

SAFETY FORUM

**Newsletter of The School and Community Safety Society of America
American Alliance for Health, Physical Education,
Recreation, and Dance**

**Dan Della-Giustina, Editor
West Virginia University**

Welcome to this special edition of the *Safety Forum*. This issue is being published as an experimental, cooperative project between the Society for the Study of Legal Aspects of Sport and Physical Activity (SSLASPA) and the School and Community Safety Society of America (SCSSA). Members of SSLASPA are receiving the *Safety Forum* within the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport*. Members of SCSSA are receiving the *Safety Forum* as a separate newsletter mailing.

One of the stated objectives of SSLASPA is to "cooperate closely with allied national and international organizations in areas such as athletics, education, exercise, law, medicine, recreation, and sport." In striving to meet that objective, this joint effort was launched. In fact, many members of SSLASPA are also members of AAHPERD, the parent organization of SCSSA. We hope that you enjoy this issue of the *Safety Forum*. Your comments are invited.

Best wishes,
Gary R. Gray, Editor
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SCSSA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE **Dwaine Marten, University of Idaho**

Greetings from the President of the School and Community Safety Society of America.

The prevention of unintended injuries is one of the most important safety issues facing this nation and the future of our young people. Citizens under the age of 45 represent the largest percentage of those injured. This is not only a serious economic problem (more than \$100 billion yearly) for the nation, but is a serious drain of human resources which this nation can ill afford to lose. In addition, there is no way to measure the emotional impact each family experiences from trauma of the loss of a loved one.

We as the School and Community Safety Society of America need to come to gather and establish ourselves as a leader in prevention of unintended injuries. Only you (as member of the Society) can provide the energy and expertise necessary to create positive changes in attitudes and behavior. The leadership of your society needs your expertise to help shape the future of the society. We need volunteers to serve on the board of directors, committees, publish safety in our journals, conduct research, conduct workshops and seminars, and carry the message of the society to our committees, industrial bases, educational system state agencies, and to national levels.

I have taken the liberty of sharing the School and Community Safety Society's present mission statement, goals and priorities with you in this message for your review and commentary.

SCSSA

The Society is a unique national society dedicated to preventing injury through the development and support of school and community safety programs.

Mission

The mission of the School and Community Safety Society of America is to provide professional leadership and services for the promotion and development of safe practices that enhance the quality of life.

Purpose/Values:

- Promote safety consciousness in today's Society
- Provide professional leadership in safety education Encourage and promote research in safety related areas Develop and implement standards and guidelines for safe programs, facilities and equipment
- Seek public, corporate and legislative support and funding of safety programs and activities
- Support and promote the integration of safety in programs and activities among Alliance Associations and other organizations
- Attract a diversity of members
- Promote and support excellence in the professional preparation of safety specialists
- Encourage and promote safety research in environmental and programmatic areas

General Areas Of Emphasis Within the Society

- Emergency Management
- Safety Education
- Professional Preparation in Safety
- Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreational Sport Safety Safety Research and Evaluation
- Safety Programming for Varied Populations and Environments Legal Responsibility & Liability in Physical Education, Sports and Recreation

Conferences and Conventions

Be sure to attend the Denver convention. A great program has been planned. Please check your convention program to see when the School and Community Safety Society Board meets and plan to attend. All members and observers are welcome. Encourage your friends and colleagues to JOIN SCSSA NOW. It's a valuable investment for your future. To join SCSSA, check ARAPCS on the application form and make a second check in the SCSSA block.

■ TALK ABOUT SAFETY

If you have a tendency to speed things up so you can finish before quitting a job, stop doing it. Haste still makes waste...and accidents!

Don't ever forget what hasn't happened in 10 years can happen in 10 seconds.

Before you leave a job that has created a hazard, put up guard rails or other blocking or warning signs.

*When in doubt, be sure to follow instructions to the letter. If you don't know the instructions, ask.

*Makeshift repairs on tools may make hazards that could hurt you or somebody else.

*Other drivers aren't mind readers. They can't tell when you're going to turn unless you tip them off with your directionals.

Avoiding accidents is a money saver for you and everyone else. Any way you can save money today is worth thinking about.

