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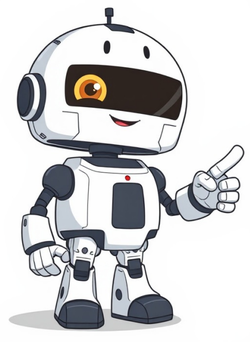

All employers are required to notify OSHA when an employee is killed on the job or suffers a work-related hospitalization, amputation, or loss of an eye. A fatality must be reported within 8 hours. An in-patient hospitalization, amputation, or eye loss must be reported within 24 hours. Report a Fatality or a Severe Injury Those responsible for workplaces and other buildings to which the public have access can avoid them by taking responsibility for and adopting the right behaviours and procedures.This section covers general advice on fire safety and also provides guidance on substances that cause fire and explosion. General fire safety hazardsFires need three things to start a source of ignition (heat), a source of fuel (something that burns) and oxygen:sources of ignition include heaters, lighting, naked flames, electrical equipment, smokers materials (cigarettes, matches etc.), and anything else that can get very hot or cause sparks;sources of fuel include wood, paper, plastic, rubber or foam, loose packaging materials, waste rubbish and furniture;sources of oxygen include the air around us.What should employers do?Employers (and/or building owners or occupiers) should carry out a fire safety risk assessment and keep it up to date. This shares the same approach as safety and health risk assessments and can be carried out either as part of an overall risk assessment or as a separate exercise.Based on the findings of the assessment, employers need to ensure that adequate and appropriate fire safety measures are in place to minimize the risk of injury or loss of life in the event of a fire.To help prevent fire in the workplace, their risk assessment should identify what could cause a fire to start, i.e. sources of ignition (heat or sparks) and substances that burn, and the people who may be at risk.Once they have identified the risks, they can take appropriate action to control them. They should consider whether they can avoid them altogether or, if this is not possible, how they can reduce the risks and manage them. They should also consider how they will protect people if there is a fire.Employers should:Carry out a fire safety risk assessment.Keep sources of ignition and flammable substances apart.Avoid accidental fires, e.g. make sure heaters cannot be knocked over.Ensure good housekeeping at all times, e.g. avoid build-up of rubbish that could burn.Consider how to detect fires and how to warn people quickly if they start, e.g. installing smoke alarms and fire alarms or bells.Have the correct fire-fighting equipment for putting a fire out quickly.Keep fire exits and escape routes clearly marked and unobstructed at all times.Ensure their workers receive appropriate training on procedures they need to follow, including fire drills.Review and update their risk assessment regularly.Case studyA shopkeeper regularly threw packing waste by the back door of his shop as he quickly stocked the shelves after a delivery. His workers sometimes opened the back door to have a cigarette break outside.One week hed left the pile of rubbish for several days and a discarded cigarette butt caused it to catch fire. By the time the fire was spotted and put out, it had caused substantial damage to his back door and his shelving units. There was a significant cost in damaged stock and repairs.How the fire could have been prevented?This fire could have been easily prevented if the shopkeeper had completed his risk assessment and taken simple steps to control the risks.Find out moreDangerous substances that cause fire and explosionWork which involves the storage, use or creation of chemicals, vapours, dusts etc. that can readily burn or explode is hazardous. Each year people are injured at work by flammable substances accidentally catching fire or exploding.What are the hazards?In addition to explosives which are not covered in this section many other substances found in the workplace can cause fires or explosions. These range from the obvious, such as flammable chemicals, petrol, cellulose paint thinners and welding gases, to the less obvious engine oil, grease, packaging materials, dusts from wood, flour and sugar.It is important to be aware of the risks and to control or get rid of them to prevent accidents.What should employers do?To help prevent accidental fires or explosions, employers first need to identify:what substances, materials, processes etc. have the potential to cause such an event, i.e. substances that burn or can explode and what might set them alight;the people who may be at risk/harmed.Once they have identified the risks, they must consider what measures are needed to reduce or remove the risk of people being harmed. This will include measures to prevent these incidents happening in the first place, as well as precautions that will protect people from harm if there is a fire or explosion.Key points to rememberThink about the risks of fire and explosions from the substances used or created in the business and consider how they might remove or reduce the risks.Use supplier safety data sheets as a source of information about which substances might be flammable.Consider reducing the amount of flammable/explosive substances stored on site.Keep sources of ignition (e.g. naked flames, sparks) and substances that burn (e.g. vapour, dusts) apart.Dispose of flammable/explosive substances safely.Review the risk assessment regularly.Maintain good housekeeping, e.g. avoid build-up of rubbish, dust or grease that could start a fire or make one worse.Employers need to consider the presence of dangerous substances that can result in fires or explosions as part of their fire safety risk assessment.Case studyA worker was using highly flammable cellulose thinners in an open-topped container to wash paint-spraying equipment. He knocked the container over, splashing the thinners over his trouser leg and shoe.He went into a nearby room to clean himself up, but the room happened to contain drying ovens. These ignited the flammable vapours coming from the thinners, which set his trouser leg and shoe on fire, causing serious burns to his leg and foot.How this incident could have been avoidedIt could have been easily prevented if the employer had carried out a risk assessment to identify that cellulose thinners should not have been used in this way, and instructed the worker accordingly.Find