



May, 1998

EDITORIAL:



Weather Emergencies and Common Sense: In this part of the country, nearly everyone knows what a severe weather/tornado watch and warning is. In a nutshell, when there is a **watch**, it means that conditions are right for severe weather and/or tornado conditions. When there is a **warning** it means that severe weather/tornado is imminent, civil defense sirens will sound and you should take cover. Sounds simple, and it really is! If the weather looks ominous, turn on the radio to hear what is being reported. When a warning is sounded, take cover---don't grab the camcorder and try to document the event, leave that to the professionals. At home or on the job, know where to go in the event of a tornado. In general, the lowest point in the interior of a fixed building location, away from glass, is your best bet. If in a mobile home or temporary structure, seek shelter in a more secure location. Please be sure that you brief your children on appropriate locations. When it comes to severe weather, make common sense, common.

"It's healthy to think safety!"

WORK RELATED FATALITIES, INJURIES COST NATION \$121 BILLION, NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL SAYS:

National Safety Council President, Gerard F. Scannel, commented on the staggering costs. "The total cost is equal to the combined 1996 profits of the 20 largest corporations in America," Scannell said. According to the council, the cost of one work-related fatality averages about \$790,000, and the cost of a workplace injury averages about \$26,000. Adapted from information published by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. 1231 25th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

"Those who live and work in safe way, live to do so another day!."



CHILD SAFETY TIP:

To ensure that your children ride safely, remember these rules:

- The back seat is the safest place for children of ANY age to ride. If a child must ride in the front seat, make sure that the seat is as far back as possible and the child is properly restrained.
- Do not put an infant (less than one year old) in the front of a car with a passenger-side air bag. Infants must always ride in the back seat facing the rear of the car.
- NEVER let an unrestrained child ride in the car. Unrestrained children can be seriously injured or killed, by the collision itself or from an air bag discharge.

(Mindy)

We need you on the job ---- Please work safely !!

LAB SAFETY- SAFE HANDLING OF CARCINOGENS:



Specific regulations have been established by OSHA regarding the handling of certain compounds designated to be known or suspected carcinogens. All listed carcinogens should be set aside in special storage areas, with proper labeling and controlled access. Laboratories should establish policies for working with these substances. Special personal protective equipment or medical monitoring may be required for technologists working with highly toxic materials.

Chemicals that are mutagens, teratogens, extremely toxic, or carcinogens must be handled in a manner that reduces the potential for personal exposure. Consideration must be given to the proper disposal of contaminated wastes such as filters, pipettes, test tubes, gloves, etc. Materials contaminated with even trace amounts of extremely hazardous chemicals should be disposed of at the time of the quarterly waste shipment. For more information, the [National Toxicology Program Home Page](#) offers the 7th annual report on carcinogens and a listing of known carcinogens.

A rush job is often an accident time bomb just ticking away !

SAFETY TIPS FOR SPRING CHORES:



The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports, "each year, about 25,300 people are injured and 75 people are killed on or near riding lawnmower or garden tractors." The CPSC recommends the following precautions to avoid injuries from lawn and garden chores:

- Dress appropriately for the task, wear long pants when mowing to avoid injuries from thrown objects.
- Turn off all equipment before doing any maintenance, clearing jams, or making adjustments.
- Wear close fitted clothing to avoid getting caught in moving parts.
- Make sure all manufacturer specified safety devices are in working order.
- Wear sturdy shoes and gloves to protect hands and feet from sharp blades.
- Never work with power tools in wet or damp conditions.
- Check the area before mowing for hidden debris such as glass or sticks.
- Use eye protection to protect against impact.

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If you work unsafely, it could mean that your in a dead end job !

POWDERED LATEX GLOVES CALLED A HEALTH RISK:



Public Citizen, a Washington based consumer advocacy group, is petitioning the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to ban powdered latex

gloves. The group claims that cornstarch - the powder that coats the gloves - acts as an airborne carrier of latex proteins, which may cause allergic reactions. The FDA has conceded that the cornstarch powdered gloves can be a health threat, but it does not plan to withdraw them, in part because of the need to protect against diseases like HIV. John McKeegan, a spokesman for latex-glove manufacturer, Johnson & Johnson Medical noted that "latex is an effective barrier against HIV, hepatitis B and C, and other bloodborne and sexually transmitted diseases."