■ SAFETY IS COLORFUL

Purple is just about the only color that doesn't have a standard use in reducing accidents in the workplace. Here are the accepted colors for particular areas and items in a work area.

Yellow is used for aisles or moving objects.

Yellow and Black are used to indicate great danger.

Orange is used for moving parts, machine guards and cutting edges.

Green is used to identify safety and medical equipment.

White Cross on Green is for first aid equipment.

Red is for fire fighting equipment and its location.

Blue is for machines under repair.

White is for storage area.

Now that you know the correct color coding, teach it to your employees, and then break out the paint brushes. A little time well spent now could save precious seconds in a safety emergency in the future.

■ HEADSETS, CAR STEREO'S MAY CAUSE EARLY HEARING LOSS

Citizens of industrialized countries usually suffer some loss of hearing in their later years. By age 65, about a third of us suffer hearing loss that is serious enough to interfere with communication, according to a recent article in Health magazine.

Today, however, audiologists are finding an uncommon number of young people with hearing loss that should not occur until much later in life. One study of incoming freshmen at the University of Tennessee found that in 18 year olds entering the University, almost a third showed at least some signs of hearing loss. And audiologists are finding a great many people with late life hearing loss occurring in their 30's and 40's.

Doctors suspect loud rock music is to blame. Live concerts reach sound levels above 120 decibels, louder than a jackhammer. If ears are exposed very long or very often to such sound, permanent damage occurs.

One survey of walkers wearing tape player headsets showed sound levels were often as high as 115 decibels, pouring directly into sensitive ears.

Customized car stereos can be even worse with sound levels that are capable of reaching 130 decibels. It's that kind of exposure that give young people the type of hearing loss which is commonly found in retirees.

Keeping the sound turned down on music machines can extend hearing capability, and there is one more step people can take. Carry an inexpensive set of ear plugs. When you ride the train or airplane, or encounter other very loud noises, put them in place. You'll hear better for longer as a result.

■ DEER CROSSING

In the U.S., population of deer has risen dramatically in the past few years. So, too, have the occurrences of animal/vehicle collisions. The population seems to keep rising because of the lack of natural predators for the many deer who reside in or near urban areas.

Although they account for one of the lowest percentages of collisions, deer are responsible for hundreds of thousands of dollars in property damage to personal and commercial vehicles. In fact, depending on the type of vehicle and the speed recorded when deer are hit, vehicles can be damaged beyond repair, and vehicle occupants can be seriously injured or killed.

Deer are most visible on roadways during the spring and fall. This is due to their spring migration away from their winter yards and shortly thereafter, the fawning season. In the fall, the process of mating season causes them to migrate again. This, coupled with the hunting season and the trek back to their winter yards, makes them more prevalent on the roads.

Be very aware when you are driving your vehicle during the dawn or dusk hours, since deer tend to be more active at these times and lighting is minimal.

Be cautious and always ready to brake when driving on roads in wooded areas, or on highways where there have been signs alerting you to the fact that deer are present. Be aware when rounding bends and corners in roads that anything can be in your path of travel.

If you are involved in any collision involving a large animal, contact the local authorities so the incident can be recorded.

Collision with any animal can be dangerous, but larger animals such as deer or moose can result in serious damage and injury or death. Be aware and be careful.

Source - Canada Safety Council

■ FIREPLACES NEED EXTRA CARE

Homeowners use their fireplaces to conserve energy, save money and create a warm, cozy atmosphere.

Practice Safeguards

Make sure your fireplace was constructed to be used for actually burning fuel and is not intended just for decoration.

Never burn coal, charcoal, or any type of polystyrene in a fireplace. The combustion of these products can create a significant amount of carbon monoxide.

Always open the damper before lighting the fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool.

Never use gasoline, charcoal lighter fluid or other highly flammable liquids to light or relight a fire because the vapors can cause an explosion.

Never keep flammable fuels near a fire.

Artificial logs should not be treated the same as real logs. Read the instructions on the package or wrapper of the logs and follow them carefully.

Never break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.

Do not overload the fireplace. Large fires can lead to overheating of wall and roof materials, particularly if the fireplace is constructed of metal.

Always use a fire screen that completely covers the fireplace opening to prevent sparks from flying out into the room.

