



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Next Meeting:

TOPIC: Integrating Safety w/Drone Tech

Presenter: Andrew Palmer w/Tri-City Electric

When: February 20th @ noon

Where: Tri-City Electric

6225 N Brady St, Davenport, IA

We are looking for someone who would be willing to take over as our webmaster for the local Quad City ASSP website. It will only require a few hours of time per month. If interested please contact Travis Keeney @ tkeeney@tricityelectric.com or Diana Gilbert @ dlg1127@aol.com or Diana.gilbert@fluor.com. Thank you so much for your assistance!!

Update Contact Information

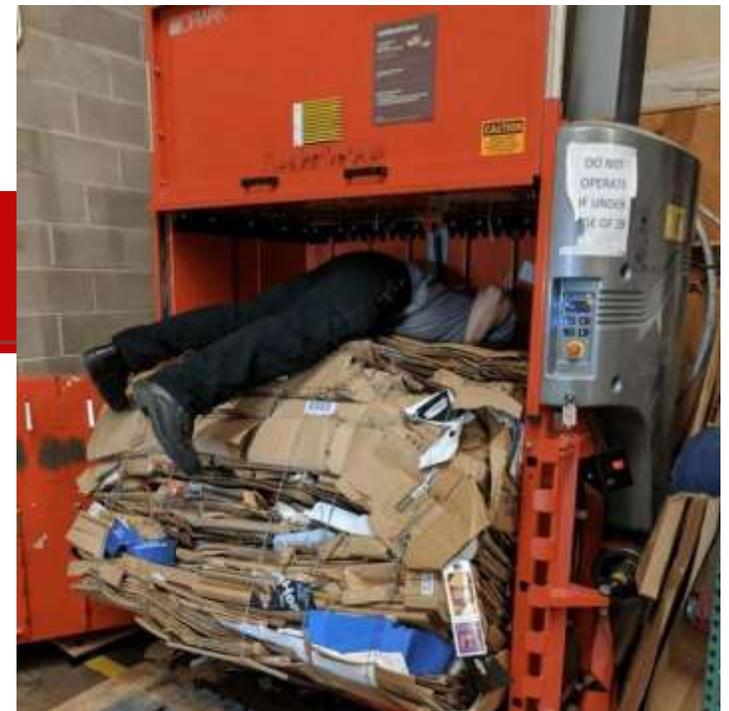
Contact Diana Gilbert @ dlg1127@aol.com to up-date your e-mail address to receive the newsletter by e-mail, and emails from ASSE if you are not currently doing so.

We are always looking for input into the newsletter to better serve our members. Please send newsletter contributions to Diana Gilbert.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

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OSHA Now Using Drones to Inspect Employer Facilities

[David Sparkman](#) | Dec 28, 2018

Although many employers may not be aware of it, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) is now using drones to conduct safety inspections of employer facilities—but only if the employer consents. During 2018, OSHA reportedly used drones with cameras to conduct at least 9 inspections of employer facilities after obtaining permission from the companies' management. The drones were most frequently deployed following accidents at worksites that were considered too dangerous for OSHA inspectors to enter, including; an oil drilling rig fire, a building collapse, a combustible dust blast, an accident on a television tower & a chemical plant explosion.

Early 2018, OSHA issued a memo formalizing its use of drones for inspection activities, ordering each of the agency's 10 regions to designate a staff member as an unmanned aircraft program manager to oversee training requirements & evaluate reports submitted by drone teams. The memo sets forth the parameters OSHA must follow when using drones, including the employer must agree to their use. It also reveals OSHA is exploring the option of obtaining a Blanket Public Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (COA) from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to operate drones nationwide. Because employers must grant the agency permission for it to conduct the flyovers of their facilities, their expanding use puts employers in an uncomfortable position, observing OSHA's use of drones has the potential to expand its violation-finding capabilities during any inspection.

Drones quickly provide OSHA inspectors a detailed view of a facility, expanding the areas that can be easily viewed by an inspector, & significantly slashing the amount of time required for same inspection done on the ground, notes Megan Baroni, an attorney with the law firm of Robinson & Cole. While most inspections can & should be limited in scope, OSHA can cite employers for violations that are in plain sight. "Employers must consent to the drone use, but the question remains as to how the scope of an investigation might change if an employer refuses." Baroni explains it's unclear whether the agency's policy requiring employer permission will survive if OSHA is granted the Blanket Public COA from the FAA to use the drones anywhere in the country.

She stresses employers be aware of this policy & the fact drones could be a requested part of a future OSHA inspection. "Employers may want to give some thought to their facilities & whether drones can be safely flown without causing damage to equipment or processes," she says. If an employer allows OSHA to use drones during an inspection, she recommends they consider getting involved from the outset in the development of the flight plan & attempt to get copies of any data that is collected.

