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## JULY 2012 Members Only

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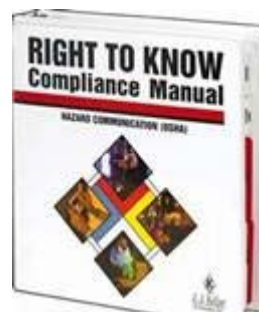
## HazCom implementation tips

The final rule aligning OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (1910.1200) with the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals went into effect May 26. The new rule is intended to more easily communicate substances' hazards through labels and Safety Data Sheets with a standardized approach using pictograms, signal words, and hazard and precautionary statements.



Click here for an [OSHA document comparing the old and new hazard communication requirements](#). And in a special issue of OSHA's twice-monthly newsletter *Quick Takes*, the agency provides details about the new hazard communication regulations. Topics include:

- About OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (HCS)
- The Right to Understand
- What is the Globally Harmonized System (GHS)?
- Why Modify HCS?
- Benefits of Harmonization
- Changes to Anticipate
- What Do the New Pictograms Look Like?
- What Employers Need to Do and When (Effective Dates)



[Click here](#) for the complete OSHA newsletter

## Don't discriminate with injury reporting policies

### OSHA field and whistle-blower investigators watching



A new [memorandum](#) from assistant OSHA administrator Richard Fairfax provides guidance to agency field officers and whistleblower investigators on employer practices that discourage injury reporting by employees.

The March 12 memo advises OSHA regional administrators and whistleblower program managers to be aware of four potentially discriminating policies employers may have regarding an employee who reports an on-the-job injury:

- Taking disciplinary action regardless of the circumstances of the injury
- Disciplining an employee for violating an employer rule about the time or manner for reporting injuries and illnesses
- Disciplining an employee for an injury that resulted from the employee violating a safety rule
- Offering incentives to not report injuries; for example, offering prizes to employees who were not injured in the previous year

Such policies could discourage reporting of injuries and could be considered unlawful discrimination, Fairfax said in the memo. Retaliation against an employee for reporting an occupational injury is a violation of Section 11(c) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

--Reprinted from Membership News Alert, March 23, 2012. ©2012 National Safety Council

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## Rulings against OSHA

### OSHA denied on record-keeping violations

An appellate court ruled against OSHA on May 25, stating that record-keeping violations are limited to six months. The court rejected OSHA's view that the agency can cite an employer for record-keeping violations after the six month statute of limitations set out in the Occupational Safety & Health Act.



### Safety managers MAY sign OSHA logs

It only makes sense that a company's safety manager should be able to sign off on OSHA logs. A recent court decision confirms it.

A North Carolina company received an "other-than-serious" violation because a company executive had not signed 300 OSHA logs over two years. Even though the injury reports were certified by the company's safety and risk manager, OSHA administered the violation because he wasn't the "highest ranking company official" at the facility. The company contested the citation, arguing that the requirement was too vague.

Initially, an Administrative Law Judge upheld the fine, but the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (OSHRC) rejected it, concluding that the law isn't too vague, but that the safety and risk manager was a sufficiently high-ranking official. As the company's "corporate safety officer," this employee has "the power to sign reports and submit records to government agencies."

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## Focus on S&H at Fall Conference

For safety professionals like you, STI/SPFA's Fall Conference is a valuable opportunity to not only learn from expert presentations, but also to network and share experiences with your peers in the steel fabrication industry.

Don't miss **Aerial Lift Safety**, presented by Danny Vara, Safety Manager at Wyatt Field Services. His comprehensive presentation will include:

- Referenced OSHA standards
- Responsibilities of owners and operators
- Safety inspections
- Requirements for stability



*Tipovers are the most common aerial lift accident*

All Members are welcome, too, at STI/SPFA's **Safety & Health Committee meeting**. One topic likely to be discussed is ANSI A10.43, Confined Spaces in Construction. This standard is undergoing a complete revision and there are issues of vital interest to the steel fabrication industry.

As a safety professional, you owe it to yourself to gather with others in the industry. You'll gain insights and connections that can pay off for you and your company. Meeting registration is discounted for each additional person attending from the same Member company, so talk to your colleagues and bring a group!

[Click here to learn more about STI/SPFA's 2012 Fall Conference](#)

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## OSHA resource: Fall Prevention

### Falls are the leading cause of death in construction

In 2010, there were 264 fall fatalities (255 falls to lower level) out of 774 total fatalities in construction.

OSHA has launched a [Fall Prevention Campaign webpage](#) that includes training videos for preventing falls through floor openings and from fixed scaffolds.

Don't forget that STI/SPFA now has an [online training presentation](#) to complement the *Tank Builders Scaffold Guidelines* booklet. Both items are free of charge to Members.