Keep flammable materials such as carpets, pillows, furniture and papers away from the fireplace area.

Make sure the fire is out completely before retiring for the night or when leaving the house.

Keep a fire extinguisher nearby, and know how and when to properly use it.

Burn well-seasoned wood. Pine and other soft woods burn quickly and, thus, are excellent for kindling. Denser woods, such as oak and hickory, burn slowly and give long lasting fires.

Use only metal containers when you remove ashes. Dispose of them outdoors, well away from the house.

Make sure your chimney guard is intact and in good condition to prevent squirrels, birds and other animals from blocking up the chimney with nests and other debris.

Maintain Your Chimney

Have the chimney checked by a competent chimney sweep at least once a year. If you burn more than four fires a week or use soft or green woods, which produce more creosote, you should check it more often.

Creosote is a black, shiny, tarlike substance that forms as a result of incomplete combustion. It condenses on cooler surfaces in the chimney. Sometimes it's sticky and gloppy and at other times it's very hard, depending on its temperature. When creosote gets very hot, it catches fire readily, burns ferociously and is difficult to extinguish.

While creosote presents the biggest safety threat, soot also causes problems. Soot narrows the opening of the flue, affecting the draft, and can also provide a surface for creosote to adhere to. Also, both soot and creosote may cause chimney odor, a foul smell that emanates from the fireplace.

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■ OSHA'S HAZARD COMMUNICATION STANDARD COMPREHENSIVE, COMPLEX REGULATORY SYSTEM

OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard sets up a compliance program to insure that all employees are informed about the presence of hazardous substances in the workplace. It's a comprehensive and complex regulatory system that must be in place at every company where employees might be exposed to hazardous substances under normal working conditions.

The OSHA program requires that each company obtain information about all containers, develop a written hazard communication plan, explain to all employees the dangers of chemicals present at the company, and train employees to protect themselves from chemical exposure.

Material Safety Data Sheets

All companies must obtain a material safety data sheet (MSDS) from the manufacturer of each hazardous substance found in the workplace. The manufacturer is required to produce these and supply them to its consumers.

The MSDS describes the chemical, its properties, the physical or health hazards it represents, exposure limits, precautions to take for safe handling and use, and first aid procedures in the event of exposure. The company must keep a MSDS for each chemical in a centralized and easily accessible place.

All manufacturers are required to properly label each hazardous substance. Companies are prohibited from removing these labels and are responsible for insuring that they are properly labeled and remain so (29 CFR 1910.1200 (f)). The American National Standard Institute has published an excellent guide to preparing cautionary labels (ANSI Z129.1-1988).

All labels must be in English, visibly displayed, and contain information that identifies the substance and gives warnings about potential hazards. The labels can be words, symbols, pictures, placecards or any combination that effectively conveys this basic information to all employees.

Written Hazard Communication Plan

Each company is required to prepare a written hazard communication plan for its businesses. This also must be kept in an easily accessible location.

While it can be a simple document, the plan must completely explain the procedures established to ensure that all MSDS's are properly obtained and available, that all labeling requirements are met, and that employee training is performed in accordance with OSHA regulations. The plan must also contain an up-to-date list of all hazardous materials in use at the company (29 CFR 1910.120(e)).
Employee Training Program

All employees and new hires must be thoroughly trained about the hazardous substances in the workplace, and training for all employees must be updated as new substances are introduced to the workplace. There is no specific format required for the program as long as the training materials are clearly presented, understandable and cover all of the specific areas required by the regulations. Appendix E to Hazard Communication Standard Guidelines for Employer Compliance - contains an

excellent reference for employers to develop their own written plan and training program. The checklist above outlines the basic elements necessary for a good training program.

Training Program Components

Description of the hazard communication regulations and the rights of the employees to know about work place hazards;

Specific methods for detecting the presence and release of hazardous substances;

What to do in the event of exposure or an emergency;

Specific measures workers should take to assure adequate protection from hazardous substances, such as appropriate work-site practices, emergency procedures, and various forms of protective equipment; and

Company's written hazard communication program, including an explanation of how workers can obtain and use the information (29 CFR 191.1200 (h)(2)).

