

# ADOSH ADVOCATE

Improving  
workplace  
safety &  
health



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## ADOSH ADVOCATE

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Darin Perkins, Director

## Safety - Not Just For Work

ADOSH's focus is typically on work-related safety and health, but the same principles that apply at work, also apply in the home and other locations.

I have no idea where this photo comes from, or even whether it is "real" or

It is more likely than not that this setup has been staged; the slightest wave would knock out the power, not to mention create a shocking (if not fatal) end to the party. But, who knows? I'm sure we've all seen dumber ideas. As a colleague of



simply something that's been staged, but it sure causes a double-take.

It looks like a group of friends (identities blurred to protect the guilty!) in the backyard enjoying the cool swimming pool on a hot summer day. The drinks, conveniently placed, are getting worked over. What appears to be a small, electric grill is at the center of the table. Extension cords and a strip outlet are used to provide power to the grill.

mine stated regarding this photo, "There's no end to the ingenuity of morons."

These types of photos, whether staged or not, provide an opportunity for each of us to consider some of the things that we do, both on and off of the job. Let's do our best to ensure that safety is the prevailing theme at work and at home!

Darin Perkins, Director

### Voluntary Protection Program

ADOSH consultation has been particularly busy over the past few months as we have conducted several onsite reviews for the sole purpose of adding new companies to the ranks of the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP), or recertifying existing members.

Frito Lay in Phoenix and Simmons' Manufacturing in Tolleson were both recertified as VPP STAR facilities.

In addition to these recertifications, four new employers were welcomed into the program: Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucson, Honeywell Aerospace Avionics Product Center in the Deer Valley area, Honeywell Phoenix Service Center in Phoenix and United States Gypsum Company in Phoenix. These companies represent the 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd employers in Arizona to achieve the VPP STAR recognition.

Photo courtesy of Raytheon Missile Systems



Many other employers are in various stages of the application process and we look forward to working with them. Questions regarding the VPP and SHARP programs can be addressed to either of ADOSH's consultation sections. Call and ask for an information packet on either program.

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### Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program

The Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) is growing. Currently, almost 50 employers in Arizona, including Hill Brothers Chemical Co. in Phoenix, have been recognized under this program for their efforts toward employee safety and health.

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### Safety - More Than Lip Service

Once again I was recently meeting with an employer to discuss the citations he had received. He had two citations relating to scaffolding violations. The fines were substantial, somewhere in the area of \$3,000 because these were classified as repeat citations, meaning the company was cited for the same or similar violations within the past 12 months. That alone told me a great deal.

During our meeting the employer attempted to assure me that he was concerned and wanted to do the right thing and he wanted me to understand that they meant well. Employee safety is extremely important to them and he was looking for some relief on the citations and/or the penalties.

I noted the case file had a copy of the company's safety & health rules within it. I had read the manual, which, surprisingly, was not that extensive given the type of work the employer does and the potential for serious injuries or illnesses. I decided to ask the employer a few questions regarding his safety and health program. Keep in mind this manual had a cover letter from the owner professing his commitment to employee safety & health.

I first asked the employer what, if anything, he does when he arrives onsite and notes employees engaged in work activities and breaking the rules. He looked a bit puzzled at first, as if to ask me why are we talking about this, then he replied, softly, "I might talk to them". I then asked him if he had a policy in his safety rules or manual that would guide him or his management team on how to deal with offenders, and he stated, "I don't know. I really don't know what is in the program. I have not read it."

Sound familiar? Trust me, this is something I see and hear all the time. I asked him the following question: "Out of the 70 employees you have in your company how many of them would you say have seen or read your safety rules?" I got the answer I expected. His response: "Probably none. I do not show it to them." This is coming from an employer who just received repeat citations and wants to be given consideration regarding the penalties assessed. What could I possibly do? He brought nothing to show me that he takes the safety and health of his employees seriously, as he claimed. In the end the citation stood as issued.