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## Hazards of The Big Heat

This summer of 2012 is already a record-breaker, with much of the country at 90+ temperatures. Here are some important heat safety tips:

- **Avoid "energy drinks:"** They often contain caffeine, which constricts the blood vessels, making it harder for your body to thermo-regulate.
- **Drink LOTS of fluids** before, during and after spending time in hot environments, whether in the plant or outdoors.
- **Avoid layering flame-retardant clothing:** The layers insulate your body, making it harder to cool.
- **Know your limitations:** Health and medical factors can make you more susceptible to heat-related illness.



- **Take extra precautions when using some PPE:** Consider the increased risk of heat-related illness when using respiratory protection, chemical suits/gloves, etc. and modify the scope and time of tasks accordingly.

[Click here](#) for more on these topics, including useful heat stress advice related to PPE. Thanks to Member Nooter/CIC Group for sharing this safety information.

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## Sample: Safety assessment checklist

As reported in the April issue of *Safety & Health Spotlight*, STI/SPFA's Safety & Health Committee has posted several checklists on our website. [Here's a sample checklist](#) you can print out.

There are more checklists on the [Members Only/Safety & Health page](#); you must login with your username and password for access. Don't have them? [Contact us](#) for help.



While these checklists are useful in assessing your safety program, it's important to remember that each manufacturer is responsible for complying with state requirements and local rules.

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## Recent items from our blog

If it's hot news, we've got it! And now the STI/SPFA blog has a new name, too. Formerly Tank Talk News and Updates, **Steel Fab Blog** more accurately reflects the broadening interests of the steel fabrication industry and our Members.

Check the [Steel Fab Blog](#) frequently. Better yet, subscribe to the RSS feed so you'll be notified when there's a new post. And feel free--please!--to comment on anything that interests you. You'll find instructions right on the blog page--click on the orange RSS icon. Here's a sampling of recent posts:

- Within Hours, Caustic Vapors Wreaked Quiet Ruin on Biggest U.S. Refinery
- Fracking chemicals registry
- Engineering better fracking practices
- Well-pad preparation and drilling in the Marcellus Shale
- California biofuels regulation requires your action
- EPA UST docket

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## "Hot Work, Hidden Hazards"

### CSB's video based on 2010 fatal hot work accident

Inadequate gas monitoring lead to the death of a welder at the DuPont plant near Buffalo, NY, in 2010.

CSB chair Dr. Rafael Moure-Eraso said that the accident "...exposed weaknesses in how process hazards were analyzed and controlled." Although DuPont monitored the atmosphere above the tank, nothing was done to see if there was flammable vapor inside the tank.



The 11-minute video details the events leading up to the accident and features computer animation. It's available to stream or download on [www.csb.gov](http://www.csb.gov) and can be viewed on CSB's [YouTube](#) channel.

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## Distracted driving awareness

"One text or call could WRECK it all"

That's the tagline for the US Department of Transportation's latest effort to curb distracted driving. At <http://www.distraction.gov/>, you'll find "the pledge," posters, flyers and sample employer policies to help you inform and educate your co-workers about the dangers of distracted driving:

- Drivers who **use handheld devices** while driving are four times more likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves.
- **Text messaging** creates a risk 23 times worse than driving while not distracted.
- **Sending or receiving a text** takes a driver's eyes from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of a football field--blindfolded.
- **Reaction time is delayed** to the same level as the legal limit of 0.08% for alcohol when the driver is using a cell phone, whether handheld or hands-free.



While the focus for distracted driving awareness has been on teens, [DOT's program](#) addresses adults and employers, too.

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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](mailto:jrrhudy@yahoo.com), 281-419-5839
- Fabrication: Bill Herdman, [wherdman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wherdman@sbcglobal.net), 317-885-1270
- Fire Codes: Jeff Shapiro, [Jeff.Shapiro@IntlCodeConsultants.com](mailto:Jeff.Shapiro@IntlCodeConsultants.com), 512-795-2900



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

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## STI/SPFA's Safety & Health resources

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 "Members" on the homepage. If you don't have Member access, [contact our office](#). Our website is a valuable resource. Check out these useful links:

- [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
- [Equipment Failures](#) : Descriptions of equipment recalls and failures, as well as solutions
- [OSHA Issues](#) : Updates to OSHA programs of current interest
- [Personnel Incidents](#) : Discussion of personnel incidents and lessons learned
- [Tank Use Mishaps](#) : STI/SPFA monthly online newsletter with stories of mishaps involving tanks and petroleum
- [Safe Tank Alliance](#) : OSHA Alliance Program with STI/SPFA, NFPA and API
- [Safety Awards](#) : Information about STI/SPFA's Safety Award of Excellence and the Safety Award of Achievement



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