Exempt Substances

Several types of substances are exempt from the standard's regulatory requirements. These are (1) hazardous wastes (which are regulated by EPA); (2) tobacco products; (3) wood or wood products; (4) "articles"; and (5) "consumer products".

Articles are manufactured products that do not release hazardous chemicals under normal conditions of use. Examples would be office products such as pens, typewriter ribbons and photocopy machines. Consumer products are products that are intended for use by retail consumers and are used in the workplace in the same manner and frequency as that of the average consumer.

If you have a question regarding compliance with OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard, you should contact your local OSHA area office for assistance. In addition, each OSHA regional office has a Hazard Communication Coordinator who can answer your questions.

Free consultation services are also available to assist employers, and information regarding these services can be obtained through the area and regional offices, as well. The telephone number for the OSHA office closest to you should be listed in your local telephone directory. If you are not able to obtain this information, you may contact OSHA's Office of Information and Consumer Affairs at (202) 523-8151 for further assistance in identifying the appropriate contacts.

By Mark S. Dennison

Mark Dennison is an attorney in private practice in Ridgewood, N.J., specializing in environmental law. He is the author or coauthor of numerous environmental and land use law publications and is the current editor of Remediation journal. He is admitted to practice in New Jersey and in New York, and received his law degree from New York Law School.

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Checklist for Compliance with Hazcom Standard

The following checklist will help you to ensure you are in compliance with the rule:

- Obtained a copy of the rule;
- Read and understood the requirements;
- Assigned responsibility for tasks;
- Prepared an inventory of chemicals
- Ensured containers are labeled;
- Obtained MSDS for each chemical;
- Prepared written program;
- Made MSDS available to workers;
- Conducted training of workers;
- Established procedures to maintain current program; and
- Established procedures to evaluate effectiveness.

■ SAFETY MANAGEMENT AWARENESS

For safety in any organization to be fully effective, it is necessary that all levels be fully aware and contribute to the safety of all.

To give you some of the things which we all can use to make the safety and occupational health work, one should consider the following:

Safety Keys For Top Management

1. Be fully aware of safety
2. Talk about safety
3. Use safety as part of performance evaluations
4. Assess all accident costs
5. Listen to all ideas
6. Implement safety planning

Project Safety Management

1. Care about workers
2. Display strong safety attitudes
3. Make safety a part of all jobs
4. Take Part in safety
5. Talk to all levels about safety
6. Keep and stay informed about safety on the site

Foreman/Supervisor Safety

1. View safety as a top priority
2. Be a leader, set examples
3. Reduce possible risks
4. View near misses as warnings
5. Have pride
6. Control themselves

Employee Safety

1. Be aware of work conditions
2. Comply with safety
3. Use protective equipment
4. Report unsafe conditions
5. Report all accidents
6. Refuse likely risks
7. Improve safety by using peer pressure

One can work the above information into the overall safety program and thus improve the safety for all levels. It takes the efforts of all.

■ DEATHS IN 1992 ARE LOWEST SINCE 1922

According to the National Safety Council, accidental deaths in the United States in 1992 declined to 84,000. The last year a lower accidental death total was recorded was in 1922.

In the Council's recently released 1993 Preliminary Condensed Edition of "Accident Facts," the 1992 accidental death total of 84,000 represents a five percent decrease from the 1991 total of 88,000.

Alan Hoskin, manager of the National Safety Council's Statistics Department, attributes the decline to the continued effectiveness of injury prevention programs, especially in the motor vehicle area. In addition, the state of the economy continues to play a role. "When fewer people are employed, we tend to see a decline in workplace and motor vehicle accidents," said Hoskin.

The Council also estimates that accidents in 1992 dropped to the fifth leading cause of death in the United States after having been fourth for many years. Accidental deaths are now exceeded by deaths which result from heart disease, cancer, stroke and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases.

Accident costs in 1992 amounted to about \$172.4 billion. This includes: wage loss of 44.3 billion; medical expense of \$29.0 billion, insurance administrative and claim settlement costs of \$38.3 billion; property damage in motor vehicle accidents of \$28.0 billion; property loss in fires of about \$8.2 billion; and, certain uninsured costs of work accidents of about \$24.6 billion.