out moreGuidance on fire and explosion A safe and healthy working environment is a fundamental principle and right at work. Thus, all Members have an obligation arising from the very fact of membership in the ILO to respect, to promote and to realize, in good faith and in accordance with the ILO Constitution, the principles concerning this fundamental principle and right.Despite this important decision and the significant progress in occupational safety and health (OSH), work-related accidents and diseases still occur too frequently, with devastating impacts on workers, enterprises and entire communities and economies. An electric arc is a type of electrical explosion. The electric arc produces a bright flash of hot gas, where temperatures can exceed 35,000 F (19,400 C), nearly four times the heat of the suns surface. The energy released in the arc rapidly heats and vaporizes the metal conducting the electricity, producing an explosive arc blast resulting in deafening noises, supersonic concussive forces, and super-heated shrapnel. Most arc flash burn injuries are a result of the arc igniting flammable clothing and not from the arc itself. Flammable Clothing vs Appropriate Arc Rated PPE (AR PPE) Special thanks to KEMA Laboratories and the Partnership for Electrical Safety for this testing footageOSHA has produced the following guides to assist employers and employees in understanding and protecting against arc flash hazards: For Employers For Employees Additional Resources NFPA 70E. NFPA 70E requirements for safe work practices to protect personnel by reducing exposure to major electrical hazards. Originally developed at OSHA's request, NFPA 70E helps companies and employees avoid workplace injuries and fatalities due to shock, electrocution, arc flash, and arc blast, and assists in complying with OSHA 1910 Subpart S and OSHA 1926 Subpart K. (viewable for free with NFPA account registration) Partnership for Electrical Safety. The Partnership for Electrical Safety (PES) believes that every American working on or near energized electrical equipment deserves equal protection from arc flash, including the appropriate arc rated clothing and associated personal protective equipment (PPE). PES seeks to educate those at risk and to make plain to relevant oversight entities the need for use of PPE when doing industrial electrical work, and the extreme human and financial costs of non-compliance. Occupational safety and health (OSH) deals with all aspects of health and safety in the workplace. Its goal is to prevent the occurrence of occupational accidents and diseases. A safe and healthy working environment is one where risks are eliminated or when all reasonably practicable actions have been taken to reduce risks to an acceptable level and where prevention has been integrated as part of the organizations culture.Since its creation the ILO has been promoting occupational safety and health, and over the years has adopted about 40 Conventions and Recommendations specifically dealing with these issues.Employers have to comply with OSH laws and regulations. But management of occupational safety and health is not only a question of legal compliance. There is a business case for safety and health at work. Good OSH performance can help ensure business continuity, preventing high levels of absence and avoiding losses of skilled workers. It can raise productivity and competitiveness as well as lead to reductions of insurance premiums. Additionally, health and safety investments can be justified on strategic grounds such as maintaining strong reputation to attract talent and preferred supply chain relationships. Finally, managing OSH issues can be an opportunity to improve workplace cooperation and dialogue, boosting employee engagement.To manage OSH efficiently companies focus on building a safety culture within the organisation, employing risk management and control principles, aligning OSH management systems with other business operations, and involving workers in OSH management issues.At the same time, employers are not the only ones involved in securing safety and health in the workplace. Workers and their representatives should cooperate with employers by taking reasonable care of their own safety, complying with the instructions given regarding safety and health, using protective equipment correctly and reporting any hazardous conditions or events and accidents. To promote compliance and good OSH performance, it is also key that employers are provided with support and guidance from relevant authorities. This is emphasised in the ILO Conventions 155 and 187. Micro and SMEs in particular may need help in complying with legal obligations and in developing OSH management processes.In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, occupational safety and health took on even greater importance. ACT/EMP supports employers and business organisations in setting up OSH services such as trainings, information and advice, as well as in engaging in effective advocacy activities in the area of OSH. Please note: Information in some QuickTakes may be out of date or not reflect current policies. Scott Ketcham is OSHA's new Deputy Assistant Secretary. Previously, Ketcham led the agency's Directorates of Enforcement and Construction. Learn about avian influenza (bird flu) risks, transmission and symptoms, and proper use of personal protective equipment with OSHA's resources. OSHA Assistant Secretary Doug Parker was honored with the VPPPA Chair's Award of Excellence for his leadership and support of OSHA's Voluntary Protection Programs, and all his work to advance health and safety excellence. Employers must post their 2024 Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses (Form 300A) in their workplace from February 1 through April 30, in a location where employees can see it. Meet Kristina, a regional supervisory investigator who appreciates helping populations that are unaware of their rights or afraid to act on them. Visit I Am OSHA and meet more members of our team. QuickTakes subscribers occasionally receive DYK? bulletins about a single timely topic, resource or upcoming event. Employers must commit to work vehicle and roadway safety and communicate that commitment to employees at all levels of the organization. Employers must demonstrate that commitment by allocating time and budgetary resources to work vehicle and roadway safety. Employers should conduct a risk