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Q&A

Q. How are Temporary workers recorded on the 300 Log?

A. It depends, as OSHA would say. The host employer must record the recordable injuries and illnesses of employees not on its payroll, if the host employer supervises them on a day-to-day basis. Day-to-day supervision occurs when "in addition to specifying the output, product or result to be accomplished by the person’s work, the employer supervises the details, means, methods and processes by which the work is to be accomplished."
What Is Safe + Sound Week?
A nationwide event to raise awareness and understanding of the value of safety and health programs that include management leadership, worker participation, and a systematic approach to finding and fixing hazards in workplaces.

Why Participate?
Safe workplaces are sound businesses. Successful safety and health programs can proactively identify and manage workplace hazards before they cause injury or illness, improving sustainability and the bottom line.

Who Is Encouraged to Participate?
Organizations of any size or in any industry looking for an opportunity to show their commitment to safety to workers, customers, the public, or supply chain partners should participate.

How to Participate
Participating in Safe + Sound Week is easy. To get started, select the activities you would like to do at your workplace. Some organizations might want to host a public event.

Legislation to improve working conditions for temp workers
Temporary workers find themselves at the intersection of a growing manufacturing and e-commerce industry in which companies increasingly enlist third-party agencies to do hiring on their behalf.

According to labor rights advocates, Illinois staffing agencies have been known to charge temporary workers for their own background checks and drug tests as a way to cut back on their operating costs. Some agencies have been sued for discriminatory practices in hiring because they based screenings on race and gender. Others have gone to court for wage theft. And to continue providing temporary workers to the industry, these staffing agencies will not try to help their workers get into permanent jobs, say temporary worker rights advocates.

One year since Palm Beach Zoo keeper mauled by tiger
One-year anniversary of the deadly attack inside the tiger night house at the Palm Beach Zoo.

The death of Lead Zookeeper Stacey Konwiser impacted the entire zoo.

On April 15, 2016 Stacey went to the tiger night house to prepare for the afternoon’s “tiger talk.” She unlocked two padlocks to open the door, walked inside and Hati, one of the zoo’s Malayan tigers attacked her.

Maintenance workers heard Stacey scream and radioed for help. Workers feared they would hit Stacey if they shot Hati, so they decided to use a tranquilizer dart, instead.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, determined the zoo did not break any rules, but recommended changes.

Zoo administrators announced Thursday they have implemented the following changes:
- Increased training for zookeepers
- Cameras to cover access and transfer doors in the night house, where Stacey was found and a two key system, requiring two zookeepers present to enter an area where an animal might be.

Full Article
CSB – Airgas Explosion

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) released its final report into the August 28, 2016, nitrous oxide explosion at the Airgas manufacturing facility in Cantonment, Florida. The blast killed the only Airgas employee working at the facility that day and heavily damaged the plant, halting its manufacturing of nitrous oxide indefinitely.

The CSB investigation found that federal regulations require some chemical facilities that manufacture hazardous substances to have process safety management systems in place to protect their workforce and the public. The CSB discovered, however, that a majority of these specialized rules are not required for nitrous oxide facilities.

In its final report, the CSB notes that the contributing causes of the explosion all stemmed from the lack of an effective process safety management system. For example:

- Even though heat from the pump was a known hazard, Airgas did not evaluate safer design options that could have eliminated the need for the pump altogether;
- The company did not perform a management of change review or hazard analysis before installing the pump to identify and control hazards; and
- Safeguards installed by the company, including the safety interlock to automatically shut down the pump, and flame arrestors were likely ineffective, and failed to prevent the incident.

The Airgas Cantonment facility is one of four manufacturing plants in the United States producing nitrous oxide for industrial facilities, hospitals, and universities. The Airgas process includes pumping liquid nitrous oxide from storage tanks into trailer trucks or shipping containers, which deliver the product nationwide.

On the day of the explosion, the Airgas operator likely began the transfer process. Under normal operating conditions, nitrous oxide is stable and can be safely handled; however, under certain conditions it can decompose explosively. CSB investigators found that a pump used to transfer nitrous oxide into a trailer heated the gas above its safe operating limit and triggered a violent decomposition reaction. The reaction migrated from the pump into the trailer causing the explosion. The explosion scattered large metal fragments for hundreds of feet, damaged the facility, and killed the Airgas operator.

Full Report
Airgas Footage

Did you know that one person dies every four minutes from something preventable like a car crash, poisoning or a fall? Help us reverse this trend and bring the number down to zero.

Example Weekly Topics for June:

Week 1: Slips, Trips & Falls - Stand Up to Falls
Week 2: Workplace Fatigue - Recharge to be in Charge
Week 3: Active Shooter & Workplace Violence
Week 4: Ergonomics - Don’t Just Sit There

5-minute Safety Talks

Week One
Week Two
Week Three
Week Four
Industry urges Appeals Court to reject OSHA inspection authority push

A poultry processing facility is urging federal judges to reject OSHA's appeal of a lower court's ruling that held the agency lacks authority to expand an inspection beyond the circumstances of an employee's injury, faulting OSHA arguments that the company's injury reporting provided "reasonable suspicion" of a possible violation.

"'Hazards' and 'violations' are not the same, and OSHA must show the court probable cause to believe violations have occurred to secure a warrant," Mar-Jac says. "If evidence of hazards alone were sufficient, OSHA would always have probable cause for a warrant: most workplaces are rife with hazards."

OSHA is appealing to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit a lower court ruling granting Mar-Jac Poultry Inc.'s motion to quash an OSHA warrant to expand an inspection of the company's Gainesville, GA, facility beyond the specific circumstances surrounding an employee's injury.