Drone Use Will Increase

John S. Ho, an attorney with the law firm of Cozen O'Connor, believes the use of drones in OSHA inspections is likely to increase, & believes that raises some novel issues that need to be considered by employers. "Until some of these issues become more fully developed & depending, of course, on the specific facts, drones may present a situation where the employer might consider going against conventional thinking & err on the side of withholding consent," he advises.

It is well-settled an employer can generally require OSHA to obtain an inspection warrant before entering the worksite. Although determining whether to do this is always a fact-sensitive analysis, Ho says conventional thinking suggests the better course is usually to define the scope of the inspection with the OSHA inspector as opposed to requiring a warrant.

Conventional strategy in responding to an OSHA inspection also includes the practice of the authorized employer representative accompanying the inspector, essentially mimicking the investigation. This includes taking the same pictures, measurements & other actions so the employer essentially possesses the same data as the inspector gathered during the walkaround. When a drone is used it becomes extremely difficult to accomplish. If the employer decides to acquiesce to OSHA's request, Ho's recommendation coincides with Baroni's advice, saying if the employer considers reaching an agreement with OSHA, it should include the specific flight plan to be used, agreeing all photographs will be promptly shared & have the authorized representative observe the drone's operation.

However, Ho warns even if the scope of the inspection is defined, citations generally still can be issued targeting recognized hazards whenever they are found "in plain sight." He also says it's likely a drone equipped with a camera might capture more hazards in "plain" sight than a traditional walkaround where the inspector is usually directed to the site of an accident by the most direct route. In addition, there is a danger a company's trade secrets may be exposed to the OSHA drone images. He urges employers make sure this issue is addressed & answered by OSHA before giving consent for drones in their facility.

The bottom line is OSHA's use of drones is not going away & is likely to expand from worksites that are considered too dangerous for physically examinations by inspectors, to greater use in more routine facilities' reviews. In facing that possibility, it is the employers' job to make sure they are ready when that day comes.

OSHA CHALLENGE

Which of the following is the safest method of rooftop snow removal, according to OSHA?

- A) Using a snow rake or shovel from a ladder**
- B) Using a snow rake or shovel from the rooftop**
- C) Using a snow rake or shovel from the ground**
- D) All of the above are equally safe**

New Campbell Institute Report Reinvents Safety Triangle

EHS Today Staff | Oct 29, 2018

The Campbell Institute has released a new report that examines the classic safety triangle & suggests a new prevention model. *Serious Injury & Fatality Prevention: Perspectives & Practices* takes an in-depth look at serious injuries & fatalities in the workplace.

“Companies in our report know that safety is a work-in-progress with the goal of continuous improvement,” said John Dony, Campbell Institute director, the center of excellence for environmental, health & safety at National Safety Council (NSC). “To be at the top of their game, these companies recognize that they have to do more to protect their workers. While such incidents may not occur with frequency, implementing a serious injuries & fatalities prevention program is how these organizations move to the next level of maturity.”

Over the past two decades, the U.S. has seen enormous gains in workplace safety, according to the report. The gains in safety are illustrated by the total recordable incident rate, which dropped to 3.0 incidents per 200,000 working hours in 2016 from 8.5 incidents per 200,000 hours in 1993. The reduction in total workplace injuries was not paralleled by a similar reduction in life-altering injuries & fatal incidents. In fact, worker fatalities are at an eight-year high, with 5,190 people dying in 2016.

The Campbell report recommends a redesign of the classic safety triangle, which consists of non-injury accidents, minor injuries & major injuries. This model treats all minor incidents & near misses as if they had the potential to result in a more serious injury or fatality & diverts attention away from the incidents that have the most potential to result in something serious.

The updated structure is based on identifying the root causes & contextual factors that lead to serious injuries & fatalities on the job. Organizations cannot make their workplaces safer by “fixing the worker,” rather they should design work processes to eliminate human error. This makes safety less dependent on employee behavior & more dependent on the safety system.

Strategies to prevent serious injuries & fatalities from occurring include identifying potential precursors to such events & educating employees about those precursors. In addition, companies can focus on eliminating the potential for such incidents to occur. Taking these steps can lead organizations to a higher level of safety management, as shown by the companies featured in the Campbell report.

“The organizations featured in our report consistently pointed out that going from the concept of a serious injury & fatality prevention program to actual implementation requires careful planning – both around the processes used & the responsibilities assigned,” Dony said. “In addition, buy-in is needed from the entire organization, from the top down. Having these factors in place will go a long way toward implementing a successful prevention program.”

NORA Manufacturing Council Unveils Website to Help With Lockout, Other Energy Control Programs

Washington — The [National Occupational Research Agenda Manufacturing Sector Council](#) has created an [online resource guide](#) intended to assist organizations in beginning, maintaining or enhancing their hazardous energy control programs.

The resource’s overview emphasizes measures other than lockout/tagout, including machine guarding. Protecting employees from the unexpected startup of machinery & other hazards during maintenance, service & repairs remains an issue in the manufacturing industry. Lockout/tagout was No. 5 among [OSHA’s Top 10 most cited violations for fiscal year 2018](#).

