



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 STI/SPFA website at www.steeltank.com. If you already have a username and password, log in and click "Members" on the homepage. If you don't have Member access, [contact our office](#).

NEW!

Safety & Health FORUM online

More than a blog, more than a discussion board--STI/SPFA's new [Safety & Health FORUM](#) is the place for members to get and give the latest safety info.



We're posting safety reports, recalls, personnel incidents and training resources on the Forum. You can post your own items, discussions, reflections and ideas, too. (Past posts of this information are still on the website. See the Safety & Health pages.)

Get timely notification with RSS feed

With RSS feed, you are notified when there's a new post on the Forum. You can choose how often and what categories of notifications to receive. Click on the RSS logo at right to get to the Forum and sign up.



To get to the S&H FORUM, login to the website, go to Members Only and click on the link. [Click here](#) If you need a member username and password.

APRIL 2013 Members Only

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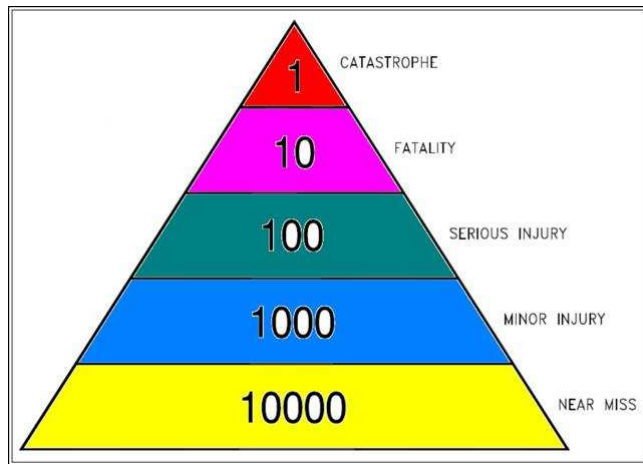
**Should someone
at your company
be reading
Spotlight?**

**[Click here to send us
name and email
address!](#)**

"Near Miss, Good Catch"

A hit presentation at Annual Meeting

Cory Evans, Safety Director at Fisher Tank, presented "Near Miss, Good Catch" at STI/SPFA's Annual Meeting in Bonita Springs in March. He explained the importance of a safety program that not only tracks incidents, but also tracks the "near misses" and "good catches" that occur more frequently.



Why it's important to track

According to Cory, a *near miss* is an unplanned event where no property was damaged and no personal injury sustained, but had the potential to do so. A *good catch* recognizes an event or circumstance which had the potential to cause an incident or critical incident but which did not occur due to corrective action and/or other timely intervention.

The Safety Triangle illustrates how tracking "near miss" incidents can ultimately prevent serious injuries or even a fatality.

As shown in the illustration, tracking and recording near misses and good catches has the potential to reduce risk of a serious injury, fatality or catastrophic event.

Cory's suggestions when implementing a "near miss, good catch" safety program include:

- Track near-misses the same as you would track incidents.
- Track company-wide so you can see near misses at all locations, not just one shop or office.
- Break down the trends into categories (specific tool, certain job task, training, etc.) allows you to focus in a specific area.

Thanks to Tim Racicot, Cory Evans and the Safety & Health Committee

Cory Evans' presentation is part of the STI/SPFA Safety & Health Committee's ongoing series. The concept for Near Miss, Good Catch originated with committee chair Tim Racicot of Nooter/CIC Group.

At both Annual Meeting and at the Fall Conference, the committee is responsible for safety presentations developed by members and other industry experts. Each presentation is reviewed by the committee, refined and polished, and then appears on an upcoming meeting agenda.

The Global Harmonization System for Hazard Communication is the topic planned for the safety presentation at STI/SPFA's Fall Conference, September 9-11 in Houston. Safety professionals from member companies should plan to attend for this and other relevant presentations. The Safety & Health Committee will meet, as well, and all are welcome to participate.