Mark Norton,  
Assistant Director

OSHA recently published inspection procedures for operations involving portland cement. The document explains how existing OSHA standards and requirements (air contaminants, personal protective equipment, sanitation, hazard communication and recordkeeping) apply to operations involving portland cement and collects all of the applicable provisions in a single inspection checklist. Employers who use portland cement should become familiar with the document, which can be found on OSHA's web site at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).



### A Thousand Words

This employee was told he had to tie off when he was more than six feet above the next lower level. In this case, he felt he had to tie off because he was standing next to an excavation that was deeper than six feet. He was also told he had to find a tie off point that would support 5,000 pounds. The excavator seemed a good anchorage. However, the operator was in the seat of the excavator on the other side of the machine, with the engine running. The operator could not see this employee.

Although there are definitely some problems with this setup, we still give the employee an "A" for paying attention in his training class, for doing his best to follow instructions and especially for being a good sport when his photo was taken!

### The "Inbox"

*We regularly receive questions and comments via e-mail, at [adosh.comments@dol.gov](mailto:adosh.comments@dol.gov). Following is a selection of some we recently received.*

**Q:** I work at a sports venue as an audio engineer. We are required to play music at very loud levels, even during rehearsals. What rules regulate the overall volume?

**A:** 29 CFR 1910.95 is the standard regulating noise in the workplace. If you are exposed to levels equal to or greater than 85 decibels (as a TWA), your employer must institute a hearing conservation program.

**Q:** My employer recently told us they are no longer going to provide drinking water. We will have to pay for our own. Is there a standard that states employers have to provide drinking water for employees?

**A:** Yes, OSHA standards require employers to provide employees with drinking water (this can be tap water). The applicable standard is 29 CFR 1910.141(b)(1)(i).

**Q:** Please direct me to the regulation that states our air compressors must be set to no more than 30 PSI.

**A:** There is no regulation requiring air compressors be set at no more than 30 psi. There is, however, a regulation (29 CFR 1910.242(b)) that prohibits the use of compressed air at 30 psi and above for cleaning purposes (whether cleaning of the person or cleaning of parts/equipment). In cases where compressed air is needed for cleaning purposes, the pressure at the nozzle must not be greater than 30 psi. There are special nozzles that will reduce the pressure to an appropriate level at the nozzle, allowing a greater pressure throughout the rest of the system to operate tools and equipment.

**Q:** Are there standards for maximum and minimum temperatures permitted in indoor workplaces such as offices?

**A:** There are no OSHA standards regulating the general temperature of the workplace.



Apparently, holding the switch on with the thumb is just too tiring. We don't recommend this at home.

### Did You Know?

Many employers are under the impression that if they have received citations from ADOSH, they cannot utilize ADOSH's consultation services on any of their job sites until the citations have been corrected and the inspection file closed. Actually, that prohibition applies only to the job site that was the subject of the citations, or where there is an open compliance inspection. An employer may still utilize the services of the consultation section on all other job sites.

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## ADOSH ADVOCATE

### Fatal Mistakes

In 2007, fall related accidents were the number one reason for Arizona OSHA fatality investigations. Each fatal accident is a tragedy. Each death leaves us all the poorer in the end. A worker is lost. Families suffer not only the loss of a significant loved one, but in some cases they also lose their sole income provider. Some become dependent on others and various charitable organizations and we all pay.

In 2007 we had fall accidents related to a scaffold that collapsed, a slip/trip accident on a stairway, several ladder related falls, a fall from a residential porch, a truss collapse and a few others. All of these falls could have been prevented, and each of the victims could have gone home to dinner with the family.

As a fall is occurring, the victim is fully aware of what is happening in most cases. We all know people who have survived horrific falls. Unless the injuries received caused the survivor to forget, or blank out the details of the fall, he can tell you what a horrifying experience the fall itself was. They will also explain the pain associated with the injuries, if you really want to know. Many survivors never stop experiencing the pain. Injuries are, in many cases lifelong testaments to the result of a fall accident. Even with all the pain, the survivors are the lucky ones. They lived to tell about it. The folks that did not survive can't tell us their stories.