The resource states that “injuries & fatalities that happen for failure to implement a lockout program are much more costly than the citations (not only in economic terms).” It also cautions that sources of energy can include mechanical, chemical, hydraulic, pneumatic & thermal, among others.

Components of a successful program consist of four main activities: control procedures, training, auditing & prevention. The website features sections on each one.

“A comprehensive, written, diligently planned & executed hazardous energy control (lockout) program protects the life & the safety & health of workers; it is a very important part of machine maintenance & production servicing operations,” the resource states.

[NORA](#) is a partnership initiative developed by NIOSH in 1996. It features 10 industry sector councils & seven cross-sector councils focused on certain issues, such as musculoskeletal health & hearing loss prevention.

OSHA Answers FAQs on Silica Standard for General Industry

Washington — OSHA has published answers to a list of frequently asked questions regarding the agency’s respirable crystalline silica standard for general industry. The agency developed the FAQs after consulting with industry & union stakeholders, the Department of Labor states in a Jan. 23 press release. The answers to the 64 questions, organized by topic, provide guidance to employers & workers on the standard’s requirements, including exposure assessments, hazard communication & methods of compliance.

OSHA’s silica rule for general industry was published March 25, 2016, & went into effect June 23, 2018. The agency released a set of compliance assistance resources in August 2018. Crystalline silica is a carcinogen found in sand, stone & artificial stone. It can cause silicosis, a chronic disease that involves scarring of the lungs. OSHA estimates that 2.3 million workers are exposed to silica dust each year.

HELP WANTED

To view the job listing please place cursor on the job title and then control + click.

[Safety & Training Leader, Maquoketa IA](#)

[Safety Loss Prevention Site Rep, Morton IL](#)

[Safety Supervisor, Sterling IL](#)

[Sr EHS Specialist, Fort Madison IA](#)

[Quality Health Safety & Environment Coordinator, Tipton IA](#)

[Safety Quality Manager, Galesburg IL](#)

[Safety Leader & Continuous Improvement, DeKalb IL](#)

[EHS Manager, Rockford IL](#)

[EHS & Quality Food Safety Manager, Mendota IL](#)

[Safety Specialist, Rockford IL](#)

[Health & Safety Specialist \(Seasonal/Camp\), New Liberty IA](#)

[Safety – Intern, Davenport IA](#)

[EHS Compliance & Regulatory Manager, Sterling IL](#)

[EHS Intern, Cedar Rapids IA](#)

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[In Plant Safety Manager, West Liberty IA](#)

[Safety Coordinator, Princeton IL](#)

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[EHS Manager, Marshall County IL](#)

See more job listings like these on the members' only page located at <https://jobs.assp.org/> or <http://qc.assp.org/jobs/>

***Attention: Authorized OSHA Outreach Instructors providing OSHA 10 & 30 Hour Construction, 10 & 30 Hour General Industry, 10 & 30 Hour Maritime, or Disaster Site Worker (OSHA#5600) courses:**

OSHA has released the updated 2019 Outreach program requirements and industry procedures. The new requirements go into effect on April 1, 2019; however Outreach Trainers are encouraged to start following them immediately.

OSHA has eliminated the outreach trainer "90-day grace period" for authorization renewal as of Jan. 1, 2019.

Authorized trainers that let their authorization lapse will be ineligible to attend a Trainer Update course and will be required to meet all prerequisite requirements to attend the relevant Trainer course instead, including having successfully completed the applicable OSHA Standards course(s) within seven calendar years of attendance at the Trainer course.

Program updates can be downloaded from the OSHA website at:

<https://www.osha.gov/dte/outreach/index.html> or by contacting your OSHA Training Institute

OSHA Drops Requirement to Electronically Submit OSHA Forms 300 and 301

In what it calls a move to protect worker privacy, OSHA has issued a [final rule](#) that eliminates the requirement for establishments with 250 or more employees to electronically submit information from OSHA Form 300 (used to record work-related injuries and illnesses) and OSHA Form 301 (injury and illness incident report) to OSHA each year.

These establishments must continue to maintain those records on-site, and OSHA will obtain them as needed through inspections and enforcement actions. In addition to reporting required after severe injuries, establishments will continue to submit information from their Form 300A. "By preventing routine government collection of information that may be quite sensitive, including descriptions of workers' injuries and body parts affected, OSHA is avoiding the risk that such information might be publicly disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act," the agency states. "This rule will better protect personally identifiable information or data that could be re-identified with a particular worker."

OSHA is also amending the recordkeeping regulation to require covered employers to electronically submit their Employer Identification Number with their Form 300A information. This will make the data more useful and could reduce duplicative reporting burdens on employers, OSHA says. Collection of calendar year 2018 OSHA Form 300A began on Jan. 2, 2019. The deadline for electronic submissions is March 2, 2019.

OSHA Challenge Answer

C

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