



Safety News

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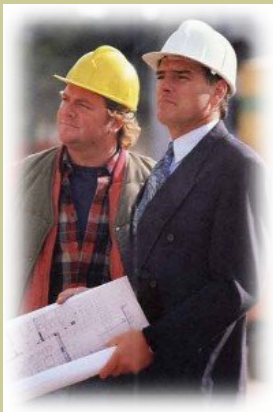
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THE NEXT NEW OSHA ARRIVES

From IHSN—After listening to Labor Secretary Hilda Solis and acting OSHA boss, Jordan Barab speak Monday, June 29th, at the opening conference of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) annual professional development conference, held in San Antonio, it appears OSHA is in for it's most dramatic policy swing in decades.

"We've got a very activist Secretary of Labor and a very activist head of OSHA," said a longtime safety professional after the eventful day.

TEN TENETS OF OBAMA'S OSHA

Here are highlights of the new agenda, as laid out by Solis and Barab:

1. OSHA is back. DOL Secretary Solis and OSHA Chief Barab have strong union ties, and are pushing an aggressive OSHA plan that in large part mirrors goals organized labor has promoted for OSHA.
Solis, for instance, spoke of her working class parents in Los Angeles, both union members, "fighting side by side on their shifts to ensure workers came home safe," and instilling in her the value that you "fight for what is right."
2. More than 150 new inspectors will be hired in fiscal year 2010.
3. Number of annual inspections will increase from 38,000 nationwide to perhaps 44,000, according to some sources. OSHA has not announced any inspection quota or target.
4. Penalties will be higher for violations. Consider these six-figure-plus fines proposed since Inauguration Day in January: more than \$1.1 million in penalties to Milk Specialties Co. in Whitehall, WI; more than \$355,000 in fines against a NH firearms manufacturer; more than \$141,000 in fines against Hess Corp.; \$105,000 in proposed penalties against an Orlando manufacturer; a Petrolia, PA, chemical company fined more than \$121,000; fall hazards at a Torrington, CT, site lead to more than \$118,000 in penalties; \$273,000 in fines against a Jamestown NY employer for lack of asbestos safeguards; and an El Paso, TX construction contractor fined \$106,000 for alleged safety violations.
5. New standards will come out on diacetyl flavoring used for popcorn, combustible dust exposure protection, cranes and derricks, confined space in construction, and rewriting the hazard communication standard to be consistent with new international MSDS laws. This is commonly called the Global Harmonization System (GHS).
6. Broad, sweeping new standards will come out in 2011 or 2012 on ergonomics and basic requirements for having an overall safety and health program.
7. Overall, OSHA will be more aggressive with standards and policing/enforcement than in the last 20 years.
8. The boom years are over for VPP growth. Unions don't like VPP (continued on page 2)



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"It's All About You"

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- because they argue OSHA's audits of candidate companies to gain entry to VPP program are too weak.
9. Incentive programs are not favorites of the new OSHA leaders. Again, this reflects the union thinking. Unions argue incentive programs lead to workers not reporting injuries in order to win prizes, and a focus on worker behaviors over plant physical conditions.
 10. Recordkeeping and safety in the chemical industry will receive particular scrutiny as the objects for forthcoming OSHA National Emphasis Programs.

"WE'RE BACK", said the diminutive Solis, smiling as she stood in a concrete back hallway that exits the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, talking with Barab following a brief press conference that came after her ten-minute speech to about 3,300 ASSE members at the meeting's opening session, held in a cavernous, generic convention ballroom.

"Make no mistake about it," she told the standing room only crowd which lined the hall's walls and had attendees sitting on the floor, "the Department of Labor is back in the enforcement business. We are serious, very serious."

Labor Secretary Solis comes across as the toughest talking DOL head since Elizabeth Dole in the early 1990's took an active interest in OSHA affairs and informed business and the safety profession, "the cop is back on the beat."

OSHA Sweeping Up on Combustible Dust Citations



Over the last 16 months, OSHA compliance officers have conducted 813 inspections at companies where employees may be exposed to potential combustible dust hazards. In these visits, the agency has identified 3,662 violations. Housekeeping, hazard communication, personal protective equipment, electrical, and general duty clause violations are cited most frequently as a result of these inspections. The visits are part of the agency's ongoing National Emphasis Program (NEP) it says is designed to reduce workers' exposure to combustible dust hazards.

"Any company that has combustible dust, or thinks that it may have combustible dust, needs to intensify housekeeping, review hot work processes, evaluate electrical equipment for possible Class II locations, prohibit smoking or flames in dust laden areas, ensure that relief venting on dust collection systems releases the dust to a safe location, and develop and/or review an emergency action plan," says OSHA Regional Administrator Cindy Coe.

Dust fires and explosions can pose significant dangers in the workplace and can occur when five different factors are present. The five factors are oxygen, an ignition source (heat, an electrical spark or a spark from metal machinery), fuel (dust), dispersion of the dust, and confinement of the dust. These five factors are referred to as the "Dust Explosion Pentagon." If any one of these factors is removed or is missing, an explosion cannot occur, OSHA notes.

Industries affected by the emphasis program include: agriculture; chemical; textile; forest products; furniture products; wastewater treatment; metal processing; paper processing; pharmaceutical; and metal, paper, and plastic recycling.

Source: ohsonline.com

Anyone can become angry. That is easy. But to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose and in the right way - that is not easy.. -Aristotle (384-322 BC) - Greek philosopher



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"It's All About You"

The Hand Tools Institute Hand Tool Quiz



Confused as to how and what hand tool to use when tackling a do-it-yourself project? You are not alone says the Hand Tool Institute, an association of North American hand tool manufacturers. The following ten true or false questions deal with hand tools commonly found in most households. Test your knowledge—10 correct is excellent; 9 is good; 8 is fair; 7 or less, poor.

1. Plastic covered handles on wire cutting pliers may be used to cut low voltage live electrical wire. (True) (False)
2. When tightening a nut with an adjustable wrench, always pull the wrench toward you; never push the wrench away from you. (True) (False)
3. Claw hammers may be used to strike wood chisels (True) (False)
4. When wood splitting, the flat striking face of an axe may be used to strike a wood splitting wedge. (True) (False)
5. Screwdrivers may be used for purposes other than driving or removing screws, such as prying open can lids. (True) (False)
6. Vises should always be secured to the workbench with screws. (True) (False)
7. Snips are permissible for cutting wire. (True) (False)
8. Open end wrenches may be used to free a frozen nut. (True) (False)
9. A proper use of the ball pein hammer is striking chisels and punches. (True) (False)
10. Safety goggles should always be worn whenever you are using hand tools. (True) (False)

Answers

1. False. Plastic cover handles are for comfort only. Always cut off electrical power before cutting.
2. True. Pulling gives better leverage and balance. Most importantly, the force of the pulling should be on the fixed jaw.
3. False. Claw hammers are for driving and removing nails only.
4. False. Only sledge hammers or wood-splitting mauls should be used to strike wood splitting wedges.
5. False. Screwdrivers must be used only to tighten or remove screws and for no other purpose.
6. False. Never screwed. Bolted is correct.
7. False. Wire cutters are correct. Snips are for cutting sheet metal.
8. False. Box open is the correct wrench.
9. True. Ball pein hammers are specifically hardened to strike chisels and punches.
10. True. Safety goggles should always be worn when working with hand tools to prevent eye injury.