

FALL PROTECTION - IT'S A SNAP! ELECTROCUTIONS - DON'T GET ZAPPED!

Region VII

Vol. 1, Issue 3

21% Decline in Fatal Falls in 1998* - by Marcia Drumm

The results of the Falls- It's a Snap Program for 1998 are in! Most noteworthy, is that fatal fall incidents were reduced from 14 to 11 (21%) in Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas.

Other measures showed promising results. We found that in-compliance rates increased from 75% to 83% in 1998 for programmed inspections, which indicates that more employers are complying voluntarily. Similarly, violations per inspection in 1998 for programmed inspections decreased from 1.7 to .5. Both of these statistics tell us that more employers are complying with Fall Protection standards.

We also saw a decrease in the in-compliance rate among complaint and referral inspections, which tells us that awareness about fall hazards has increased and that we received good calls from employees and the public about fall hazards. Additionally, violations per inspection for these types of inspections increased from 2.2 to 2.9, again showing us that we are receiving good complaints and referrals.

We hope to build on the success of the first year of the Falls- It's a Snap Program and hope to have a banner year in 1999. Thanks to all who worked hard to prevent fatal falls in construction in 1998.

*Data will not mature until mid-June so inspection data may change.

SPANISH TRANSLATION OF THE EMPLOYEE POCKET GUIDE - by Peggy Taylor

In our first issue, we requested assistance on the Spanish translation of some of the construction terms used in the Employee Pocket Guide. Paul Jay, Corporate Safety Engineer, and Ismael Parga of Sherwood Construction

Company volunteered to assist Dee Cantu of OSHA's Kansas City Regional Office in this translation project. The Employee Pocket Guide was translated into Spanish in March 1999. We appreciate their assistance in the translation of the Employee Pocket Guide to Spanish. We couldn't have done it without them!

This translated guide, "COMO PREVENIR LAS CAIDAS (How to Prevent Falls) ES FACIL (It's Easy), is available from any Region VII OSHA office.

Proposed Changes to Fall Protection - It's a Snap Program (CPL 98-02A) - by Brian Drake

OSHA Regional Notice CPL 98-02A; Subject: Region-wide Problem Solving Initiative on Falls in Construction is being revised. A new hazard is being added to the focus: electrocution hazards related to overhead power lines at construction sites. Falls is still the leading cause of deaths in the construction industry, but Region VII has chosen to focus on another major "killer." Electrocutions due to overhead power lines were chosen as the second hazard for region-wide focus. Electrocutions made up 21.1% of construction fatalities in Region VII; 78.9% of those incidents were caused by overhead power lines. Like the original Falls initiative, we are planning a considerable amount of outreach and short-term enforcement to verify compliance with electrical hazards related to overhead power lines.

The Kansas City, and St. Louis, Missouri Area Offices will pilot the overhead power line hazards program "enforcement month" in July 1999. In October 1999 all Region VII offices will implement an overhead power line enforcement month.

“Falls and Overhead Power Line Safety Months” will be conducted as follows:

Area Office	July 1999	October 1999
Kansas City	Falls, optional Overhead Power Lines pilot	Falls, optional Overhead Power Lines
Omaha*	Falls, optional	Falls Overhead Power Lines
St. Louis	Falls Overhead Power Lines pilot	Falls Overhead Power Lines
Team Kansas	Falls, optional	Falls, optional Overhead Power Lines

*The Omaha Area Office will conduct its “Fall Safety Month” in May 1999.

This program is still aiming at voluntary compliance, so remember “Fall Protection-It’s a Snap; Electrocutions-Don’t Get Zapped.”

FALLS/ELECTROCUTIONS IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA - by Doug Schneider

The Omaha Area Office has conducted nine outreach sessions throughout the State of Nebraska. These conferences were held in conjunction with the Nebraska State Department of Labor. Representatives from both Federal and State OSHA programs presented information at the conferences and also obtained the services of expert consultants in the fields of fall protection and electrocution hazards.

Due to an increase in fall fatalities in CY 1998, the Omaha Area Office is conducting a “Falls Safety Month” in May 1999 and a Falls/Electrocutions Month in October 1999. Combining both outreach and enforcement activities, the Omaha Area Office would like to eliminate any possibility of fatalities from these hazards. If you work in Nebraska and have any questions about Falls/Electrocutions, please feel free to contact the Omaha Area Office.

Q. WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF OSHA’S COMPLIANCE DIRECTIVE COVERING NEW COMMUNICATIONS TOWER CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES? -

Submitted by Judy Freeman

Reprinted from Job Safety & Health Quarterly the official magazine of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

A. The directive sets inspection policies and procedures to ensure uniform enforcement of OSHA provisions covering fall protection and safe access to communications towers under construction. All employees climbing or otherwise accessing these towers must be adequately trained in accordance with *Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations 1926.21 or 1926.1060*. Employees, when climbing the towers during construction, must be protected from falls by a fall arrest system complying with OSHA standards (*CFR 1926.502*) or a ladder assist safety device meeting OSHA ladder safety requirements (*CFR 1926.1053(a)*). The directive covers worker access by hoists. Following the training of hoist operators and workers and after meeting specific criteria, employees may be lifted on hoist lines to reach work stations at heights greater than 200 feet (60.6 meters). The criteria are as follows: (1) hoist lines must be equipped with a swivel to prevent the rotation of workers being hoisted; (2) the use of spin-resistant wire rope is prohibited; (3) workers must wear proper personal protective equipment; (4) when hoisting personnel, the hoist capacity load rating shall be reduced by half; and (5) riding the hoist line to work stations at heights less than 200 feet (60.6 meters) is prohibited. Maintenance, retrofitting, and dismantling of existing towers are not addressed in the directive, but will be covered in future directives.

To obtain a complete copy of Directive Number: CPL 2-1.29, Effective Date: January 15, 1999, Subject: Interim Inspection Procedures During Communication Tower Construction Activities, visit OSHA’s website at <http://www.osha.gov> or call an OSHA office listed in this newsletter.

How Far Is That Fall? - by Judy Freeman

A video on fall distance calculations as covered in 1926.502(d)(16) has been recently developed by staff of the OSHA - Office of Training and Education. This 22 minute video introduces the viewer to fall distance calculations for personal fall arrest systems. Topics covered include anchor points, lanyard types, lanyard reach and various harness types. Sample calculations for determining proximity to the edge of a platform and fall distances are also included in the video.

This video, "How Far Is That Fall?", is available on a loan basis, free of charge. Please contact any of the OSHA Offices listed in this Newsletter for availability. Additional videotapes and slides, as identified in the Training Guide distributed as part of this initiative, are also available on a loan basis, free of charge from the Regional Office.

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This newsletter is published in the OSHA Regional Office at 1100 Main Street, Suite 800, Kansas City, MO 64105, (816) 426-5861.

If you would like to receive this newsletter and the Disaster Facts via e-mail, contact Peggy Taylor at taylor-peggy@dol.gov. If you do not have access to E-mail, please return the following:

<p>OSHA Region 7 Falls Newsletter & Disaster Facts Mailing List</p> <p>Name: _____ Company: _____ Address: _____ _____</p> <p>City, State, Zip Code: _____ _____</p> <p>Telephone No. _____</p> <p>Return to: USDOL/OSHA Attn: Peggy Taylor 1100 Main Street, Suite 800 Kansas City, MO 64105</p>