assessment to identify the likely hazards associated with drivers, vehicles, and roads and determine steps to eliminate or reduce those hazards. Employers should identify local, state, and federal laws that apply to their workplace. From the risk assessment and review of applicable laws, employers should develop, disseminate, maintain, review, and update written policies and procedures with input from managers and employees that covers the following: Driver Training initial and ongoing training Vehicle Maintenance operator and organizational Safe Vehicle Operations speed, defensive driving Seat Belt Use Distracted, Drowsy, and Impaired driving Accident Reporting Procedures Mechanical Failure Procedures Employers should establish a drivers training program that is specific to the vehicles that the employee is expected to drive. The adherence to the driver training program schedule is a leading indicator in the prevention of work-related vehicle crashes. Periodic refresher training is useful to prevent driver complacency and maintain focus on safe driving principles. In addition to general safety training, there are also some circumstances that require additional specialized training. This could include longer combination vehicle training, hazardous materials training, and reasonable suspicion training for supervisors. Depending on the contents of the freight, the type of vehicle, or the specific position an individual holds, additional training as mandated by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) may be required. Employers should ensure that all employees are properly licensed for the type of vehicle that they are expected to operate. It may be useful to have a system of tracking driver license expiration dates to ensure that company drivers are not operating vehicles on an expired license. A comprehensive preventative maintenance program with scheduled checks and services helps ensure that work vehicles remain in a safe operating condition. The adherence to the preventative maintenance checks and service schedule is a leading indicator in the prevention of work-related vehicle crashes. Employers should implement and enforce mandatory seat belt use policies. Adherence to the seat belt policy is a leading indicator in the prevention of workplace driving-related injuries and fatalities. Employers should review their operational procedures to ensure that the procedures are not causing or contributing to distracted driving. For example, systems and procedures for dispatching and rerouting vehicles have the potential to cause cognitive, visual, and manual distractions which may directly cause or contribute to a vehicle collision. Employers should ensure that workloads and work schedules allow employees to drive at a safe speed and obey any applicable hours-of-service regulations. Employers should have a system in place to ensure that employees get information about road construction or closures, bad road conditions, or any other road hazards. When purchasing, renting, or leasing company vehicles, employers should look for vehicles with high safety ratings based on crash testing and with safety features such as lane departure warning systems, collision warning systems, rear-facing cameras, and adaptive cruise control. Employers may want to consider using an in-vehicle monitoring system (IVMS) to reduce the risk of crashes. These systems are designed to improve drivers performance by identifying risky driving behaviors for self-correction and for supervisors to use to coach drivers and identify fleet-wide problems. A NIOSH study found that an IVMS with in-vehicle driver feedback and supplemental supervisory coaching using driver- and outward-facing video led to a significant decline in overall risky driving behaviors and a decline in driving unbelted in comparison to a control group of drivers. If an IVMS is to be used, it is important to explain to workers why the IVMS is being put in place and how it will work. Employers should establish a crash investigation process. All crashes, regardless of severity, should be reported to the employees supervisor as soon as feasible after an incident. All crashes should be reviewed to determine their root cause and what can be done to prevent it from happening again. The crash review should include a determination of whether any changes in policy or practices are needed to prevent future crashes. Understanding the root causes of crashes forms the basis for reducing the risk of recurrence. Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of worker injuries and death.1 Driver safety training is a protective measure against crashes and helps protect drivers and other people on the road, resulting in fewer lives lost and reduced lost time on the job. Driver safety training is included in any commercial driver's license (CDL) training program. However, drivers operating trucks weighing less than 26,000 are not required to obtain a CDL. Additionally, a truck driver without a CDL may also tow a single-axle trailer with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of up to 10,000 pounds. These are substantially larger vehicles than the average driver is accustomed to operating and therefore potentially hazardous, and driver safety training can be beneficial even if not required. For drivers that are new to an organization and whose primary job responsibilities are driving on public roadways, a structured drivers training program should be in place. Also, anytime new vehicles are introduced into the fleet, drivers training specific to the new vehicles should be conducted. Additionally, driver refresher training should be conducted at regular intervals. Driver safety training is a continuous process and keeps drivers from becoming complacent when it comes to safety. Driver's training should include components such as: Vehicle characteristics, capabilities, and limitations Vehicle instruments, controls, and safety components Vehicle preventative maintenance checks and services Company driving policies and procedures - seat belts, distractions (including drowsy and impaired driving), aggressive driving and speeding Defensive Driving Vehicle Backing For drivers who drive occasionally for work in their privately owned vehicle (POV), a less structured approach may be sufficient. Driver's training programs should be scalable to meet the organization's needs.

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