Motor vehicle deaths decreased eight percent to 40,100 in 1992 from 43,500 in 1991. Work deaths declined seven percent to 9,200 in 1992 from 9,900 in the previous year. Home deaths decreased two percent to 20,000 from 20,500 and public deaths saw no change in 1992 and remained at 18,000.

■ ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Accident Type	Crushed by Dump Truck Body
Weather	Clear, Warm
Type of Operation	General Contractor
Crew Size	N/A
Collective Bargaining?	Yes
Competent Safety Monitor On Site?	Yes
Safety and Health Program in Effect?	Yes

Was the Worksite Inspected Regularly?	Yes
Training and Education Provided?	No
Employee Job Title	Truck Driver
Age/Sex	25/M
Experience at this Type of Work	2 Months
Time on Project	2 Weeks at Site

Brief Description of Accident

A truck driver was crushed and killed between the frame and dump box of a dump truck. Apparently a safety "overtravel" cable attached between the truck frame and the dump box malfunctioned by catching on a protruding nut of an air brake cylinder. This prevented the dump box from being fully raised, halting its progress at a point where about 20 inches of space remained between it and the truck frame. The employee, apparently assuming that releasing the cable would allow the dump box to continue upward, reached between the rear dual wheels and over the frame, and disengaged the cable with his right hand. The dump box then dropped suddenly, crushing his head. The employee had not received training or instruction in proper operating procedures and was not made aware of all potential hazards in his work.

Inspection Results

Following its inspection, OSHA issued one citation for one alleged serious violation of its construction standards. Had the required training been provided to the employee, this fatality might have been prevented.

Accident Prevention Recommendation

Employees must be instructed to recognize and avoid unsafe conditions associated with their work (29 CFR 1926.21 (b)(2)).

Sources of Help

Construction Safety and Health Standards (OSHA 2207) which contains all OSHA job safety and health rules and regulations (1926 and 1910) covering construction.

OSHA-funded free consultation services. Consult your telephone directory for the number of your local OSHA area or regional office for further assistance and advice (listed under U.S. Labor Department or under the state government section where states administer their own OSHA programs).

NOTE: The case here described was selected as being representative of fatalities caused by improper work practices. No special emphasis or priority is implied nor is the case necessarily a recent occurrence. The legal aspects of the incident have been resolved, and the case is not closed.

■ SAFETY PROGRAMS FOR THE AAHPERD 1994 DENVER CONVENTION, APRIL 12 - APRIL 16, 1994

- 4/12 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. "Safety & Liability in Outdoor Recreation Activities". This program covers the topics of Liability, Whitewater Activities, Downhill Skiing, Hiking & Backpacking, On & Off-Road Bicycling, and Insurance Injury & Loss Control.
- 4/13 9:00 - 10:15 a.m. "Back Country Emergencies, Long Term Transport Emergency Care". This program will provide an explanation of differences between city ambulance setting and wilderness medical needs while addressing and doing some of the unusual treatments and skills required.
- 4/13 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. "Urban School Injuries - Who Gets Hurt, When, Where: Implications for Change". Injury trends across a 5 year span in a large, ethnically diverse urban school district in the northeastern United States will be presented. Discussion will focus on prevention strategies in this type of setting.
- 4/13 2:00 - 3:15 p.m. "Signage and Safety in HPER", Jointly sponsored with Facilities & Equipment Council and the Aquatics Council.
- 4/14 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. "Violence Prevention Program", Joint with AAHE
- 4/14 9:00 - 10:15 a.m. "Safety in Rock and Wall Climbing". An overview of curricular and technical considerations for conducting safe climbing programs on real or artificial climbing surfaces. Emphasis will be placed on K-12 public school physical education programs. Lesson planning, equipment and risk management issues will be addressed.
- 4/15 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. "Liability Proofing Your Lesson/Practice Plans". The purpose of this presentation is to describe key items that should be planned in writing within physical education lesson plans and athletic practice plans in an attempt to decrease the number of sport related injuries, as well as defend against any charges of alleged negligence that might arise from such injuries.
- 4/15 3:45 - 5:30 p.m. "Risk Management and Liability", Joint with Facilities & Equipment Council and the Aquatics Council
- 4/15 3:45 - 5:30 p.m. "Early Heart Attack Care Program", Joint with AAHE