



Helping to make your workplace a safe place
www.MySafetyPoint.com

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

Lower Your Loss, and You Will Lower Your Cost!

As you all know, losses are one of the most significant factors that can drive premium. In this issue we will review a few simple guidelines to prevent losses and assist you in keeping your out-of-pocket expenses under control. Some may seem like “no-brainers”, but we can all use a refresher course from time to time.

Talk to your employees about the most frequent and costly injuries experienced in your shop. Get their input on what they think might hurt them on the job, and then ask them what could be changed to prevent those injuries. When employees participate in ways to prevent injuries, they are much more likely to comply with changes you might make.

www.AutomotiveSafetyAssociation.com
Your source for One-Click Access to Loss
Control Documentation

Information and materials attained from
MySafetyPoint.com

General Shop Safety

Hazards in your workplace require special consideration in order to reduce the potential for personal injury. Although it may not possible to list all risks involved in shop work, many hazards are preventable by proper training and evaluation of the potential hazards. Take a few minutes every day to conduct a walk-through of the work areas. As you walk around, watch employees working to ensure they are following all safety procedures you have set in place.

Cleaners/Chemicals

The use of solvents can be toxic or irritating to the skin. All labels should be read and understood prior to use so there is a clear understanding of the potential dangers involved in the use of any particular solvent or cleaner. Caustic cleaners should be clearly labeled as poison. If any of these come in contact with the skin, it should be washed immediately with large amounts of clear water, and immediate medical attention should be sought if necessary. Solvents should never be used to wash any part of your skin.

(See Wash Station Article on Page 2)

Tools

Tools are a huge investment and should be kept clean and organized. This allows for quick inspection and location with each use. An open ended wrench that is loose or a twelve-point box wrench with worn teeth could slip and result in an injury. Worn tools should be properly discarded and all tools should be cleaned on a regular basis to assure maximum safety and efficiency when using.

Compressed Air

A charged compressed air hose should never be pointed at anyone or use it to clean clothing. Air hoses can be dangerous, even when used solely for its intended purpose. Debris blowback into the operator's face can cause serious eye injuries. To avoid this, protective eye wear should be worn at all times when operating an air hose or by placing a shop towel over the area to catch the blow back.



AUTOMOTIVE SAFETY ASSOCIATION (ASA)

Patrick Prendiville; Administrator
24661 Del Prado, Suite 3, Dana Point, CA 92629
877-487-9696 office • 877-532-7238 fax
www.AutomotiveSafetyAssociation.com

Please direct all questions
regarding the association to the
administrative assistant, Judy Noecker
Judy@PrendivilleAgency.com

Wash Stations & Showers

Federal regulations state eyewash stations and showers are required “Where the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, **suitable** facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within the work area for immediate emergency use.”

Employers first need to determine whether or not they are required to provide this type of equipment. To do this, they should identify hazards and determine exposures.

Employers should consider:

Equipment,
Handling and use, and
Worksite conditions

Employers should evaluate factors such as:

Physical state
pH
Temperature
Reactivity

Employers should consult:

MSDS
Manufacturer
Chemical guidance

Once it has been determined that this type of equipment is necessary, the next step is to choose the type of station needed. There are two types available.

- The first is a plumbed unit.
- The second is a self-contained unit.

These must be located on the same level as the hazard (must be immediately adjacent for strong acids and caustics). The area must be well lit and clearly identified. The access to the station must be free of obstructions and be located no more than 10 seconds away (approximately 55 feet).

Employers must also address the following:

- Flushing fluid
- Flow rate
- Water temperature
- Activation

The flushing fluid must be potable water, preserved water, preserved buffered saline solution or other medically acceptable solution. Regarding the flow rate, they must be capable of providing .4 gallons per minute for 15 minutes and showers 20 gallons per minute for 15 minutes. The temperature of the flushing fluid should be between 60- and 100- degrees Fahrenheit.

Activation

Self-contained units should be:

- Visually inspected weekly

Plumbed units should be:

- Tested weekly
- Run units for at least three minutes to reduce the chance of a bacterial infection

References: MySafetyPoint Technical Bulletin

For more information on Health and Safety related issues affecting workers, visit OSHA's Website at www.osha.gov and MySafetyPoint at www.MySafetyPoint.com

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