All falls can be prevented. But guardrails, personal fall arrest systems, safety nets, training, monitors and alternative fall protection plans just simply do not work unless all employees use them correctly at all times. We recently have seen evidence of two falls that were arrested by personal fall arrest equipment being worn correctly by well trained employees. We normally never hear of the good stories like these. When fall protection works, it is always because the employee is trained well and does what he is trained to do. Training is the recipe for survival.

Of the fall victims of 2007, we would be willing to "mortgage the farm" and bet all the proceeds that all of them would like to have just a minute more to step back and practice what they were trained to do. Each one of them probably had a moment where they felt like the need to complete the job, or hurry up so they could finish early, caused them to shortcut the training they had received, or to forget the training. To compound the tragedies, some were just inadequately trained before they were put to work.

We present fall protection classes. These classes are free. During these classes we discuss the OSHA Standards that require fall protection, and we discuss ways to implement fall protection. If you will look at the accompanying training schedule for the second quarter of 2008, you will find the classes listed. We can only ask why there is a failure to train and a failure to implement the training. Falls are not a part of an agreement to work. No one should be exposed to a fall hazard without the required training in fall hazard recognition and the training in how to avoid the fall hazard. In a nutshell, no employee is paid enough to have to become a victim of a fall, or even to become a survivor of a fall. No employer can afford to lose a worker to a fall, and expect to remain competitive. Continual, repetitive and frequent training is the answer.

Ernie Miller, Safety Consultant

### 2007 Fatality Stats

Falls were the number one reason for ADOSH fatality investigations in 2007. During that year, we investigated 12 fatalities that occurred due to a fall. In addition to fall-related fatalities, ADOSH investigated nine fatalities that occurred as a result of the victim being struck by some object, six that occurred as a result of the victim being caught in equipment or other material and two fatalities where employees were



asphyxiated. There was also one fatality where the cause of death was unknown.

The photo to the left seems funny on the one hand. On the other, not so much. This photo was not taken by ADOSH. However, we've seen similar situations (an employee acting as the "anchor" and holding onto the lanyard of his coworker) right here in Arizona.

With a little thought (and a lot of hindsight due to the experiences of others), many if not all workplace fatalities can be prevented.

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## ADOSH Education and Training Calendar

