

S.A.F.E.

"Safety Always For Employees"

COMPLIANCE CORNER

NATIONAL With the recent workplace fatalities in the mining industry killing 29 people in West Virginia, the Mining Safety & Health Administration (MSHA) has begun a focused investigation. Since the company in question was fined in the past for similar workplace infractions, this increases the possibilities of willful citations; bringing criminal charges against the owner.

STATE Recently, a company in Wilmington was cited for unsafe hoisting operations and inappropriate procedures for lifting. An employee of Paiges Marine was killed after an attachment broke and a 3,000 lb. boat fell on him. The citations carry a total fine of \$10,500. This pales in comparison when looking at the loss to the family. Performing routine inspections on equipment is a critical part of the safety program. This month, Brunswick County has focused on material handling where we have our sling and hoists inspected and employees retrained on use. Currently, Operation Services and Utilities use this type of equipment for heavy lifting and loading. If you operate loading equipment, be sure to attend one of the training sessions provided. Email the SRB (safetyreviewboard@brunscosco.net) for more details.

LOCAL The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has notified approximately 15,000 employers with injury and illness rates at their worksites that are considerably higher than the national average. In a letter sent to those employers, Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, explained that the notification is an active step to encourage employers to act now to improve safety and health conditions in their workplaces. Brunswick County has not received this type of letter, since we are below the national average for injury rates. However, Brunswick County is the 5th fastest growing county in the state, and along with that comes high exposure to hazards in the workplace. Practice safe work methods by following compliance standards for your job. If an OSHA compliance officer comes to your worksite, notify your supervisor immediately.



Brunswick County
Safety Review
Board

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FOR SAFETY'S SAKE...The Utilities Department recently purchased a new road safety trailer. It is designed to carry all items needed to meet Federal and State requirements for employees working in the Highway Right-of-Way. It is equipped with flags, directional arrow board, cones, man hole guards and more for employee and citizen safety. Since road work is high hazard work, this piece of equipment will increase visibility and reduce hazards.



The Department of Transportation is assertive in ensuring "Work Zones" are safe work areas, by citing violations that carry fines and criminal charges.

Be sure to slow down when you see a Work Zone and let people live!

TRIVIA—Enter for a

What Brunswick County occupation has experienced the highest number of accidents this year?

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

H1N1 VACCINE - How long is the vaccine effective to fight off disease? According to the CDC, the vaccine will be effective until early spring of 2010 (April/May). However there is no recommendation at this time for any adults to get a second or booster shot. Some vaccines last longer than others according to the disease it is fighting off. Influenza viruses tend to mutate from year to year or a different strain becomes predominant which is why we need to get a flu shot each year. Keep in touch with the Brunswick County Health Department for more information on keeping flu free!



If you see a S.A.F.E. practice, e-mail us at: safetyreviewboard@brunscosco.net

OFF THE WALL TRAINING...

(POST THIS ON THE WALL FOR EVERYONE TO SEE)

Forklift Training Class will be provided by Operation Services for employees on Wednesday, April 28th from 8:30 am until 12:00 pm. There is room for 15 employees this session. If you have anyone that is interested in this class, please have them contact Jeff Brown at ext. 2507 to reserve their space.

Work Zone Traffic Control regulations changes go into effect July 1, 2010. All employees who direct traffic must be trained and have a certification of training along with a flagger card showing they have been trained. Brunswick County will host a training session. Contact the Utilities department for more information on where to get certification.

Office Safety is provided by Debbie Isenhour and Eileen Gardner. Confirm your department training early by emailing requests to safetyreviewboard@brunscoco.net

Competent Person Training, hosted by the North Carolina Industrial Commission, will be held for all employees who require this training for their jobs. For more information email safetyreviewboard@brunscoco.net.

Respirator Safety - OSHA has produced two new videos that feature training and guidance on respirator safety. The "Respirator Safety" video shows healthcare workers how to correctly put on and take off respirators, such as N95s. The "Difference between Respirators and Surgical Masks" video explains the particular uses for each one and how they prevent worker exposure to infectious diseases. Viewers can watch both English and Spanish versions by visiting the Department of Labor's [YouTube](#) site.

The 3rd Annual Safety Week, hosted by the SRB, will be held May 10th - 14th.

Safety is a learned behavior. Share your best behavior with everyone!

TRIVIA CONTEST

Jan/Feb Edition

Question:

What day of the week do the most accidents occur for Brunswick County employees?

Answer: *Wednesday*

Look for the trivia question in this newsletter and enter for your chance to win!



SPRING CLEANING GUIDELINES

Housekeeping

Housekeeping is the routine care and maintenance that is performed daily to function safely and properly. Good housekeeping is one of the easiest and least expensive ways to eliminate hazards often cited as violations of the General Duty Clause (blocked entrances and exits; sticking doors; slip, trip and fall hazards; lack of or improperly stocked first aid kit; cuts & lacerations from bent/protruding objects on walls/floors).

Good housekeeping reduces injuries/accidents, improves morale, reduces fire potential, makes operations efficient and is an overall sign of good management.



Tips for Establishing Good Housekeeping Habits

- Establish daily, weekly and monthly cleaning procedures.
- Establish a roster of individuals responsible for cleanup.
- Identify cleanliness and safety expectations for everyone; aisles, spills trash, storage.
- Maintaining a clean workspace is everyone's responsibility.

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Safety Programs start with a clean-up campaign.

SAFETY AUDITS AT COUNTY PARKS

Safety Audits will be taking place at the County's parks in April and May in preparation for the numerous activities scheduled for recreation. If you see a hazard in one of our parks, help out by notifying the Safety Review Board:

safetyreviewboard@brunscoco.net

