

EFO Safety and Health Committee News

August 20, 2015

OSHA issues long-awaited proposal to protect workers from beryllium exposure

On August 7, OSHA issued a [proposed rule](#) to dramatically lower workplace exposure to beryllium, a widely used material that can cause devastating lung diseases. The long-sought proposal would reduce allowable exposure levels by 90 percent and add other protections. Comments on the proposed rule may be submitted until Nov. 5, 2015, to www.regulations.gov. For more information see [news release](#), [statement](#) and [webpage](#) on the proposed rule.

Alliance participant provides best practices training and technical assistance to OSHA staff

An Alliance between [OSHA and Altec Industries](#) has resulted in training for more than 900 federal OSHA and [State Plan](#) staff on best practices and safe operation of cranes, insulated and non-insulated aerial devices and digger derricks, minimum approach distances to energized sources, and the prevention of electrocutions. Altec also provided technical assistance and engineering resources during a fatality investigation in Wilmington, Delaware where a worker was electrocuted after his bucket lift contacted a power line. Working together through the Alliance Program OSHA and Altec will identify the root causes of the fatality and hopefully prevent similar tragic incidents. Through its [Alliance Program](#), OSHA works with unions, consulates, trade and professional organizations, faith and community-based organizations, businesses and educational institutions to prevent workplace fatalities, injuries and illnesses.

VPP participant promotes culture of safety by encouraging workers to identify and report hazards

Managers at Shermco Industries, a participant in OSHA's [Voluntary Protection Program](#), created a culture of safety in the workplace through a series of initiatives that encouraged workers to find and fix potential hazards. Shermco implemented a program where employees could nominate coworkers who demonstrate exemplary safety practices to receive a special recognition. Employees earned reward points through actions such as reporting hazards and close calls; conducting safety audits or attending safety meetings. Management also identified ways for employees and managers to participate, including creating an employee-led safety team that focuses on non-production safety concerns. For more information, see Shermco Industries' [success story](#).

OSHA updates National Emphasis Program on amputations

OSHA has issued an updated [National Emphasis Program on Amputations](#). The NEP has been in existence since 2006 and is targeted to industries with high numbers and rates of amputations. As in the prior NEP, OSHA is using current enforcement data and Bureau of Labor Statistics injury data to assist with site selection targeting. This updated directive applies to general industry workplaces in which any machinery or equipment likely to cause amputations are present. Inspections will include an evaluation of employee exposures during operations such as: clearing jams; cleaning, oiling or greasing machines or machine pans; and locking out machinery to prevent accidental start-up.

On Jan. 1, 2015, OSHA issued new requirements for [reporting work-related fatalities and severe injuries](#). Employers must now report fatalities within eight hours of learning of the incident and any in-patient hospitalization, amputation or loss of an eye within 24 hours of learning of the incident.

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Employers can report an event by telephone to the nearest [OSHA area office](#) or to OSHA's 24-hour hotline at 800-321-6742. Below are recent OSHA news releases regarding amputations.

- [21 year old loses 4 fingers on his first day](#)
- [Chicken processor faces \\$861K in fines after OSHA finds workers continue to be exposed to serious amputation, electrocution, and fall hazards](#)
- [Inzi Controls Inc continues to expose workers to amputation hazards.](#)
- [Fire truck manufacturer exposes works to amputation and fall hazards](#)
- [Specialty fabric manufacturer cited a second time for exposing employees to amputations, burns and falls](#)
- [Worker's hand is amputated by power press at Akron, OH manufacturer](#)
- [The Atlanta Journal Constitution cited for repeatedly exposing workers to amputation, electrocution and other workplace hazards](#)
- [OSHA again cites Kapco Inc after portion of employee's finger amputated; co-worker had similar injury in 2014 on same machine.](#)

ASSE Region III PDC

The ASSE Region III will hold their 40th Annual PDC on September 20-23, 2015 in Galveston, TX. Click here for their website: <http://region3.asse.org/>

Oklahoma Safety Council Monthly luncheon meetings are held in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Sign up to receive their newsletters at <http://www.oksafety.org/>. They are also hosting OSHA OTI courses through the Region VI Mid-South OTI Education Center. If you have a training need, contact Rocky Waller. Their current calendar is available at <https://www.oksafety.org/training.php>.

OSHA: Sign up for Quick Takes at <https://www.osha.gov/as/opa/quicktakes/index.html>

Contact Jody Reinhart at jody.reinhart@kochind.com with questions or to sign up for the Safety and Health Committee.