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Great article

on confined spaces

Myths, Magic, Urban Legends and the Facts

John Rekus of Environmental Health & Safety magazine wrote a comprehensive article about confined spaces back in 2001 that's still worth reading.



"Much of the popular information circulating about confined spaces is simply wrong. Confined spaces don't have to be labeled. Oxygen levels of 19.5 percent aren't necessarily 'safe' for entry. The mere possibility that an atmospheric hazard may exist doesn't necessarily mean that a confined space is a permit space. Showing employees a 20-minute video or sending them to a one-day, state-sponsored fire rescue institute seminar doesn't mean they have been trained."

[Click here for this great article on confined spaces](#)

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Regulatory updates

STI/SPFA Safety Consultant Jim Rhudy



At every meeting of the Safety & Health Committee, Jim Rhudy updates the group about regulatory changes and initiatives relevant to the steel fabrication industry. Jim is a retained safety consultant for STI/SPFA and its members.

Here are highlights from the committee meeting held at Annual Meeting in March:

- **Workers must be trained** in the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals **by December 1, 2013**. OSHA's webpage provides a Hazardous Communication presentation, and STI/SPFA's Safety & Health Committee has a training presentation on the website. This will be the safety program at STI/SPFA's Fall Conference, September 9-11 in Houston.
- OSHA's priority remains the **Illness and Injury Prevention Program (I2P2)**. Employers should have a process in place to identify and correct hazards (such as the "Near Miss, Good Catch" program noted elsewhere in this newsletter). OSHA has a slide presentation about the importance of I2P2.
- During 2013, OSHA plans **eight final rules and seven notices of proposed rulemaking**. Final rules include construction confined spaces, walking and working surfaces, and personal fall protection systems. Proposed rules include silica, injury and illness reporting systems, crane and derrick standard, and employee signage.
- **New Fact Sheets and Quick Cards** on Cranes and Derricks in Construction and Wire Rope are available from OSHA's publications page.

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Tragedies a wake-up call

At QC Meeting, members share experiences

STI members place enormous emphasis on safety, but tragic incidents can still occur. At STI's biennial Quality Control Meeting, held May 9-10 in Cleveland, two members shared their stories.

Palmer Mfg. facility destroyed by fire

Corky Tabor of Palmer Manufacturing told about a fire in their FRP production facility last December. The fire also destroyed the building that housed Palmer's engineering department, including computers and paper files.

"Fortunately, while some people had smoke inhalation problems, no one was seriously injured," said Corky. "Palmer's safety training program demonstrated its worth on the day of the fire. Every staff member knew his role and how to respond."

Palmer has recovered quickly: the fire occurred in December 2012 and they expect to open their new building this spring.



USEMCO employee suffers compound fractures

Joe Zaleski of USEMCO spoke of a personnel incident at their plant. A worker was using improper S-hooks and lifting procedures to raise a catwalk. As plant supervisors sat in a scheduling meeting, they heard his screams as he suffered compound fractures of both legs.

"It's a sound we'll never forget," said Joe. "We've taken steps to make sure this doesn't happen again. Those S-hooks, normally used in the painting area, are now secured so they can't be used improperly."

Thanks to our host and sponsors

All attendees at the QC Meeting toured Lincoln Electric Company's Cleveland facility as part of the program. Several Affiliate Members stepped up to support the meeting with sponsorships and tabletop displays.

QC Meeting presentations available online soon

The nearly 150 attendees at the QC Meeting participated in presentations on topics relevant to AST and UST construction, technical specifications, coatings, fuels and more. These presentations will be posted on the Members Only area at www.steeltank.com by the end of May.

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35 member companies receive Safety Awards

Recognized at Annual Awards Banquet



Safety is a fundamental concern for all in the steel fabrication business. At the awards banquet at this year's Annual Meeting, member companies were recognized for their safety achievements.

