



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Next Meeting:

TOPIC: Building Great Safety Programs (Round Table)

Presenter: Mike Doucette/ Iowa Illinois Safety Council

When: March 21st @ noon

Where: Tri-City Electric

6225 N Brady St, Davenport, IA

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.

New Members!!

The Quad City Chapter would like to welcome our newest members: Donyell Raisenbeck, Amy Leibold, Jonathan Hughes, Joshua Grundall, Tanner Greenwald, Scott Clark, Trevor Dowell, & Sofia Akhter!!

Welcome!!

If you know of someone who is interested in joining our chapter, refer them to the refer-a-member link on <http://www.assp.org/>

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WHAT DO YOU SEE?

OSHA Shares Fall Prevention Resources Ahead Of National Safety Stand-Down

Construction Employers Construction Site Safety Construction Worker Safety Construction Workers OSHA Resources Safety Stand-Down Washington — to help employers prepare for the sixth annual National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction, set to take place May 6-10, OSHA is offering free compliance assistance resources online. Falls are the leading cause of worker fatalities in the construction industry, according to OSHA. The stand-down gives employers and workers an opportunity to address common fall hazards and ways to reduce related injuries and deaths.

Among the resources:

The agency's Fall Prevention Training Guide, which includes a lesson plan for employers and several toolbox talks.

A 40-second video titled 5 Ways to Prevent Workplace Falls, along with other videos on fall hazards from skylights, bridge decking, fixed scaffolds and floor openings, among others.

Fact sheets on the safe use of ladders and scaffolding.

In its most recent Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, the Bureau of Labor Statistics recorded 887 fatal falls in 2017 – the highest total in the 26-year history of the census. Those falls accounted for 17.2 percent of the 5,147 overall workplace deaths.

"Falls can be prevented if employers plan ahead to ensure the job is done safely, provide the right equipment and train workers to use the equipment safely," OSHA states in a Jan. 11 press release.

OSHA Delays Enforcement Of Crane Operator Documentation Requirements For 'Good Faith' Employers

Washington — Employers who make "good faith efforts" to document their evaluations of crane operators have an additional 60 days to comply with OSHA's [Cranes and Derricks in Construction: Operator Certification Extension](#), according to a Feb. 7 [enforcement memorandum](#) from the agency.

The rule, published in the Nov. 9 *Federal Register*, required employers to evaluate operators and document those evaluations by Feb. 7.

In the memo sent to regional administrators and State Plan designees, Scott C. Ketcham, acting director of OSHA's Directorate of Construction, said OSHA "has received feedback from the construction industry indicating some employers may need more time to document evaluations of crane operators prior to the ... effective date."

During the initial 60 days of enforcement (until April 15), OSHA will "evaluate good faith efforts taken by employers in their attempt to meet the new documentation requirements." The agency is offering compliance assistance, instead of enforcement, for those employers acting in good faith. Citations will be issued to employers who are deemed not to be operating in good faith.

The memo also states that OSHA is enforcing its employer evaluation requirements of crane operators, which must be completed before employees are allowed to work on their own.

Ketcham instructs regional administrators and State Plan designees to consult with his office before issuing any proposed citations.

OSHA CHALLENGE

Other than the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, for how many federal statutes is OSHA responsible for investigating and resolving whistleblower retaliation complaints?

- A) None
- B) 12
- C) 21
- D) 24

Good Catch or Near Miss? Why the Answer Matters

The distinction between the two very different programs is an important one. Each has their own place in a healthy safety culture & each brings different data to light.

[Charles Douros](#) | Jan 28, 2019

“Whew, that was a close one. He could have been killed. Today must be his lucky day!” How many times have you heard that in your career? Chances are, just reading that sentence conjures a vivid memory of a workplace occurrence you’ve seen that could have been catastrophic. Safety professionals know these events by many names: close call, near hit, narrow escape, near collision, near miss, or the colloquial “close shave” or “squeaker.” As if that’s not enough ambiguity for such an important safety indicator, there’s another term for this known as “good catch.”

