

NC Industrial Commission
Safety Bulletin

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For safety is not a gadget but a state of mind. ~Eleanor Everet

August - 2005

Greetings Friends in the Name of Safety:

We continue to update our email list and are asking for your help. These mailings are the life-blood for attendance of our Eight Regional Safety Councils and without good contacts; the word will not get out. If you know of someone who might wish to receive these mailings, please send their contact information along to me at parnell@ind.commerce.state.nc.us or to their area Safety Representative as soon as possible. For those of you with SPAM software, you will need to add brantomail@blast.com to your "ACCEPT ALWAYS" list. Your IP service can help you with this. If that is not an option, provide us with a personal email address if you have or can create one.

Hurricane Season Is Here...Are You As Prepared As You Should Be?

By Randy Jackson, Hazardous Weather Preparedness Institute

The summer season is one that opens the door to many fun-filled days. Trips to the beach, the mountains or some of our other favorite destinations always seem more enjoyable on days drenched in sunshine and bathed in warm air. The summer season also means the beginning of the long and seemingly never-ending hurricane season. This potentially volatile period runs from the first day of June through the last day of November.

Most of us can't help but remember the costly 2004 tropical weather season. A total of 15 named storms were added to the tropical cyclone roster; 9 of them hurricanes, with 6 being major. It was the costliest hurricane season ever with over \$42 billion in damage, 59 direct deaths in the United States and over 3000 deaths beyond our shores.

This year may not offer any comfort as scientists and meteorologists are predicting another active year. Dr. Bill Gray of Colorado State University says this year should produce 15 named storms, with 8 becoming hurricanes and 4 of those being major storms.

With scars of last year's season still healing in both eastern and western North Carolina the question that begs to be answered is; Are you ready for another season? We might be surprised at the answer.

A nationwide polling organization conducted a hurricane awareness poll at the end of April. About 1100 adults who lived in states that fronted the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico were asked a series of 20 questions about their hurricane awareness and preparedness. The results were shocking; 42% could answer only 8 questions correctly, only 22% were able to answer more than 10 questions. Just 2% of those questioned received a grade of "C" or better by answering 14 questions correctly. A "D" was scored by 9% of the respondents and overall 89% failed the test. Adults who lived within 10 miles of the coast did not score any

better than those who lived inland. With the prospects of another active hurricane season ahead, and the images still fresh in our mind of last year's season, it might be time for us to do our homework.

Many of us do not see a big threat if we do not live in a coastal area. That perception can get us into trouble quickly. According to statistics from the National Hurricane Center 59% of tropical cyclone deaths come from freshwater flooding, with 63% of those occurring in counties that are inland. You should also be aware that roughly 40% of land-falling hurricanes spawn more than 3 tornadoes, which can occur well over 100 miles from the center of the storm.

The Hazardous Weather Preparedness Institute recommends the following:

- Know the significant threats in your area
- Make sure your company and employees are well schooled in dealing with tropical weather threats.
- Always keep up with the latest information regarding tropical cyclone development.
- Heed the advice of local officials.
- Don't just concentrate on the skinny black line in the hurricane forecast; the impacts of the storm may be felt for hundreds of miles.
- Schedule training classes for employees to learn proper precautions in dealing with tropical cyclones at home and with their families.

The Hazardous Weather Preparedness Institute offers one, two and three hour training sessions conducted at your facility regarding the tropical cyclone threat. Programs of other lengths can be arranged. For more information contact HWPI at www.weatherpreparedness.com or 336-254-5132.

Remember to check out our website, www.comp.state.nc.us, as we continue to post new items and information as it pertains to Safety and Workers Compensation.

Insight...

Definition of SAFETY...*"Freedom from whatever exposes one to danger or from liability to cause danger or harm; safeness; hence, the quality of making safe or secure, or of giving confidence, justifying trust, insuring against harm or loss, etc."*

"Better a thousand times careful than once dead." ~Proverb

Did you know?...23% of all photocopier faults worldwide are caused by people sitting on them and photocopying their backsides.

Did you know?...If you could count the number of times a cricket chirps in one minute, divide by 2, add 9 and divide by 2 again, you would have the correct temperature in Celsius degrees... How do they know that?

NEW NCIC COURSE has arrived!

The Safety Education Section is now offering the Defensive Driving Course for *Professional Truck Drivers*. This course is designed for the BIG trucks! Mel Harmon, our instructor for Defensive Driving, has recently been certified by the National Safety & Health Council to teach this course. You can contact Mel directly for more information at 919-218-3374.

Are You Required to Train Outside Contractors?

You may be responsible for the safety of outside contractors. Generally, when employees of an outside contractor come into your workplace, both your company (what OSHA calls the "host" employer) and their own employer share responsibility for the outside employees' safety. The dividing line between areas of responsibility is not always clear, but you can use this rule of thumb as a starting point: The contractor is responsible for making sure that its employees know how to do their jobs safely, while the host employer is responsible for informing the contractor of any hazardous conditions that are specific to the host's workplace. For example, if your workplace includes hazardous chemicals, the host needs to make sure the outside contractor knows about the hazards.

Why It Matters...

