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Robert Bosch LLC Earns VPP Palmetto Star Recognition From S.C. OSHA

By Sharon Dumit

VPP/Outreach Coordinator

The Robert Bosch LLC in Anderson celebrated its acceptance into South Carolina's Voluntary Protection Program on June 12, 2014. In attendance for S.C. OSHA were Dottie Ison, OSHA Administrator, and Sharon Dumit, VPP/Outreach Coordinator. The Bosch facility has been operating since 1985 and has grown to 1,350 employees. The Anderson facility is the second Bosch plant to reach VPP status out of more than 70 facilities in North America. This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication to safety and the culture of the workforce at the Anderson Facility, Ison said South Carolina currently has 40 Palmetto Star sites. To learn more about the VPP program, visit S.C. OSHA's website at www.scosha.llronline.com, or contact Harvey Jessup at 803-896-7787

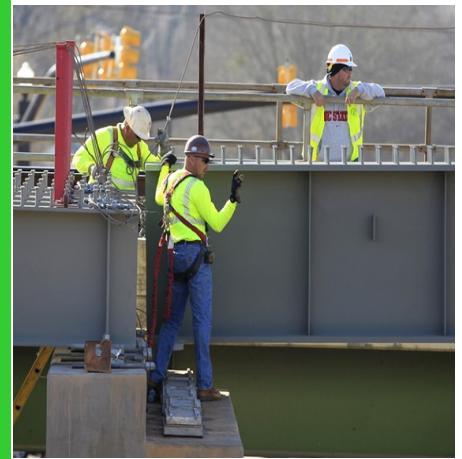


From left to right: Michael B. Roland; Senior Safety Engineer, Sharon Dumit; VPP/Outreach Coordinator, Jill Kupcak; Director Health Safety & Environmental, Dottie Ison; S.C. OSHA Administrator, Russell Keiger; Health Safety & Environmental Manager, John Mirsky; VP Technical & Engineering Services

S.C. Companies participate in National Fall Protection Safety Stand-down 2014

S.C. Companies recently participated in National Fall Protection Safety Stand-down by having events at their sites to raise awareness about falls on construction and manufacturing sites. The following companies participated in the June 2-6 National Fall Protection Stand-down:

- * Choate Construction
- * Harper Corporation General Contractors
- * M.B. Kahn
- * Nucor Berkeley
- * Skanska Construction
- * Trident Construction
- * Gilbane Construction
- * KBR Group
- * McCrory Construction
- * Nucor Building Systems
- * Thompson Construction



BEAT THE HEAT



Every year South Carolinians experience some type of heat wave and are exposed to it at some point throughout the day. Some of our folks are exposed to it for longer periods of time than others. Our construction workers are especially vulnerable during this time of the year and we must pay close attention to the heat index and how it affects workers. To educate our employers and employees on the seriousness of heat injuries during this time of the year OSHA is conducting a campaign to help workers prevent heat illnesses.

HEAT ILLNESS CAN BE DEADLY. Every year, thousands of workers become sick from exposure to heat, and some even die. Heat illnesses and deaths are preventable. Employers are responsible for providing workplaces that are safe from excessive heat.

What is heat illness?

The body normally cools itself by sweating. During hot weather, especially with high humidity, sweating isn't enough. Heat illnesses range from heat rash and heat cramps to heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Heat stroke requires immediate medical attention and can result in death.

How can heat illness be prevented?

Employers should establish a complete heat illness prevention program. This should include: providing workers with water, rest and shade; gradually increasing workloads, and allowing more frequent breaks for new workers or workers who have been away for a week or more to build a tolerance for working in the heat (acclimatization); modifying work schedules as necessary; planning for emergencies and training workers about the symptoms of heat-related illnesses and their prevention; and monitoring workers for signs of illness. Workers new to the heat or those that have been away from work and are returning can be most vulnerable to heat stress and they must be acclimatized .

For workers new to working in the heat or returning from more than a week off, and for all workers on the first day of a sudden heat wave, implement a work schedule to allow them to get used to the heat gradually.

Remember these three simple words: Water, Rest, Shade. Taking these precautions can mean the difference between life and death.

S.C. OSHA STANDARDS OFFICE

By Gwendolyn Thomas
SC OSHA Technical Support Coordinator

S.C. Occupational Safety and Health Administration

10 MOST FREQUENTLY CITED GENERAL INDUSTRY STANDARDS 2013

- 1910.304(g)(6)(vi)(c)(5) No grounding provision for cord and plug connected appliances used in damp or wet locations
- 1910.212(a)(1) Machinery not properly guarded
- 1910.305(b)(2)(i) No covers provided for pull boxes, junction boxes, and fittings
- 1910.215(b)(9) Missing tongue guard on grinder
- 1910.305(b)(1)(ii) Unused openings in cabinets, boxes, and fittings not effectively closed
- 1910.304(g)(5) No permanent, continuous, and effective path to ground
- 1910.1200(h)(1) Inadequate training on hazardous chemicals
- 1910.334(a)(3)(i) No grounding conductor on a flexible cord
- 1910.333(a) No grounding conductor on a flexible cord
- 1910.1200(e)(1) No written hazard communication program

S.C. Occupational Safety and Health Administration

10 MOST FREQUENTLY CITED CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS 2013

- 191926.501(b)(1) Fall Protection – unprotected sides and edges/ residential construction
- 1926.300(b)(2) Unguarded moving parts of equipment
- 1926.602(a)(9)(i) No audible alarms for material handling equipment
- 1926.451(g)(4)(i) Inadequate guardrails on open sides and ends of scaffold platforms
- 1926.100(a) Failed to provide head protection
- 1926.404(b)(1)(ii) Failed to provide approved GFCI's
- 1926.404(f)(6) No permanent and continuous path to ground from circuits, equipment and enclosures
- 1926.404(f)(6) Failed to ensure industrial trucks meet design requirements of ANSI B56.1-1969
- 1926.602(a)(9)(ii) Earthmoving equipment used when the rear view is obstructed
- 1926.152(g)(9) No signs posted prohibiting smoking



WORKPLACE

Q: Has the certification requirement for crane operators been extended to November 2017?

