



Southern Oregon Construction Safety & Health Forum

2017 Summer/Fall
Seventh Edition



It remains our mission to maintain effective safety and health program communication with AGC members. In this busy building season it can be difficult to commit to meetings; this forum letter is intended to give us all opportunity to share information on current rules, conditions, and changes that affect our safety cultures and our communities. If you have information you are willing to share with members, please contact me and we will ensure that information gets out for everyone's benefit: John Jean, AGC SMC, johnj@agc-oregon.org or 541-613-6859.

LADDER SAFETY

It is imperative that we all continue to place serious and effective focus on **ladder safety**.

Unsafe Behaviors Causing Accidents and Injuries:

- Improper ladder used, improper class of ladder
- Ladder is too short for work task
- Damaged or altered ladder used
- Rails, rungs, spreaders, or feet of ladder damaged
- Overloaded ladder, person, tools, and materials
- Unstable ladder, position of feet, uneven ground
- Slippery footing: grease, oil, ice, rain, mud, sand, etc.
- No three point contact used (two feet and one hand or two hands and one foot) at all times
- Unsecured ladder tip, no tie-off used, improper angle
- Awkward work, holding tools or materials
- Leaning, reaching, or stretching outside center alignment of rails
- Sitting or standing astride top of ladder
- Standing on top of ladder or top rung of ladder
- Twisting, standing sideways, jumping off
- Loss of attention to tasks: talking, phones, smoking



Make ladder safety a priority of your *safety culture!*

DANGEROUS SILICA EXPOSURES

Overview and Applicability

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently issued new rules to protect workers from occupational exposure to respirable crystalline silica. The original permissible exposure limit (PEL) used by OSHA to protect workers was set in 1971. See the available guides below:

- [Oregon OSHA Fact Sheet Silica Rule Table 1](#)
- [Oregon OSHA Fact Sheet New Silica Rule fs67](#)
- [OSHA Small Entity Guide Silica 2016 3902](#)

SAIF has developed a guide to provide employers with knowledge of the health effects and protective measures for controlling exposures to respirable crystalline silica. A step-by-step approach is provided for businesses to use to determine applicability of the rules to their organizations and implement efforts to protect worker safety and health. [View the guide.](#)

SOUTHERN OREGON CONSTRUCTION SAFETY

New! A blog has been established to assist Southern Oregon construction safety professionals. This is an open forum intending to give safety professionals, project managers, and management an opportunity to share information, concerns, and lessons learned. [Join the community.](#)

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS

Considerations – Before an Emergency

Create a “hot list” with all potentially-necessary emergency services contacts and phone numbers

- Police and fire departments, ambulance services, CERT – certified emergency response team
- Hospitals, emergency room facilities/clinics
- Utility companies: electric, gas, water, etc.
- Applicable government agencies: OSHA, EPA, HAZMAT, Health Dept., etc.
- Subcontractor contact information

Identify Emergency Response Team Members (ERT)

- Within your company you should establish primary contacts that all organizational members can immediately contact in the event of an emergency.
- These selected ERT members should be individuals who can effectively respond to an emergency by assessing the severity of the emergency, taking decisive action, and communicating to appropriate emergency services.
- ERT members should have the ability to give calm and decisive direction to all individuals on the jobsite and response services.
- The ERT should meet regularly to ensure current communication, contact information, personnel, and procedures are in place.



CONFINED SPACES IN RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

OSHA has developed a standard for Confined Spaces in Construction (29 CFR 1926 Subpart AA) that applies to spaces such as attics, basements, and crawl spaces.

- [OSHA Fact Sheet Confined Spaces in Residential Construction](#)

This fact sheet can help to answer questions when determining if confined spaces or permit-required confined spaces exist.

REPORTING WORK-RELATED INCIDENTS

If you're an employer, Oregon OSHA requires you to report work-related injuries or illnesses that cause the loss of an eye, an amputation or avulsion that includes bone or cartilage loss, in-patient hospitalization, catastrophe, or fatality, including fatalities from heart attacks and motor vehicle accidents. Reports must be made in person or by telephone by calling 800-922-2689 or your nearest Oregon OSHA office:

Bend 541-388-6066

Medford 541-776-6030

Portland 503-229-5910

Eugene 541-686-7562

Pendleton 541-276-9175

Salem 503-378-3274