



This newsletter is to inform you of recent changes and trends regarding health and safety. The Turning Point is a monthly newsletter covering topics from various industries and sectors. The Turning Point will respond to your inquiries and inform you of current services and updates regarding Raising the Standard Consulting Inc.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR UPDATES

US Labor Department cites 2 Illinois grain elevator operators for willful safety, child labor violations following deaths of 3 workers, including 2 teens

Employers fined nearly \$1.4 million

MOUNT CARROLL, III. – The U.S. Department of Labor has fined Haasbach LLC in Mount Carroll and Hillsdale Elevator Co. in Geneseo and Annawan, Ill., following the deaths of three workers, including two teenagers. The workers were killed when they suffocated after being engulfed by grain.

“The tragic deaths of three people could have been prevented had the grain bin owners and operators followed the occupational safety standards and child labor laws,” said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. “It is unconscionable to allow a minor to work in any high-hazard area. Haasbach’s and Hillsdale’s disregard for the law and commonsense safety practices has led to devastation for three families.”

At least 25 U.S. workers were killed in grain entrapments last year, and the numbers of entrapments are increasing, according to researchers at Purdue University. There were more grain entrapments in 2010 than in any year since they started collecting data on entrapments in 1978.

“Grain entrapments kill workers. All employers, especially those in high-hazard industries, must prevent workers from being hurt or killed as a result of recognized hazards,” said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels. “There is absolutely no excuse for any worker to be killed in this type of incident.”

The fines to both companies total \$1,352,125. Haasbach was issued 25 citations from the department’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration with a penalty of \$555,000 following an investigation into the deaths of the two young workers, Wyatt Whitebread and Alex Pacas (ages 14 and 19 years old, respectively), at the company’s grain elevator in Mount Carroll. A 20-year-old man also was seriously injured in the July 2010 incident when all three became entrapped in corn more than 30 feet deep. At the time of the incident, the workers were “walking down the corn” to make it flow while machinery used for evacuating the grain was running.

The department’s Wage and Hour Division’s separate investigation found that Haasbach violated the Fair Labor Standards Act’s Child Labor standards for employing anyone less than 18 years of age to perform hazardous jobs prohibited by the act. As a result, the division issued Haasbach \$68,125 in civil money penalties. More information on child labor rules and hazardous occupations can be found at <http://www.dol.gov/elaws>.

Hillsdale Elevator was issued 22 citations by OSHA following the death of a 49-year-old worker, Raymond Nowland, who was engulfed by corn in a storage bin at the company’s facility in Geneseo. OSHA discovered additional violations during a later inspection of the company’s Annawan facility. Consequently, OSHA issued the company \$729,000 in fines.

Since 2009, OSHA has fined grain operators in Illinois, Colorado, South Dakota and Wisconsin following similar preventable fatalities and injuries. In addition to enforcement actions, OSHA sent a notification letter to grain elevator operators warning them not to allow workers to enter grain storage facilities without proper equipment, precautions and training. “OSHA will not tolerate non-compliance with the Grain Handling Facilities standard,” said Michaels in the letter. “We will continue to use our enforcement authority to the fullest extent possible.”

OSHA’s Region V, which includes Illinois, Ohio and Wisconsin, initiated a Grain Safety Local Emphasis Program in August 2010, and has since conducted 61 inspections and issued 163 violations to grain operators/facilities. The violations cover hazards associated with grain engulfment, machine guarding, lockout/tagout of dangerous equipment to prevent accidental energization start-up, electricity, falls, employee training and combustible dust hazards.

These investigations also fall under the requirements of OSHA’s Severe Violators Enforcement Program. Initiated in the spring of 2010, SVEP is intended to focus on recalcitrant employers that endanger workers by committing willful, repeat or failure-to-abate violations in one or more of the following circumstances: a fatality or catastrophe, industry operations or processes that expose workers to severe occupational hazards, employee exposure to hazards related to the potential releases of highly hazardous chemicals and all per-instance citation (egregious) enforcement actions. For more information on SVEP, visit <http://www.osha.gov/dep/svep-directive.pdf>.



Statement by Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis on continued heat waves sweeping the country

WASHINGTON – Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis today issued the following statement regarding continued record temperatures:

“Four weeks into the summer, the nation continues to experience record heat. For outdoor workers, this means being at risk for heat-related illnesses, including heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Employers must take the precautions needed to protect outdoor workers:

- Have a work site plan to prevent heat-related illnesses and make sure that medical services are available to respond to an emergency should one occur.
- Provide plenty of water at the job site and remind workers to drink small amounts of water frequently - every 15 minutes.
- Schedule rest breaks throughout the work shift and provide shaded or air conditioned rest areas near the work site.
- Let new workers get used to the extreme heat, gradually increasing the work load over a week.
- When possible, schedule heavy tasks for earlier in the day.

“Tell workers what to look for to spot the signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke in themselves and their co-workers, and make sure they know what to do in an emergency. OSHA has fact sheets and posters that illustrate the signs of heat-related illnesses, and the steps that you can take to prevent them at your work site.

“Remember: water, rest, shade - the three keys to preventing heat-related illnesses in this extreme heat.”

U.S. WORKERS ARE IGNORING IMPORTANT SAFETY PROCEDURES



Putting them at risk for workplace injuries, according to the results of a survey on safety.

