



NEWS FROM STEEL TANK INSTITUTE - STEEL PLATE FABRICATORS ASSOCIATION

Safety & Health SPOTLIGHT

NOTE about Username/Password: Many of the links in *Safety & Health Spotlight* require login to the Members Only pages on STI/SPFA's website at www.steeltank.com. If you already have a username and password, click "Members" and log in. If you don't have Member access, [contact our office](#).
[Click here for guide to website navigation.](#)

Valuable info from STI-SPFA's Safety & Health Committee



Several items in this issue of *Spotlight* result from discussions at the Safety & Health Committee meeting held April 25 and 26, at the STI-SPFA Annual Meeting in Hilton Head, SC.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated and active group of members serving on the Safety & Health Committee. The committee meets at every Fall Conference and Annual Meeting and you are welcome to attend and participate.

[Read Safety & Health Committee minutes and more...](#)

OSHA Confined Space Rule effective August 3

OSHA's new rule addresses the fact that "Construction workers often perform tasks in confined spaces - work areas that (1) are large enough for an employee to enter, (2) have limited means of entry or exit, and (3) are not designed for continuous occupancy. These spaces can present physical and atmospheric hazards that can be prevented if addressed prior to entering the space to perform work."

OSHA's new Confined Spaces rules are effective August 3,



JUNE 2015 Members Only

In This Issue

[Valuable info from S&H Committee](#)

[Confined spaces rule effective August 3](#)

[Regulatory update](#)

[Member awarded NSC's Green Cross](#)

[Take another look at WebNetTraining FREE](#)

[Preventing welding fires](#)

[Carl Carruth, OSHA attorney](#)

[Isocyanate exposure](#)

[Marijuana and the workforce](#)

[STI-SPFA celebrates 100 years](#)

[Safety booklets revised](#)

[Navigating the website](#)

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Should someone
else at your
company be
reading Spotlight?
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and email address!](#)

2015. [Click here to see OSHA's information and compliance page.](#)

Robert Clouse of Phoenix Fabricators & Erectors (STI-SPFA Safety and Health Committee chairman) is a member of ANSI/ASSE's A10.43 "Confined Spaces in Construction" working group, which is currently developing the ANSI standard.

[What is the difference between an OSHA regulation and an ANSI Standard?](#)

[Back to top](#)

Regulatory update

from Jim Rhudy

A regulatory update is presented at every meeting of the Safety & Health Committee. Jim Rhudy, STI-SPFA's safety consultant, noted these items at the meeting April 25 in Hilton Head, SC:



*Jim Rhudy,
STI-SPFA Safety Consultant*

- OSHA proposes revisions to eye and face protection standards, to align with latest ANSI standards.
- June 1 was the deadline for compliance with OSHA's new Hazard Communication (HazCom) forms and labels. ([See HazCom FAQs here.](#))
- California OSHA has enacted a new law holding employers who use subcontractors accountable for workplace safety.
- California OSHA also recently issued [new guidelines on heat-related illnesses](#). The heat minimum has been reduced to 80 degrees F and triggers new requirements and pre-shift meetings to review high heat procedures. ([See CalOSHA Q&A here.](#))

[Back to top](#)

Member awarded NSC's Green Cross for Safety



STI-SPFA Member CB&I was awarded the National Safety Council's Green Cross for Safety award earlier this year. The medal is presented to an organization and its CEO that "have distinguished themselves through outstanding safety leadership and have showcased their commitment to safety by building successful partnerships to save lives and prevent injuries."

In an interview in NSC's Safety & Health in February, CB&I's president and CEO, Philip K. Asherman said, "Every day, all around the world, more than 55,000 people come to work for CB&I. They are what make this company great, and every day we make a commitment to be relentless in our efforts to keep them safe."

FREE consulting services for Members Only

**Safety & Health
JIM RHUDY**

jrrhudy@yahoo.com
281-419-5839

**Steel Fabrication
BILL HERDMAN**

wherdman@sbcglobal.net
317-885-1270

**Fire Codes
JEFF SHAPIRO**

Jeff.Shapiro@Intl
CodeConsultants.com
512-795-2900

**Join our
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Safety & Health Spotlight is published quarterly for Members Only.

Editor: Noël Zak,
Membership/Communications Manager

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Congratulations to our friends at CB&I!