- The Safety Award of Excellence recognizes companies whose employees have achieved a safety record of 12 consecutive months with Zero OSHA Recordable Incidents.
- The Safety Award of Achievement acknowledges companies whose employees have achieved a minimum of a 10 percent reduction in the rate of OSHA Total Recordable Incidents, as compared with their average rate for the prior three years.

[Click here](#) to see the 2012 Safety Award recipients. Congratulations to all!

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Mass. drafting new rules for forklifts and hoisting equipment

Public comment invited in June

For members located or selling in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the latest word is that new draft regulations covering forklifts and hoisting equipment are expected to be published in early June.

A [Massachusetts Department of Public Safety](#) official said that public comments on the draft rules will be sought at that time.

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OSHA protection for temporary workers

Workers' Memorial Day remembers those who died on the job

According to an April 19th press release, the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has launched an initiative to further protect temporary employees from workplace hazards. The announcement was made during a program at the department's headquarters marking Workers' Memorial Day - an annual observance to honor workers who have died on the job and renew a commitment to making work sites across the country safer.

OSHA sent a memorandum to the agency's regional administrators directing field inspectors to assess whether employers who use temporary workers are complying with their responsibilities under the Occupational Safety and Health Act...

[Click here to see entire story](#)

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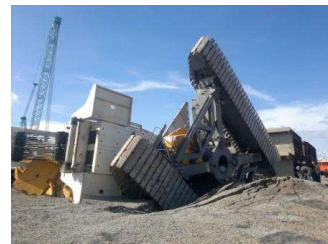


FAQs on cranes and derricks OSHA answers 50 questions

Here's a resource you may have forgotten: OSHA has a page devoted to frequently asked questions about cranes and derricks.

[Click here to go to the page](#)

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Preventing Workplace Stress

Stress not only causes physical symptoms like disturbed sleep and sore muscles, it also can lead to reduced productivity and morale.

This article by Michael Aust, courtesy of J.E. Spear Consulting, offers suggestions for reducing workplace stress.

[Click here to read Preventing Workplace Stress](#)

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Photo from Aust article.

Our rep to the

American Ladder Institute

Activity on ALI A14 Standards Committee

Ken Wade, Health & Safety Coordinator at Taylor Forge Engineered Systems, is stepping up to be SPFA's primary representative on the ALI A14 Standards Committee. Ken has served as alternate for the last few years.



ALI A14 is the Safety Code for the Construction, Care and Use of Ladders. The Safety Requirements for Ladder Accessories was recently balloted to the ALI A14 committee, and Ken provided his input.

Thanks for stepping up to volunteer, Ken!

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STI/SPFA's

Safety & Health resource pages

Find a broad array of information and resources for your safety program on STI/SPFA's [Safety & Health Committee website pages](#). 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. Check out these useful links:

- [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
- [Training Resources](#): Materials for use by Member companies for safety training sessions--more than 100 presentations and posters
- [OSHA Issues](#): Updates to OSHA programs of current interest
- [Tank Use Mishaps](#): STI/SPFA monthly online newsletter with stories of mishaps involving tanks and petroleum
- [Safety Awards](#): Information about STI/SPFA's Safety Award of Excellence and the Safety Award of Achievement



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Puzzled? Call STI/SPFA's consultants

Contact them for FREE assistance

Got a question or a quandary about safety, processes or codes? Did you know that as a Member of STI/SPFA, you have access to a group of expert consultants? STI/SPFA has contracted with them to provide brief, complimentary consultation services.

Take advantage of this Members Only benefit. Contact our consultants:



- **Safety & Health: Jim Rhudy, jrrhudy@yahoo.com, 281-419-5839**

- Fabrication: Bill Herdman, wherdman@sbcglobal.net, 317-885-1270
- Fire Codes: Jeff Shapiro, Jeff.Shapiro@IntlCodeConsultants.com, 512-795-2900

[Click here](#) to print the consultant contact list

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