. Think of how much money you'll save if you make the switch to reusable water bottles, cloth napkins, and reusable food containers.

The importance of recycling electronics: Students from Pelham Memorial High School got an education about the importance of recycling their smart phones and other electronics on a tour of the WeRecycle plant in Mount Vernon, New York. The tour gave the students an up-close look at where their old cell phones and computers should properly end up.

Between 300 million and 400 million electronic items are disposed of in the United States every year. Less than 20 percent of that e-waste is recycled. Although e-waste represents 2 percent of America's trash in landfills, it equals 70 percent of overall toxic waste, due to the presence of heavy metals.

Fall Protection

A new slide presentation describes safety methods for preventing injuries and deaths from falls. See www.osha.gov/doc/residential_fall_protection.html.

Medical Emergencies: Are you Prepared?

OSHA Says

The OSHA regulation for medical services and first aid (including first aid equipment, training, and personnel), which is found in 29 CFR 1926.50, says that employers must be able to provide prompt care for life-threatening emergencies – such as stoppage of breathing and severe bleeding – when an infirmary, clinic, hospital, or physician is not reasonably accessible in terms of time (three to four minutes) and distance to the work site. In addition, OSHA expects employers to make provisions for prompt medical attention prior to commencing the project.

If you are required to have first aid providers, those employees must be trained and designated to respond to emergencies at your work site. To be in compliance, the employee must have a valid certificate in first-aid training from the U.S. Bureau of Mines, the American Red Cross, or equivalent training that can be verified by documentary evidence, and must be available at the work site to render first aid.



Noisy Numbers

A sound's loudness is measured in decibels (dB). Normal conversation is about 60 dB, a lawn mower is about 90 dB, and a loud rock concert is about 120 dB. In general sounds above 85 are harmful, depending on how long and how often you are exposed to them and whether you wear hearing protection.

As loudness increases, the amount of time you can hear the sound before damage occurs decreases. Hearing protectors reduce the loudness of sound reaching the ears, making it possible to listen to louder sounds for a longer time.

Most cases of noise-induced hearing loss are caused by repeated exposure to moderate levels of noise over many years, not by a few cases of very loud noise. Wearing hearing protectors can help prevent damage from both moderate and loud noise. For more information about noisy numbers, visit www.dangerousdecibels.org.



SOAPBOX

People have one thing in common…they're all different.

When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the Fire Department usually uses water.

With sufficient thrust, pigs fly just fine.

Some people hear voices…some see invisible people…others have no imagination whatsoever.

If winning isn't everything why do they keep score?

Whoever coined the phrase "Quiet as a mouse" has never stepped on one.

Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

You know your children are growing up when they stop asking you where they came from and refuse to tell you where they're going.

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

ChemStation®

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By the Numbers



Gallons of soap delivered:
166,867,640 since 1984



Empty drums not in landfills:
3,033,957 since 1984