- ***OSHA is likely to hold the host employer at least partially responsible in the case of a death or serious injury to a contractor's employee.***
- ***Demonstrating a comprehensive safety program that includes outside contractors can help defend your company from legal liability if something goes wrong.***
- ***Ensuring that outside contractors have good safety programs helps protect your own employees from accidents.***

Know the OSHA standards that refer to outside contractors. The "rule of thumb" mentioned above can apply for any potential hazardous situation involving outside contractors. But be aware, also, that several of OSHA's General Industry standards refer specifically to the host employer's responsibilities. These include:

- Process Safety Management (29 CFR 1910.119)
- Hazardous Waste Operations (HAZWOPER) (29 CFR 1910.120)
- Confined Spaces (29 CFR 1910.146)
- Lockout/Tagout (29 CFR 1910.147)
- Hazard Communication (29 CFR 1910.1200)

Note that this list is not necessarily complete, and that there are various construction industry standards (29 CFR 1926) that include rules for outside contractors as well. Note also that different standards impose different requirements on the host employer, so be sure to read them thoroughly.

Communication and coordination are essential. Regardless of specific OSHA requirements for outside contractors (if any), it is essential for safety managers of both the host employer and the contractor to exchange all relevant information regarding potential hazards and safety procedures. This is for your own company's protection as well as the safety of all employees. Here are some tips to keep in mind:

- Require outside contractors to demonstrate an adequate safety program before they come into your workplace.
- Review your own safety program with the contractor; identify any differences between the host's and the contractor's programs, and agree on how to bridge any gaps.
- Arrange for any specific training that the contractor's employees might need, either by requiring the contractor to provide the training or by providing the training directly.

Remember to visit our FREE Video Library ONLINE! Go to our web site, www.comp.state.nc.us click on SAFETY, TABLE OF CONTENTS, VIDEO LIBRARY. You can view and print the request form and video list. If you have any questions, just give Anne Hill a call at 919-807-2603.

From the Desk of Dennis Parnell, Director Safety Education...

I would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" for your continued support of our efforts here in the Safety Section of the NC Industrial Commission. Our mission continues to be to provide quality safety training, relating to ACCIDENT PREVENTION at no cost. Our classes are geared towards preventing the accident BEFORE it happens, through Safety Education, reducing injuries and reducing Workers Compensation costs. As most of you already know, we cover the 100 counties in North Carolina with only four Industrial Safety Representatives. So far this year, we have trained over 40,000 employees in the workforce in North Carolina. This is remarkable! We are truly blessed to live in a State where this service is offered.

However, we continue to seek your support in obtaining four additional Industrial Safety Representatives at no additional cost to the State. These positions will be funded through fees paid to the NC Industrial Commission, NO TAX DOLLARS INVOLVED! We are asking that you contact your Elected Officials voicing your support of our efforts. You must hurry as time is running out. We could easily double the amount of employees trained if we had four more Industrial Safety Representatives. Everyone wins... employees, employers! Again, Thanks for your support. Dennis

The *NC Industrial Commission Safety Education Section* stands ready to assist you with your Safety training needs. We offer a variety of courses, designed to suit your needs. Please give one of our Industrial Safety Representatives a call...

- Mel Harmon-Mid-State Area and Defensive Driving Instructor - 919-218-3374 Cell 919-545-6041 Office harmonm@ind.commerce.state.nc.us
- Alvin Scott - Eastern and Southeastern Carolina Area - 919-218-2792 Cell 252-291-1370 Office scotta@ind.commerce.state.nc.us
- Eric Johnson - Western Carolina, Blue Ridge & Southern Piedmont Areas - 919-218-3567 Cell, 704-933-2414 Office johnsone@ind.commerce.state.nc.us
- Randy Cranfill - Western and Central Piedmont Areas - 919-218-2986 Cell 336-679-8493 Office cranfilr@ind.commerce.state.nc.us
- Anne Hill - Program Assistant - 919-807-2603 hilla@ind.commerce.state.nc.us
- Dennis Parnell - Director - 919-218-3000 Cell, 919-807-2602 Office parnell@ind.commerce.state.nc.us

We Are Working For You!

CLIP AND POST

Upcoming Events...

1. **August 2, 2005 -Western Piedmont Safety Council Quarterly Meeting, Brushy Mtn, Smokehouse, Wilkesboro, NC, 6 PM**
2. **August 18, 2005 - Southeastern Safety Council Quarterly Meeting, Holiday Inn, Exit 49, Fayetteville, NC**
3. **September 8, 2005 - Blue Ridge Safety Council Regional Workshop - 8AM-NOON and again from 1 PM-5 PM - Location TBA**
4. **September 13, 2005 - Mid-State Safety Council Quarterly meeting-Defensive Driving Workshop, Campbell University, Morrisville Campus-Room 134- Aviation Parkway, Morrisville, NC 9 AM**
5. **September 15, 2005 - Central Piedmont Safety Council Workplace Wellness Seminar, Hawthorne Inn, Winston-Salem, NC 8 AM**
6. **September 27, 2005 - Western Piedmont Safety Council Workshop, The Hub, Hudson, NC**
7. **October 6, 2005 - Eastern Carolina Safety Council - Quarterly meeting Wilber's BBQ, Goldsboro, NC 6 PM**
8. **October 11, 2005 - Western Carolina Safety Council Fall Workshop, TBA**
9. **October 13, 2005 - Central Piedmont Safety Council Regional Workshop, Forsyth County Extension, 8AM-NOON and again from 1 PM-5 PM**
10. **October 19, 2005 - Mid-State Safety Council Fall Workshop - Sharon Harris Visitors Center, New Hill, NC 8 AM**
11. **October 19 - 21, 2005 - NC Industrial Commission Workers' Comp Conference, Sheraton Imperial, RTP, NC**
12. **October 27, 2005 - Southern Piedmont Safety Council Fall Workshop - TBA**
13. **October 27, 2005 - Blue Ridge Safety Council - TBA**
14. **May 9-12, 2006 NC Statewide Safety Conference, Joseph Koury Convention Center, Greensboro, NC .**