Registration for each class begins 30 days prior to the date of the class. Location and time will be provided at the time of registration. Classes sponsored by ADOSH are free of charge but are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Some classes or seminars listed are not exclusively sponsored by ADOSH and may carry a nominal fee to cover the cost of course materials, space rental, etc. **NOTE: The phone number listed for each class is the number participants need to call for registration purposes and may or may not be a direct number to ADOSH or the trainer. While ADOSH trainers can answer questions specific to the class such as content, attendees will need to call the specific number listed to register.**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Trainer</u>	<u>Registration No.</u>
April 2	Hearing Conservation	Bullhead City	Melissa Drate	928-757-0863
	Heat Stress Prevention	Bullhead City	Melissa Drate	928-757-0863
April 10	Safety & Health Program Mgmt.	Avondale	Joe Gates	623-935-8888
	Fall Protection Awareness	Tucson	Tom Webb	520-628-5478
April 15	OSHA 300 Recordkeeping	Tucson	Cheryl Caballero	520-628-5478
April 16	Forklift Train-the-Trainer	Phoenix	Joe Gates	602-631-2008
	Forklift Train-the-Trainer	Tucson	Bill Garton	520-628-5478
April 22	Lockout//Tagout	Peoria	Joe Gates	623-773-7679
April 23	Forklift Train-the-Trainer	Prescott	Joe Gates	602-631-2008
April 24	Welding & Cutting Safety	Surprise	Jenny Mandeville	623-222-3822
April 28	Hearing Conservation	Phoenix ICA	Melissa Drate	602-542-1640
April 29	Lockout/Tagout	Phoenix	Joe Gates	602-542-1769
	Personal Protective Equipment	Tucson	Cheryl Caballero	520-628-5478
April 30	Ergonomics	Yuma	Melissa Drate	928-373-5092
	Heat Stress Prevention	Yuma	Melissa Drate	928-373-5092
May 8	Forklift Train-the-Trainer	Flagstaff	Joe Gates	928-522-3032
	OSHA in the Med Office	Avondale	Melissa Drate	623-935-8888
May 13	Heat Stress Prevention	Peoria	Melissa Drate	623-773-7679
	Excavation Safety Awareness	Tucson	Cheryl Caballero	520-628-5478
May 14	Hearing Conservation	Kingman	Melissa Drate	928-757-0863
	Fall Protection Awareness	Phoenix	Joe Gates	602-631-2008
May 15	Lockout/Tagout	Mesa	Joe Gates	480-732-7320
May 19	Back Injury Prevention	Phoenix ICA	Melissa Drate	602-542-1640
May 21	Job Hazard Analysis	Yuma	Melissa Drate	928-373-5092
	Safety & Health Program Mgmt.	Kingman	Joe Gates	928-757-0863
	Concrete & Masonry Safety	Kingman	Joe Gates	928-757-0863
May 22	Fall Protection Awareness	Surprise	Jenny Mandeville	623-222-3822
	Safety & Health Management	Tucson	Tom Webb	520-628-5478
May 27	Fall Protection Awareness	Phoenix	Joe Gates	602-542-1769
May 28	Respiratory Protection	Prescott	Melissa Drate	928-541-5001
June 3	Forklift Train-the-Trainer	Tucson	Bill Garton	520-628-5478
June 4	OSHA in the Office	Yuma	Melissa Drate	928-373-5092
	Bloodborne Pathogens	Yuma	Melissa Drate	928-373-5092
June 10	Hazard Communication	Peoria	Melissa Drate	623-773-7679
	Hazard Communication	Tucson	Cheryl Caballero	520-628-5478
June 11	Workplace Violence Prevention	Phoenix	Melissa Drate	602-631-2008
	Violence Prevention	Bullhead	Joe Gates	928-757-0863
	Fall Protection Awareness	Bullhead	Joe Gates	928-757-0863
June 17	Bloodborne Pathogens	Phoenix ICA	Melissa Drate	602-542-1640
	Fall Protection Awareness	Queen Creek	Jenny Mandeville	480-358-3203
June 18	Concrete & Masonry Safety	Yuma	Joe Gates	928-373-1138
	Welding Safety	Yuma	Joe Gates	928-373-1138
June 24	Forklift Train-the-Trainer	Phoenix	Joe Gates	602-542-1769
	Confined Space Safety	Tucson	Cheryl Caballero	520-628-5478
June 25	Scaffold Safety	Prescott	Joe Gates	602-631-2008
June 26	Hazard Communication	Queen Creek	Melissa Drate	480-358-3203
	Job Hazard Analysis	Tucson	Tom Webb	520-628-5478

Trainers may be contacted by e-mail using the following format: <lastname>.<firstname>@dol.gov

"Phoenix ICA" classes are held at the Phoenix ICA building located at 800 W. Washington St.

All Tucson classes are held at the Tucson ICA building located at 2675 E. Broadway Rd.

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### Occupational Fatalities Investigated by ADOSH October 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007

- 1) One employee fell off of the top of a cement truck.
  - 2) An employee took the cover off of a floor hole and stepped into the hole, falling several feet.
  - 3) A police officer fell during a repelling training class.
  - 4) An employee was crushed while making repairs on a tractor. The hydraulics engaged, closing a portion of the tractor on his upper torso.
  - 5) An employee fell nine feet during the process of dismantling a scaffold.
  - 6) An employee fell from a retaining wall at a private residence while attempting to access the propane tank.
  - 7) During maintenance work on a 747, the main landing gear collapsed, crushing the mechanic in the wheel well.
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