

TOOLBOX TALK #3

COMMON WORKPLACE SAFETY HAZARDS – PART II

No matter what jobsite you look at, many of the same hazards exist. Knowing what you might encounter will give you a leg up on the issues before they can occur. Here are just some of the common hazards found on all jobsites.

Forklifts

What's the leading cause of forklift-related hazards in the workplace? It's not what you might think. It's when workers feel compelled to work quickly. Their activity is dictated by pressure to produce. Shortcuts include driving with too large of a load or driving distracted. The common attitude is to blame the individual for any resulting accident, discipline them, provide retraining, and send them back out, avoiding the root cause. Compounding the problem may be a lack of maintenance and daily checkups on the vehicle. Create a preventative maintenance schedule for the equipment.



Lockout/Tagout

Proper lockout/tagout procedures can help prevent serious injuries, but only if those procedures are followed. A lot of companies have great procedures in place, but fail to implement them. Some examples of this include”

- An employee may go home for the day with his lock on, and the next worker on duty cuts the lock.
- Workers may simply use a tag on older equipment for which secure lockout is more difficult.
- Instead of installing a chain to lock a valve in place, a wire that can easily be cut may be used.

Violation of lockout/tagout procedures often boils down to three reasons:

1. complacency,
2. a rush to finish the work, and
3. being unfamiliar with the equipment.

Employers need to train employees on lockout/tagout and ensure they're qualified to carry out the procedures.