“Good catch” has such a kind & gentle ring to it; much friendlier than “near miss.” “Whew, that was a close one. You could have been killed. Good catch, old friend!” For too long, companies in all major industries suffered systemically from a culture of underreporting near misses, regardless of severity. This is a cultural byproduct & happens when trust levels are low & workers fear the consequences of reporting something so egregiously labeled as a narrow escape or near miss. There’s potential for blame with such harsh terminology. Alternatively, a good catch program has positive undertones, insinuating an experience free from consequence. It’s no wonder companies are tempted, albeit mistakenly, to record an acute near miss instead as a good catch.

The distinction between the two very different programs is an important one, as each has their own place in a healthy safety culture & each brings different data to light. Near-miss programs measure, as a lagging indicator, injuries, accidents, events or occurrences that have already transpired. Good catch programs record, as a leading indicator, observations, activities & actions that result, or may result, in a safer workplace.

Near Miss -The National Safety Council/OSHA Alliance defines a near miss as “an unplanned event that did not result in injury, illness, or damage—but had the potential to do so.” The council concludes near misses happen when there’s “a fortunate break in the chain of events” that might have otherwise caused an injury, fatality or damage, & that “a faulty process or management system invariably is the root cause for the increased risk leading to the near miss.” Something happened, if given a change in timing, position, circumstance, etc., could have damaged equipment or injured a person, but thankfully didn’t. A company’s near-miss program is intended to encourage incident reporting for events that have already happened, but for whatever reason didn’t result in impact or injury. It’s a more passive reporting vehicle (no action has been taken; instead someone just records a close call). Such reporting often has a stigma attached or, at the very least, there can be hesitation or reluctance to report. For example, if it occurred because someone ignored or neglected a safety procedure, there might be a reluctance to report it for fear of reprisal. It’s essentially a lagging indicator—something bad has already happened & now the company is forced to react to it.

Good Catch - A good catch is an action-oriented program that implies somebody did something positive to prevent something bad from happening. It goes something like this: “I recognized an unsafe condition, action, defect or flawed piece of equipment & I acted to prevent an event from occurring. I caught it early & prevented something unfortunate from happening.”

It can be as simple as one employee notifying a supervisor there’s an unsafe condition present or, even better, saying there’s an unsafe condition & “this is what I just did about it.” When a company’s safety culture includes encouragement & recognition for employees who see something, say something, & do something to prevent events from occurring, the company has implemented a good catch program.

Good-catch programs are well-suited for cultures trying to initiate or reinvigorate a positive reporting experience. Employees can feel very good about taking some measure of action to potentially prevent a bad thing from happening. It’s an opportunity for employees to see the potential for an injury before one happens & do something to address it. There is usually no stigma attached to this program since it isn’t blame-based. There’s no blame to administer if nothing has happened yet.

Three Characteristics: A Common Thread -These programs can even coexist in a mature safety process. Companies that are still building trust levels within the organization might consider launching just one at a time. Which one launches first is entirely up to company leadership. Regardless of the program or order in which they’re implemented, the most effective near-miss reporting & good-catch programs share at least three characteristics.

First, each program must be easy to use & uncomplicated, so employees are more inclined to make a report. In your organization, do employees have to complete exhaustive paperwork or file a formal report to notify the supervisor of a conditional, procedural or behavioral opportunity in the workplace? If so, consider simplifying the process, even to the point where it is informal.

Next, the programs need to be well-communicated, so employees have absolute certainty the information collected will never result in reprimand—to anyone.

Finally, it’s important to do something with the information collected so employees don’t believe their report will go into a black hole, to never again see the light of day. Employees are motivated by visible progress toward a goal, so it only makes sense to take deliberate action on reported items & communicate those actions to the workforce.

Take an honest look at your current process for reporting & decide which program is best for your organization. Don’t be afraid to apply these disciplines to enable a strong, proactive & action-oriented methodology to your near-miss & good-catch programs.