The results showed that 89% of the respondents reported having observed failure by workers to wear their personal protective equipment (PPE) at work, in areas where the equipment was required. It is “disheartening” to find workers continuing to take unnecessary chances with their personal safety by not wearing protective equipment when performing hazardous tasks. In fact, the level of noncompliance has been increasing. In 2006, the rate of noncompliance reported by respondents was 85%; in 2007, this rate rose to 87%, and now it is 89%.

Not surprisingly, with the high noncompliance level, at least a third of respondents cited the failure to comply with safety procedures as the main workplace safety issue in their companies.

At the second rank was the issue of inadequate management support and/or inadequate resources to support health and safety functions (27%). This was followed by under-reporting of injuries and illnesses suffered in the workplace (14%), training complexities on a multilingual, multicultural workforce (7%) and rising compensation costs to workers (5%).

IS THE WORSENING ECONOMY AN UNDERLYING FACTOR?

The worsening state of the economy may partly explain the continued non-compliance. More than a third (34%) of the respondents cited the economy for having reduced their firms’ ability to allocate budgets for safety resources and worker training programs, but 59% did not blame the economy.

Among the 34% who said the economy had affected their safety programs, further probing showed that:

- * 63% said their firms had less money for education and training
- * 42% said personnel assigned to take care of safety training functions were reduced
- * 33% said management had to prioritize business imperatives over safety concerns.

Injuries at the workplace cost American companies at least \$50 billion a year.

SAFETY TIP

Make sure the PPE in your company is one that workers want to wear. Workers may want their PPE to be more comfortable, or even more stylish in design.

Sign Up Today!

RTS CONSULTING offers PPE Web Based Training for only \$20 per person: www.rtsconsulting.com

Core Values ... How essential are they?

Are character and integrity seen as core values in your organization?

We offer specialized training in the importance of integrity for both executives and workers. Character and integrity are addressed regarding the workplace, marriage, and finances, in our training modules. Throughout this training, you’ll see how important character and integrity really are and just how much they affect everything, from the safety of your workers to the financial success of your business.

Please visit <http://rtsconsulting.360training.com> to register



10|30 hour training

WEB-BASED training

Raise the safety, health, and productivity of your employees to the top of your agenda and provide training solutions that deliver real results. We provide web-based training programs for the convenience of your organization

Emphasis: The classes are prepared for presentation to workers. They emphasize hazard identification, avoidance, control and prevention, not OSHA standards and regulatory codes. The presentations are tailored to the needs and understanding of the audience. Each class is evaluated to determine the best methods of training before the class begins.

Site-Specific Training: We believe that the most rewarding classes for students are the ones they can relate to because the trainer uses examples, pictures, and scenarios that come from the student's work place, industry or community.

Training Purpose: We explain up front, that the training isn't a bureaucratic exercise. We emphasize that it may save a life & help them continue to provide for their family. We explain that safety & health add value to the company, the workplace and their life.

Homogenous Class: The ideal class to teach is one where students have similar positions and needs. We endeavor to conduct separate training classes for supervisors, managers, and workers as much as possible unless a combined session would assist the students in fostering a culture of teamwork. We also try to separate workers into like groups, for example, office personnel, machine operators, and maintenance staff when possible.

Use Objectives: At the beginning of each session we describe the skills and abilities the students should have or exhibit for each topic and relate the objectives to the students' work, whenever possible.

Presentation Assortment: Students learn in different manners, and get tired of one training style. Therefore we use different trainers, computer presentations, videos, case studies, exercises and graphics to make the course interesting and enjoyable. By doing this we employ the three levels of training techniques - presentation (*presenting the material in a variety of ways*), discussion (*getting the students involved in the learning*), and performance (*students practice the material they learned*).

Testing: We use quizzes and tests to ensure the student understands key objectives. We also provide students feedback on incorrect answers in an open discussion format.

HEALTH CARE EDUCATION

This module consists of 12 unique courses designed to provide participants with a well-rounded understanding of safety in the health care industry. You'll learn everything from how to recognize and prevent workplace violence to gaining basic knowledge of patient's rights and confidentiality.

TECHNICAL, INDUSTRIAL & SAFETY SKILLS

The goal of this training is to help participants to understand the risks and take the necessary precautions for the health and safety of workers and how to prevent accidents within the technical and industrial trades.

This module is divided into 5 sub-sections:

- Canada Safety
- OSHA - Construction
- OSHA - General Industry
- OSHA - 10/30 Hour Outreach Training
- OSHA - Hazardous Waste Training

PUBLIC SAFETY

The basis of this training covers the key components of human resources with emphasis on courses such as employment law, handling conflict and confrontation and explores successful arbitration and mediation methods. It also includes courses that aid in improving business-writing skills and offers advanced insight for analyzing financial statements.



“According to new government safety regulations, employees must wear goggles and protective clothing when exposed to sharp criticism or cutting remarks.”

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently seeking intermediate and senior consultants for the state of Hawaii. We require a formal education in the field of occupational health and safety with a good knowledge of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration Act.

We require skill in program development and experience conducting public safety training sessions. We also require 3-5 years experience working in the occupational health and safety field. If interested, please forward your resume.



RAISING THE STANDARD CONSULTING INC.

Seven Waterfront Plaza, 500 Ala Moana Blvd, Suite 400 ~
Honolulu, HI 96813

Tel (808) 426-3464 | Fax (905) 840-3135
rts@rtsconsulting.com ~ www.rtsconsulting.com