

Compliance Corner

NATIONAL

OSHA industrial hygienists are conducting independent air monitoring on shore and on cleanup vessels. OSHA is monitoring hazards from exposure to oil and any other toxic chemicals that may threaten worker health. OSHA posted this data on its website (www.osha.gov/oilspills/oil_directreading_bysite.html), and will continue to post all new data. "We must be vigilant" because "conditions can change," Michaels told *BusinessWeek*. For more information about OSHA's activities in the Gulf and to get worker safety guides and factsheets. Visit the oil spill cleanup response web page at www.osha.gov/oilspills/index.html

STATE / LOCAL FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE TIPS:

If you want to have your own fireworks display, please make sure your fireworks are legal in your area and also check with the local municipality or government agency to ensure that they do not have additional restrictions on them and follow these safety tips:

- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions
- Never try to relight fireworks
- Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from buildings, leaves and flammable/combustible materials
- Be sure others are out of range before lighting fireworks
- Keep a bucket of water close by in case of a malfunction or fire
- Always use common sense

While summer is a fun and enjoyable time and fireworks can seem like simple and fun entertainment, the numbers show that they can be dangerous. So have your family and group gatherings and cookouts, but we recommend that you visit one of the numerous professional fireworks shows that are conducted each year for your viewing pleasure.



For Safety's Sake...

Copperheads and cottonmouth/water moccasins are two of the most popular venomous snakes in our area. They can be a serious threat to any workers who spend time outside. It has been estimated that 7,000–8,000 people per year receive venomous bites in the United States. In the last three years, we have had two employee injuries due to snake bites. Our experiences ended in success because the employee sought immediate medical care. It is important to know about the risk of exposure to venomous snakes, and how to prevent and protect ourselves from snake bites.

Workers should take the following steps to prevent a snake bite:

- Be sure your first aid kit is in your County vehicle and is complete
- Wear leather gloves when handling brush and debris.
- Wear boots and long pants when working outdoors
- Do not try to handle any snake.
- If you work tall grass, ravines or subsurface vaults; be sure to use a probe and not to lead with your hand .
- If you are climbing on rocks or piles of wood where a snake may be hiding, be sure to wear all the protective equipment issued to you to put as many barriers between the culprit and you.
- Be aware that snakes tend to be active at night and in warm weather.

Workers should take the following steps if they are bitten by a snake:

- Seek medical attention as soon as possible (dial 911 or call local Emergency Medical Services.)
- Try to remember the color and shape of the snake, which can help with treatment of the snake bite.



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- Keep still and calm. This can slow down the spread of venom.
- Inform your supervisor.
- Apply first aid if you cannot get to the hospital right away.
- Lay or sit down with the bite below the level of the heart.
- Wash the bite with soap and water.
- Cover the bite with a clean, dry dressing.

Do NOT do any of the following:

- Do not pick up the snake or try to trap it.
- Do not wait for symptoms to appear if bitten, seek immediate medical attention.
- Do not apply a tourniquet.
- Do not slash the wound with a knife.
- Do not suck out the venom.
- Do not apply ice or immerse the wound in water.
- Do not drink alcohol as a painkiller



Trivia Contest

Enter for a chance to win!

What is the term used for the type of caution that should be taken when dealing with blood and other potentially infectious materials?

To be eligible for the next drawing, email your answers to: safetyreviewboard@brunsc.net

Trivia Answer from last edition

Question:
How many different training opportunities for Brunswick County employees are mentioned in this newsletter?

Answer:
7 Training Opportunities

Congratulations to Bob Campbell for correctly answering last edition's trivia.



The Safety Inspection Team is coming to a location near you... This year the Safety Inspection Team has completed 5 audits to date. The next one is scheduled for next week. Be sure to work with this team when they arrive at your workplace. This is your opportunity as an occupant of a County facility to get things done right!

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While driving, check your blind spot for motorcycles, especially at intersections.

A Safety Tip brought to you by your Safety Review Board.



Safety Review Board
www.safetyreviewboard.com



When things go BOOM! Tips for keeping your 4th of July celebrations safe.

Brunswick County Fire Marshal Scott Garner reminds residents and visitors to think about safety when it comes to fireworks. Each year thousands of Americans are injured in fireworks related incidents. Hands and fingers were the most common

body part injured, followed by eyes and then legs. The most common injuries are burns and eye injuries (contusions, lacerations and foreign bodies).

The laws regarding fireworks in North Carolina are very strict and only snakes, glow worms, smoke devices, trick noisemakers (party poppers, string poppers, snaps or drop pops), and devices that emit showers of sparks. Sometimes whistling or crackling effects are allowed, as long as they do not detonate or explode, spin or propel themselves through the air and do not contain more than 75 grams of chemical per tube (or more than 200 grams total if it includes multiple tubes).

Our close proximity to the South Carolina line, where more volatile types of fireworks are legal, causes an assortment of issues here. Shooting off fireworks that perform more explosively, no matter where they were purchased, is a violation of North Carolina Law and violators are subject to civil and criminal penalties and confiscation of the illegal fireworks. Some local municipalities have more restrictive laws governing fireworks and may not allow them at all. If you want to have your own fireworks display, follow the safety tips from the Fire Marshal located in the **Compliance Corner** section of this newsletter.

FAQ's About Heat Stressors...

What is the best way to cool someone down when they are overheated?

During the "Golden Half Hour"—the first 30 minutes after a person begins to exhibit signs of heat injury, ice water immersion is the best technique. The goal is to lower the body's core temperature to 100–102°F.

What's the best way for someone to know when they are not drinking enough liquid?

By doing a "color check." When you have been drinking enough fluids (and are well-hydrated), your urine will be a very pale color. The light colors indicate good hydration and the darker colors indicate a need to increase water intake.

If an employee becomes overheated, *remember the Golden Half Hour and begin these steps to cool down the overheated employee immediately after dialing 911 and the outcome will be a positive one.*

Keep in mind, the summer months ahead. Plan according and respond effectively!



Off The Wall Training...

Post this on the wall for everyone to see



Take Away Tips..... Personal Protective Equipment Standard (PPE)

The purpose is to provide employees with protective equipment for protection from known workplace hazards. A Job hazard analysis (JHA) is used to determine whether employees must wear PPE. Employees issued safety equipment are required to wear it. PPE is used to guard against: impact, penetration, compression, chemical exposure, heat, dust or light. PPE should not be used as a substitute for engineering controls, work practices or administrative controls. An employee with a health/medical condition must have a note from the doctor if they are unable to wear safety equipment. Working components of our PPE Policy: Eye and Face Protection • Head Protection • Foot • Hand Hearing • Electrical • Respiratory. All protective equipment issued to employees is: Employee issued and owned • Designed for the job performed • Assessed to ensure protection from hazards associated with job • Inspected for defective or damaged equipment • Certified when needed (respiratory). Evaluation and revisions are necessary annually or when the work process changes. Review your job activities with your co-workers and supervisor to look for best practices and engineer out any hazards for your occupation. Some Brunswick County occupations that are required to wear protective equipment are:

Landfill employees	Equipment Operators	Construction Workers
Park Attendants	Building Inspectors	Automotive Mechanics
Paramedics	Solid Waste Services	Engineering Inspectors
Utility Workers	Meter Readers	Landscapers

For Your Personal Protection, the First Aid Kit located in the trunk of your county vehicle is checked when you bring your car in for scheduled maintenance.

Email safetyreviewboard@brunsc.net to schedule your PPE Training.



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