

Compliance Corner

NATIONAL

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) released a historic new standard, addressing the use of cranes, slings, hoists and derricks, that replaces a decades old standard. The significant number of fatalities associated with the use of cranes and technological advances in equipment since the old rule, issued in 1971, led to recent changes. Significant requirements included in this new rule that would impact Brunswick County are: use of synthetic slings; assessment of ground conditions; qualification or certification of operators; and procedures for working in certain areas.

STATE

There are 10 roadway projects under construction and 36 in development stages in Brunswick County. Speeding in designated work zones in North Carolina can result in a significant penalty of \$250 plus court costs and three driver license points. For roadwork updates, go to www.ncdot.gov, click on projects and select the region you live in, or will be traveling to, for construction or delays.

LOCAL:

Be on the lookout for the new BC Intranet site...coming soon! Included on the new site will be a new Risk Management section. Just click on the Risk Management tab to get useful information on accident prevention, training, and procedures to protect employees and citizens. Stay informed and be SAFE!



Maintenance at Waccamaw Park



this issue

Compliance Corner **P.1**

For Safety's Sake **P.1**

Trivia **P.2**

Alcohol Fatality Coalition **P.2**

Evacuation Planning **P.2**

Chart of Injuries **P.2**

Off The Wall Training **P.2**

For Safety's Sake...

The black widow and brown recluse are two of the most popular venomous spiders in our area. They can be a serious threat to any worker who spends time outside. It is important to know about the risk of exposure to venomous spiders, and how to prevent and protect ourselves from spider bites.

Black widow spiders are identified by the red hourglass shape on the underside of their abdomen and are usually found in workplaces with undisturbed areas such as woodpiles, under eaves, fences, and areas where debris has accumulated. Webs are usually built between objects, and bites usually occur when humans come into contact with these webs. The bite can be identified by two puncture marks in the skin. The venom is a neurotoxin that produces pain at the bite area and then spreads to the chest, abdomen, or the entire body.

Brown recluse spiders are brown with a characteristic dark violin-shaped marking on their head and are usually found in workplaces with secluded, dry, sheltered areas such as underneath structures logs, or in piles of rocks or leaves. Brown recluse spiders cannot bite humans without some form of counter pressure. The bite may cause a stinging sensation with localized pain. A small white blister usually develops at the site of the bite. The venom can cause a severe lesion by destroying skin tissue.

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

- Inspect or shake out any clothing, shoes, towels, or equipment before use.
- Wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, hat, gloves, and boots when handling stacked or undisturbed piles of materials.
- Minimize the empty spaces between stacked materials.
- Remove and reduce debris and rubble from around the outdoor work areas.
- Trim or eliminate tall grasses from around outdoor work areas.
- Store apparel and outdoor equipment in tightly closed plastic bags.
- Keep your tetanus boosters up-to-date (every 10 years). Spider bites can become infected with tetanus spores.

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

- Stay calm. Identify the type of spider if it is possible to do so safely. Identification will aid in medical treatment.
- Wash the bite area with soap and water.
- Apply a cloth dampened with cold water or filled with ice to the bite area to reduce swelling.
- Elevate the bite area if possible.
- Do not attempt to remove venom.
- Notify your supervisor.
- Immediately seek professional medical attention.



Trivia Contest

Enter for a chance to win!

What is used to determine whether employees must wear personal protective equipment?

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

Trivia Answer from last edition

Question:

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

Answer:

Universal Precaution

Congratulations to Prudy Gaskill, Julie Faulk and Jackie Rogers for correctly answering last edition's trivia.

Lifting Technique...

To determine if something is too heavy to lift by yourself; size up the item by tipping it on its side to see if you can carry it comfortably. Do this before you take on too much of the load!



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If you have not consumed any alcoholic beverages, offer to drive a friend who has been drinking, or call a cab.

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



Safety Review Board
www.safetyreviewboard.com

A
DEADLY MIX
Don't drink and drive!



Time for a Change!!

Brunswick County Alcohol Fatality Coalition

Last month a sub-committee of the Brunswick Resource Coalition, Inc. met with local leaders to talk about the alcohol related crash and fatality rates in our area. The folks involved are bringing a big message of change to the table when it comes to drinking and driving. The sheriff's office has introduced Sgt. William J. Caulk, Jr., from the ACE Team to be the change agent for Brunswick County's social norm of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Sgt. Caulk revealed the strategy for changing the perception and the culture when it comes to alcohol use. An area of focus for the task team is the stricter enforcement of laws as they pertain to driving while impaired. Education is another area of focus in rising to the challenge of changing the social culture when it comes to alcohol. After

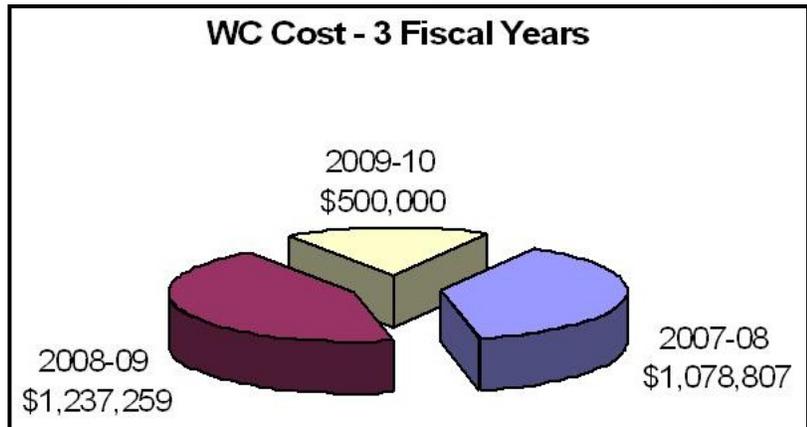
attending one of these educational sessions with your teenager, or anyone who has an interest in driving, you will come away with valuable tools to share! Thanks to this dedicated team for making our roadways and safer.



Workers Compensation

Transitioning to Self Insured

The County transitioned to a self insured worker's compensation program July 1, 2009. It was predicted that this type of program would allow the County to manage costs while saving insurance premium dollars. The end of this fiscal year brought good news to the County in terms of cost savings. Over \$500,000 was retained to build a fund to support the program year after year. The end result is more focus on employee safety, less money paid out for insurance premium and an opportunity to afford upper level loss prevention measures to employees. Risk is greater, but so are the savings. Safety as a value, brings more returns for you and the workplace. The most frequent injuries sustained by employees are sprains/strains, contusions and cuts. Take an inventory of your work area, apply your knowledge, protecting yourself by eliminating the visible hazards and take time to anticipate ones you don't see. Your safe working practice is the best prevention program you can invest in!



Off The Wall Training...

Post this on the wall for everyone to see



Take Away Tips...Equipment Safety

To guard against injury caused by equipment used at work, use the 3 E's of safety: Eliminate, Educate and Engage. Perform daily visual inspections and/or use a checklist for equipment or workspace before you start work.

- **Eliminate** any hazards you can, with engineering controls
- Use all protective devices provided to perform your job safely
- **Educate** co-workers about any new changes in processes, workspace or change-up in the routine
- **Engage** in discussion with co-workers and supervisors about new methods to eliminate hazards

These tips and more will apply to all areas. Remember to know your work area and do your part to keep it free of recognized hazards.

Respiratory SCBA Training and Fit Training are being scheduled now. Email safetyreviewboard@brunscos.net to register.

Once the new INTRANET SITE launches, you can go there to view the safety training calendar and don't forget to email the Safety Review Board to schedule your departmental training for August!