

KSU DIVISION OF FACILITIES

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Be Safety Smart

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Tough Times

News headlines in the paper and on TV paints a vivid picture of the current financial crisis in Kansas and around the nation. It is imperative that we as a people be good stewards with the resources we have been given. Safety is one area where billions of dollars are wasted each year. In 2009 KSU alone spent 1.7 million dollars on work related injuries. If KSU spent that much can you imagine how

much the State of Kansas as a whole spends since they are the largest employer in the State. It is poor stewardship to waste money paying for work related injuries that are preventable. No one benefits when there is an injury. Certainly, not the person injured, as they have to endure the pain and suffering, either temporary or on a permanent basis. The employer loses also because the employee is



either off work or cannot perform to their maximum potential. In turn this effects the fellow co-workers because they have to pick up the work load which over a period of time causes their bodies to wear out and become injured. This all results in a constant vicious cycle of devastation and destruction.

Training Dates

February 2011

- Asbestos Refresher 2/15
- Hazardous Awareness 2/16
- Standard First Aid/CPR 2/17
- Van Training 2/22
- Anger Management 2/23
- Respiratory Protection 2/24

How you can help!

Every employee within the Division of Facilities has been trained on what tasks they perform in their assigned area, what hazards are associated with those tasks and how to prevent injuries while performing the tasks. Each year employees review the fundamental safety principles that are applicable to their job

assignment. It is up to each employee to make a difference by being aware of their surroundings, reporting any safety related concerns, not taking short cuts, asking for assistance when needed, using the appropriate tools and equipment, making sure equipment is in good working order, wearing personal

protective equipment when necessary, and following safe work practices. If everyone does their part we can be good stewards with the resources that have been allotted to us. In a time of economic uncertainty this makes for good financial stewardship. Our success is dependent on one another. Be Safe!

OSHA FactSheet

Preventing Falls

Falls and falling objects can result from unstable working surfaces, ladders that are not safely positioned, and misuse of fall protection. Workers are also subject to falls or to the dangers of falling objects if sides and edges, floor holes, and wall openings are not protected. Any time a worker is at a height of six feet or more (construction industry) or four feet or more (general industry), the worker must be protected.

Fall Protection

Fall protection must be provided for each employee on a walking/working surface with an unprotected side or edge at the height required by the OSHA standard applicable to their work environment. Management is required to:

- Develop, implement and commit to a fall protection program
- Provide training on the fall protection program
- Evaluate the program on a regular basis to insure the program's effectiveness and determine whether it needs to be changed or updated

Employers are required to assess the workplace to determine if the walking/working surfaces on which employees are to work have the strength and structural integrity to safely support workers. Once employers have determined that the surface is safe for employees to work on, the employer must select one of the options listed for the work operation if a fall hazard is present.

- Where protection is required, select fall protection systems appropriate for given situations.
- Use proper construction and installation of safety systems.
- Supervise employees properly.
- Train workers in the proper selection, use, and maintenance of fall protection systems.

Unprotected Sides, Wall Openings, and Floor Holes

Almost all sites have unprotected sides and edges, wall openings, or floor holes at some point during construction. If these sides and openings are not protected at your site, injuries from falls or falling objects may result, ranging from sprains and concussions to death.

- Use at least one of the following whenever

employees are exposed to a fall of 6 feet or more [see comment above] above a lower level:

- Guardrail Systems
- Safety Net Systems
- Fall Arrest Systems
- Cover or guard floor holes as soon as they are created.
- Guard or cover any openings or holes immediately.
- Construct all floor hole covers so they will effectively support two times the weight of employees, equipment, and materials that may be imposed on the cover at any one time.
- In general, it is better to use fall prevention systems, such as guardrails, than fall protection systems, such as safety nets or fall arrest devices.

Ladders

You risk falling if portable ladders are not safely positioned each time they are used. While you are on a ladder, it may move and slip from its supports. You can also lose your balance while getting on or off an unsteady ladder. Falls from ladders can cause injuries ranging from sprains to death.

- Position portable ladders so the side rails extend at least 3 feet above the landing
- Secure side rails at the top to a rigid support and use a grab device when 3 foot extension is not possible.
- Make sure that the weight on the ladder will not cause it to slip off its support.
- Before each use, inspect ladders for cracked, broken, or defective parts.
- Do not apply more weight on the ladder than it is designed to support.
- Use only ladders that comply with OSHA standards.