[Read more...](#)

[Back to top](#)

OSHA removes capacity from Operator Certification

Users and manufacturers succeed

In a June 1 press release, the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) reported that, "After four years of protests by crane users and manufacturers about OSHA's position that crane operators should be certified according to the capacity of the crane, the federal agency has removed the requirement."



OSHA issued the draft regulatory language in May. It left the certification requirement essentially unchanged, except that "certification will only be by *type* of crane—not by *capacity*."

[Read the NCCCO's press release...](#)

[Back to top](#)

Take another look at WebNetTraining

A benefit of your STI-SPFA membership

WebNetTraining™ is a web-based safety training system designed to complement or replace many of the safety training classes required to comply with OSHA. The system also automatically documents and monitors all results, making record-keeping much simpler.



Joe Griffith of Member Paso Robles Tank offers WebNetTraining™ during employee hiring. "I love the program," Joe says. "Workers are able to do the training at home and the documentation is great."

More than 60 modules are available in one subscription, including:

Back safety	Guarding floor and wall openings	Hand and power tool safety
Confined space entry	Hazard communication	Hearing conservation
Contractor safety	Heat-related illness awareness	Industrial fire prevention
Electrical safety	Ladder safety	Lockout/tagout
Fall protection	Machine guarding	Forklift safety
Overhead crane safety	Personal protective equipment	Scaffold safety
Slips, trips and falls	Walking - working surfaces	Violence in the workplace

WebNetTraining™ features:

- All programs **designed by safety professionals** to reach employees with information they need to be safe.
- Content and delivery **comply with OSHA training requirements.**
- **Track and document employee participation.**
- Presentations **delivered on-line to any personal computer** (utilizing Macromedia Flash technology), delivering high quality graphic images, text and audio.
- A powerful, interesting and **interactive learning experience for employees.**
- **Training records accessible** by company administrator at any time and downloaded on request.

Special STI-SPFA Member rate only \$30 per employee per year. For a one-week FREE trial, contact [Dana Schmidt](#).

[Back to top](#)

Preventing welding fires

PEI and AWS offer advice

It's not enough to take a quick look around for obvious hazards. Welders need know what's combustible and carefully inspect the work area, adjacent areas, and welding equipment to prevent fire.

A Petroleum Equipment Institute (PEI) *Safe Practices* brief says, "According to The Warren Group, a South Carolina-based property and casualty loss analysis firm, four main welding dangers exist:

1. "Holes, openings, and cracks in which a slag can hide and smolder, sometimes going unnoticed for hours before breaking out.
2. "Flammable materials, such as sawdust, rags, and even dust in the air, that will burn if enough heat and oxygen are available. Fires can ignite suddenly and violently, or smolder undetected for hours before flaring up.
3. "Flammable vapors and gases that can cause powerful explosions if they mix in the right proportion with air. Sources of flammable vapors are fuel tanks and volatile liquids left by other workers. Flammable gases can come from faulty gas lines or tanks, or even from leaks in the welding equipment itself.
4. "Welding on tanks or pipes that have contained flammable liquids or gases. Tanks or pipes should be emptied and thoroughly cleaned, then tested for flammable residue before welding begins. As an added precaution, tanks should be filled with water to within a few inches of the welding area."



A safety plan should be formulated and approved by a competent welding engineer.

[Read PEI's Safe Practices "Preventing Welding Fires"...](#)

[Back to top](#)

Carl B. Carruth to advise S&H Committee Top OSHA attorney

A well-known attorney in defending OSHA citation cases, Carl Carruth is now a participant on STI-SPFA's Safety & Health Committee.

Carruth presented "**Defending against OSHA allegations: Your rights as an employer**" at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Hilton Head. Here are few key points he made:

- Steel erection standards normally do not apply to tanks.



Carl Carruth,
McNair Law Firm

- Supporting structures are not regarded as part of the tank.
- OSHA standards generally prevail over industry standards.
- If you receive a citation six months or more after an incident, and the problem has already been corrected, you may have a statute of limitations defense.
- Always read the Preamble to a standard, as it's often the best interpretation.
- OSHA's Letters of Interpretation can help you prevail in a citation case. If you do find a Letter of Interpretation that supports your case, print it immediately and keep it in a safe place, as OSHA sometimes removes Letters of Interpretation from its website.

Carruth is a member of McNair Law Firm and has defended employers in the litigation of numerous contested OSHA and MSHA citations nationwide before the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, and state agencies with OSHA jurisdiction.