A: No. Employers and crane operators must continue to comply with the requirements of the current provisions which require crane operators on construction sites to meet the qualification and certification date of November 10, 2014. OSHA has announced intent to extend the compliance date for crane operator certification requirements; however, it has not been granted. It is still in the proposed rule phase.

CONCERN'S

INFORMAL HEARINGS

By Karl Maddox
S.C. OSHA Informal Hearing Officer

If you ever find yourself in the position of receiving citations after an OSHA inspection, please make sure you read the information included in the citation packet. Your rights as an employer and the time frames for response are clearly spelled out in the packet, as well as explained by the inspector at the time of closing. There is a limited time for you to exercise your options once you have received the citations in certified mail.

Once you have received the citations, you have 30 days to choose one of three options:

- a) Accept citations as is;
- b) Schedule an informal conference for discussion of the citation(s) with SC OSHA Informal Conference Hearing Officer (*Karl Maddox*) at (803) 896-7687 or (803) 896-7743
- c) File a request for formal contest – a formal hearing before the Administrative Law Court.

If an informal conference is desired, keep in mind that participating in an informal conference does not stay the 30 -day contest period that begins with the date of receipt of the citations. A discussion of the penalty and/or abatement of the citation may be held over the phone. Any discussion regarding the citation must be held in the OSHA office. The citation packet includes a Notice to Employees for informal conferences held for discussion of the citation(s). The Notice to Employees must be posted for at least 24 hours in a place where employees will see it. The Notice to Employees must be provided at the informal conference for it to be held. It is the “ticket” into the informal conference. If an agreement cannot be executed within the 30 - day contest period, the employer must file the Request for Contested Case Hearing and mail it directly to the Administrative Law Court. The OSHA office tries to schedule informal conference within 20 days so there is time left for discussion between both the employer and the OSHA office.

FATAL MISTAKES

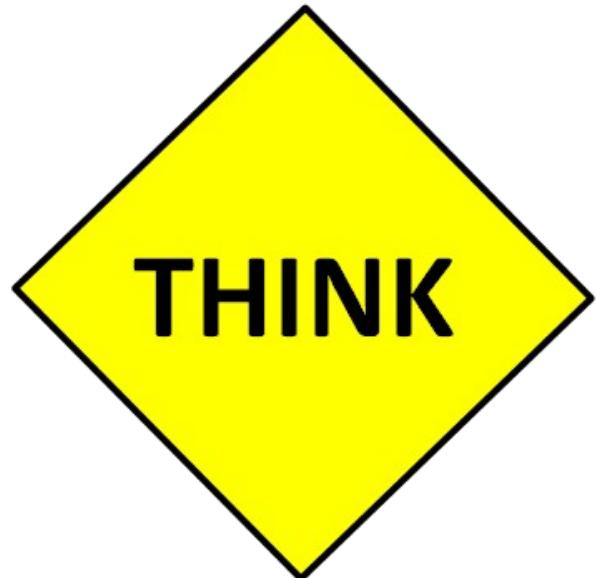
Accident Event: A 45 - year - old male logger died after being struck by a tree.

Investigative Findings: On the day of the accident, an employee was cutting at the base of a 70' tall oak tree approximately 30 inches in diameter using a chain saw. The tract of land was flat at some parts and a steep slope at other parts. When the oak tree was falling, it hit a 40' tall, 23- inch in diameter pine tree causing the oak tree to kick back 15 feet from the stump and struck the employee in the chest and leg. The owner was loading a truck approximately 300 feet away with logs. The owner did not hear the chain saw running and called for the employee. When the employee did not answer, the owner drove a skid steer to the employee's location and found him laying on his back. The employee was pronounced dead from internal injuries.

Recommendations:

- Employee's performing logging operations at a logging work site should be in a position or location that is within visual or audible contact with another employee.
- Employer should have written certification of logging training for employees.

SAFETY FIRST



How can S.C. OSHA help? Workers have a right to a safe workplace. If you think your job is unsafe or you have questions, contact S.C. OSHA at (803) 896-7825. **It's confidential.** We can help. If you believe you have been punished or discriminated against for using your rights, such as raising health and safety concerns or filing a complaint, you must file a complaint with S.C. OSHA within 30 days. No form is required, but you must call or send a letter to S.C. OSHA within 30 days of the alleged discrimination. For other valuable worker protection information, such as Workers' Rights, Employer Responsibilities, and other services S.C. OSHA offers, visit www.scosha.llronline.com.

S.C. OSHA's On-site Consultation Program offers free and confidential advice to small and medium-sized businesses in all counties across the state, with priority given to high-hazard worksites. For more information or for additional compliance assistance contact OSHA at (803)896-7825.