The case stems from OSHA's response to Mar-Jac's Feb. 4, 2016, report that an employee was burned while doing repair work. The Obama OSHA argued that the incident involved several of the 16 hazards listed in the agency's REP for the poultry sector, and that the REP mandates that a violation of any one of those hazards triggers an inspection of whether all those hazards exist at a facility.

Additionally, the company argues that OSHA's use of companies' injury and illness record-keeping logs to justify expanded facility inspections would run counter to the agency's efforts to ensure accurate record-keeping.

OSHA violations part of history of Lake City Army Ammunition Plant

April 11th fatal explosion at Lake City Army Ammunition Plant wasn't the first time someone had been killed mixing primer at the Independence facility.

A spokesperson for the plant said in a statement that an explosion occurred at approximately 1 p.m. on Tuesday in a primer mixing building that resulted in one fatality and four employees being evaluated on scene, who each refused further medical treatment. The deceased victim's identity has not yet been released.

A 1990 OSHA report shows a worker at Lake City was killed when a primer mixture exploded as the employee tried to push it down a bowl with a sponge.

In 2011, the same year that six people were injured in an explosion OSHA initially fined ATK $28,000 for four serious violations. The company ultimately paid $5,600. OSHA cited another serious violation in 2008.

Lt. Col. Eric Dennis, Lake City Commander, said the plant has approximately 1,800 government and contractor employees. All workers involved in the accident were employed by contractor Orbital ATK.

Dennis took over command of the facility on July 13, 2016, and oversaw a $434 million modernization program that "improved security, safety, manufacturing and infrastructure" at the plant, according to a U.S. Army news release.

Lt. Col. Dennis said the building where this happened today did not see any upgrades, or have any changes from that modernization program.

NASDAQ reported Tuesday morning that Orbital ATK had secured a $92 million order from the U.S. Army to be manufactured at the Lake City plant. The report also says that last week the company secured a $21 million contract with the U.S. Navy, and in January received a $50 million order from the U.S. government to supply ammunition to the Department of Defense "in support of international allies."

Full Article

Workers' deaths 'could have been prevented' in trench collapse

VIDEO: The employer in a fatal Boston trench collapse did not provide safety training and basic safeguards to its employees, OSHA announced Wednesday.
Trump OSHA delays enforcement of Obama silica rule to craft guidance

OSHA is postponing by three months the enforcement of construction industry compliance with the Obama administration's final rule overhauling the agency's limits for workers' exposure to silica, saying it is crafting additional guidance for employers given “the unique nature” of the rule’s requirements for the construction sector.

In an April 6 statement, OSHA postpones from June 23 to Sept. 23 the date it will start enforcing the agency’s March 25, 2016, silica rule in the construction sector, but says employers should continue working toward compliance.

While the rule covers other industries the construction sector is the only one required to comply this year.

The Obama OSHA's silica rule includes two standards, one for the construction sector and another for maritime and general industry, such as brick manufacturing, foundries and hydraulic fracturing. The rule tightens the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for silica for the first time in decades, and allows companies to use alternative controls to comply.

Silica dusts are common in construction and other industries, and exposure is blamed for respiratory illnesses, including silicosis and lung cancer.

National Fall Safety Stand Down

Falls are a leading cause of death for workers, accounting for 350 of the 937 construction fatalities and 648 of the 4,836 fatalities in all industries recorded in 2015, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. But they are also preventable: Hazard elimination, proper training, and use of fall protection can change these numbers.

The 4th Annual Safety Stand-Down from May 8-12 provides an opportunity for employers to talk directly to employees about the risk of falls, protective methods, and the company's safety policies, goals and expectations. Companies can participate by stopping work and providing a focused toolbox talk on fall prevention, conducting equipment inspections, demonstrating fall protection and procedures, or any number of other activities that educate workers on fall hazards and solutions.

More Information
Welding Quiz

1) Compressed gas cylinders can be used for rollers under supervision of a competent person. **TRUE** or **FALSE**? If false, what standard prohibits it?

2) If oxygen and fuel gas hoses are taped together to reduce tangling, the tape must not cover more than _____ inches out of every _____ inches of length. Why and what standard supports the answer?

3) Acetylene cylinders values shall not be opened more than _____ turns of the spindle. Why and what standard supports the answer?

4) How much heat is generated at the arc in an electric welding operation? Is it **5,000**, **7,225**, **10,000**, or **12,500** degrees F.?

5) What is the element symbol for iron?

6) What do the letters T.I.G mean?

7) What are the main components in acetylene?

8) What do the letters DC and RP mean?

9) If combustible material cannot be removed or guarded, a ______ must be stationed in the area and maintained for at least ______ minutes after the welding operation has been completed in locations where a fire might develop. **Fill in the blanks and provide the standard that support your answer.**

10) Electrode leads must never be spliced within ____ feet of the holder. Why and what standard supports your answer?

**Answers to Quiz**

1) False: 1910.252(b)(5)(ii)(k)

2) 4, 12: To inspect the hoses for defects: 1910.253(b)(4)(iii)

3) 1-1/2: In order to quickly turn off the cylinder in an emergency: 1910.253(b)(5)(iii)(k)

4) 10,000 degrees F

5) Fe

6) Tungsten Inert Gas

7) Carbon and Hydrogen

8) Direct Current & Reverse Polarity

9) Fire Watch: 30: 1910.252(a)(2)(iii)(a)

10) 10: Danger of electrical shock: 1910.254(d)(8)