[Back to top](#)

Isocyanate exposure

An OSHA Directive issued in June 2013 initiated a National Emphasis Program to identify and reduce or eliminate the incidence of adverse health effects associated with occupational exposure to isocyanates.

OSHA defines isocyanates as compounds containing the isocyanate group (-NCO). Isocyanates are the raw materials that make up all polyurethane products. They react with compounds containing alcohol (hydroxyl) groups to produce polyurethane polymers, which are components of polyurethane foams, thermoplastic elastomers, spandex fibers, and polyurethane paints.

Jobs that may involve exposure to isocyanates include painting, foam-blowing, and the manufacture of many polyurethane products. The main effects of hazardous exposures are occupational asthma and other lung problems, as well as irritation of the eyes, nose, throat, and skin.

[OSHA's Health Topics page about isocyanates...](#)

[Back to top](#)



Marijuana and the workforce

Groups issue guidelines

Two worker health groups have published guidance intended to help employers respond to marijuana use among the workforce.

The American Association of Occupational Health Nurses and the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine issued the recommendations in light of changing state laws and individual attitudes regarding the drug.

Both groups said all marijuana use is prohibited for workers covered by federal drug testing regulations, and the drug could be prohibited for all employees in safety-sensitive positions. "The safety of workers and the public must be central to all workplace policies, and employers must clearly articulate that legalization of marijuana for recreational or medical use does not negate workplace policies for safe job performance," the guidance states. "This changing environment surrounding marijuana use requires close collaboration between employers, occupational health professionals and legal experts to ensure workplace safety is not compromised."

[Read the AAOHN/ACOEM "Marijuana in the Workplace" article...](#)

[Back to top](#)



STI-SPFA celebrates 100 years

Notice something new in the *Spotlight* header at the top?

That's STI-SPFA's new logo, celebrating our 100th Anniversary.

The Steel Tank Institute was established in 1916 in Kewanee, Illinois, by a group of industry business people. The minutes of that first, informal luncheon meeting list representatives of these companies:

- National Steel Tank Mfg. Co., Bradford, Ill.
- Murphy & Walsh, Pekin, Ill.
- Morrison Bros. Co., Dubuque, Iowa*
- Milwaukee Reliance Boiler & Tank Co., Milwaukee, Wis.
- S. Wilkes Mfg. Co., Chicago, Ill.
- Weil Brothers, Indianapolis, Ind.
- C.F. McDaniel, Ottumwa, Iowa
- Chicago Boiler Works, Chicago, Ill.*
- Kewanee Boiler Co., Kewanee, Ill.
- National Boiler & Sheet Iron Works, Indianapolis, Ind.



Oil delivery, c. 1920.
Photo: Eaton Metals

*Morrison Bros. Co. and Chicago Boiler Works are members of STI-SPFA to this day.

There's more to come [on our website](#) as STI-SPFA celebrates its 100th Anniversary and the history of the steel fabrication industry.

[Back to top](#)

Safety booklets available

[Click here to order the latest editions:](#)

- **Basic Safety Rules** booklet for warehousing, fabrication and construction. This booklet serves many members as their company rules book.
- **Tank Builders Scaffold Guidelines** booklet can stand alone or compliment the Scaffold Guidelines Presentation.



[Back to top](#)

How to navigate www.steel tank.com for Safety & Health resources

You'll find a broad array of information and resources for your safety program on STI/SPFA's Members Only Safety & Health pages. Having trouble finding those pages? [Here's a website navigation document to help.](#)

If you already have a username and password, log in and click "Safety & Health Pages" on the Welcome page. If you don't have Member access, [contact our office.](#)

Our website is a valuable resource for you as a safety and health professional. Check out these useful links:

- **Training Resources:** Materials for use by Member companies for safety training sessions—more than 100 presentations and posters



- **Personnel Incidents**
- **Safety & Health FORUM:** Recall notices, training resources, personnel incidents and news. Join in the discussions.
- **WebNet Safety Training:** Train employees inexpensively, at your plant, for a full year via the Internet
- **OSHA Issues:** Updates to OSHA programs of current interest
- **Tank Use Mishaps:** Monthly online newsletter with stories of mishaps involving tanks and petroleum
- **Safety Awards:** STI-SPFA's Safety Award of Excellence and the Safety Award of Achievement

[*Go to the Members Only Safety & Health Pages...*](#)

[Back to top](#)