Charles J. Douros is a senior consultant for ProAct Safety

HELP WANTED

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

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

[Safety & Health/Quality Control Supervisor, Troy Grove IL](#)

[SR HSE Manager, Wever IA](#)

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

[Safety Quality Manager, Galesburg IL](#)

[Construction Safety Coordinator, Muscatine IA](#)

[EHS Manager, Dixon IL](#)

[Safety Quality Manager, Cedar Rapids IA](#)

[EHS Director, Rockford IL](#)

[Safety Coordinator, Princeton IL](#)

[HSE Leader, Rockford IL](#)

[Safety Coordinator, Rochelle IL](#)

[Purchasing Admin & Environmental Safety & Regulatory Coordinator,](#)

[Princeton IL](#)

[Construction Safety Director, Keokuk IA](#)

[Site Safety Coordinator, Minonk IL](#)

[Site Safety & Health Officer, Middletown IA](#)

[Complex EHS Coordinator, Cedar Rapids IA](#)

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

[EHS Manager, Fort Madison IA](#)

[Safety Engineer, Rock Island IL](#)

[Health & Safety Professional, Cedar Rapids IA](#)

[Director of Safety & Compliance, Monticello IA](#)

[EHS Coordinator, Davenport IA](#)

[Lean Manufacturing & Safety Specialist, Mount Pleasant IA](#)

[Environmental & Safety Manager, Mount Pleasant IA](#)

[Fire Safety Advisor, Dubuque IA](#)

[EHS Manager, Iowa](#)

[EHS Engineer, Mount Pleasant IA](#)

[Vice President of Safety & Training, Cedar Rapids IA](#)

[Corporate Safety Manager, Muscatine IA](#)

[Jobsite Safety Specialist, Davenport IA](#)

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

Registration Opens for ASSP's Safety 2019 in New Orleans

Registration is open for the nation's largest conference for occupational safety & health professionals. ASSP expects to draw more than 5,000 attendees from 40 countries to its [Safety 2019 Professional Development Conference & Exposition](#). June 9-12 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center

Trenching and Excavation

SLOPE IT. SHORE IT. SHIELD IT. The primary hazard of trenching & excavation is employee injury from collapse. Soil analysis is important to determine appropriate sloping, benching, & shoring. Additional hazards include working with heavy machinery; manual handling of materials; working in proximity to traffic; electrical hazards from overhead & underground power-lines; & underground utilities, such as natural gas. The following references aid in recognizing & controlling some of the hazards associated with trenching & excavation.

- [Special Emphasis: Trenching & Excavation](#).
- [Working Safely in Trenches](#). OSHA QuickCard™ (2018). Also available in [Spanish](#).
- [Protect Workers in Trenches](#). OSHA Poster. Also available in [Spanish](#).
- [Trenching and Excavation Safety](#). OSHA Fact Sheet
- [Trenching and Excavation Safety](#). Highlights key elements of the standards & describes safe work practices to protect workers from cave-ins & other hazards.
- [Working Outdoors in Warm Climates](#). OSHA Fact Sheet

OSHA Penalties

Below are the maximum penalty amounts adjusted for inflation as of Jan. 23, 2019. (See [OSHA Memo, Jan 23, 2019](#)).

| Type of Violation | Penalty |
|---|--|
| Serious, Other-Than-Serious, Posting Requirements | \$13,260 per violation |
| Failure to Abate | \$13,260 per day beyond the abatement date |
| Willful or Repeated | \$132,598 per violation |

States that operate their own [Occupational Safety and Health Plans](#) are required to adopt maximum penalty levels that are at least as effective as Federal OSHA's. For More Assistance OSHA offers a variety of options for employers looking for compliance assistance. The [On-site Consultation Program](#) provides professional, high-quality, individualized assistance to small businesses at no cost.

OSHA also has compliance assistance specialists in most of our 85 Area Offices across the nation who provide robust outreach and education programs for employers and workers. For more information, please contact the [Regional or Area Office](#) nearest you.

OSHA Challenge Answer

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 Quad Cities Chapter
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 activities.**

<http://qc.assp.org>