Make every day a holiday from accidents !

IS THERE A LIST OF SUBSTANCES REGULATED BY THE HAZARD COMMUNICATION STANDARD?



Per OSHA, the answer is: "NO. The rule requires chemical manufacturers and importers to evaluate the hazards of the chemical they produce or import and to prepare appropriate labels and material safety data sheets to convey the hazards and precautionary measures to users of the chemicals." As a user, you rely on the suppliers to provide you with the appropriate information to comply with the Hazard Communication Standard. For additional information contact the Environmental Health & Safety Department at 546-6400.

Careless work habits can be a nerve ending experience !



CHILD SAFETY TIPS IN THE KITCHEN

- Remove small magnets from the refrigerator, they can be swallowed.
- Move children's cereal and snack cabinets as far away from the stove as possible.
- Don't store chemicals under the sink. Label them clearly and move to a locked cabinet out of
- Install a cover over the garbage disposal switch and install a garbage disposal cap.
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and have a fire extinguisher in the kitchen.
- Post the telephone numbers to your local police, fire and poison control center. If you

children's reach. Clean the original storage area thoroughly.

have a phone that has auto-dial, program these numbers in your phone.

- Use a child resistant trash can or keep garbage can in a cabinet with a safety latch.

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Why must you learn the hard way? Do it safely the first time!

IS LATEX PAINT HAZARDOUS TO LATEX ALLERGY SUFFERERS?



In a manufacturers survey, the answers were unanimous: There is ***NO*** natural rubber latex used in any of their paints. There are several very large paint manufacturers that produce private label paint for the major home improvement store chains. Some of the major chains, such as Home Depot, K-Mart, Wal-Mart, Sears, Lowed, Heckingers, and 84 Lumber, carry these brands and private-label paint brands. These are *brand names* that manufacturers say do not contain natural rubber latex: Dutch Boy, Pittsburgh Paints, PPG, United Coating, Sears, Sears Weatherbeater, America's Finest, Heckingers, 84 Lumber, Lucite and Kelly Moore Paint. All of these should be safe for latex-allergy sufferers. *However, if you use masking tape to protect the areas around your painting, you should be advised that masking tape may contain natural rubber latex.*

When working with machinery ---- keep hand guards in place.

The supply of hands is limited !!



WHAT IS/ARE ERGONOMICS?

Ergonomics is the science of fitting the job to the worker. When there is a mismatch between the physical requirements of the job and the physical capacity of the worker, repetitive stress injuries (RSI's) can result. Workers who must repeat the same motion, who must use a great deal of force to perform their jobs, who must repeatedly lift heavy objects or who face a combination of these risk factors are most likely to develop RSI's.

RSI's are one of the fastest growing workplace injuries, costing employers more than \$20 billion for 2.73 million worker's compensation claims in 1993. Indirect costs may run as high as \$100 billion. Workers who experience RSI's may not be able to perform their jobs or even simple household tasks.


Often RSI's can be prevented by simple and inexpensive changes in the workplace. Adjusting the height of working surfaces, varying tasks for workers and encouraging short rest breaks can reduce risk. Reducing the size of items workers must lift or providing lifting equipment also may aid workers. Specially designed equipment such as curved knives for poultry processors, may also help.

Extracted from: OSHA Ergonomics Index

You are most likely not as safe as you think you are !!

The EH&S Newsletter is published by the Creighton University Environmental Health and Safety Department. It is provided to disseminate safety information to Creighton University Employees and Students inclusive of regulatory updates and policy changes.

Questions regarding newsletter content and suggestions for ways to improve the newsletter should be addressed to Paul Nichols, Director, Environmental Health and Safety at pnichols@creighton.edu. We welcome any and all constructive criticism via E-mail (pnichols@creighton.edu), Fax at (402)546-6403, or Telephone at (402)546-6400.

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