

# ADOSH ADVOCATE

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safety &  
health



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## ADOSH ADVOCATE

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Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health  
800 West Washington Street      2675 East Broadway Road  
Phoenix, AZ. 85007                      Tucson, AZ. 85716  
(602) 542-5795                              (520) 628-5478

Darin Perkins, Director

## Crane Safety

Recently, there have been a high number of incidents across the United States involving the use of cranes, particularly on construction sites. Many of these have resulted in the unfortunate death of one or more employees or bystanders. As a result of the increased focus on these pieces of machinery, a few words regarding crane operator training and inspections, particularly as they apply to the construction industry, are in order.

I am often asked if OSHA requires certification for crane operators. While some states with their own state-run OSHA programs have adopted rules requiring certification of operators, current federal OSHA (and Arizona) requirements do not require such certification. Notwithstanding the absence of OSHA standards dealing with crane operator training, there are industry standards, such as ANSI, on point. On a related note, there are also no OSHA requirements regarding the physical qualifications of crane operators.

OSHA standards do require regular inspections of cranes. These inspections must be performed by a "competent person", defined as "someone who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards involved and is authorized to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them." The competent person performing the inspection can be someone in-house (work-

ing for the employer operating the crane), or someone from another party, such as the crane manufacturer or rental company.

Inspections must be done before and during use and identified deficiencies must be corrected before any further use of the crane. Basic things to look for include, (but are not limited to): crane marking indicating rated load capacities; recommended operating

speeds; special hazard warnings; condition of wire ropes and drums; belts, gears, shafts, pulleys, sprockets, spindle drums, fly wheel chains and other moving parts and their respective guards; cab glass and windows.

This is just a very short list of the areas of concern when using cranes. As the person doing the inspections or the one who is competent in doing them you must

remember to be diligent in all areas. Never allow a crane to continue to be used if there are problems of any nature. With all the accidents we are hearing of it is important to make sure we are looking at all aspects of safety when it comes to working with or around cranes.

-Mark Norton, Assistant Director



AP Photo/ The Houston Chronicle, Steve Ueckert

## ADOSH ADVOCATE

### Fatal Mistakes

Through June of this year, ADOSH investigated eleven fatal accidents. The average age of these employees was 44.4 years. The oldest was 67. The youngest was just 22. Seven of these men (all were male) fell to their deaths from various heights. One was struck on his head by a tree limb that fell from a tree he was helping trim. One was caught between a hay bale and a truck bed as the truck was being loaded. One died of heat exhaustion. One was struck by a trailer.

All accidental deaths can be prevented. But looking at the real world, we recognize there will always be human errors that cost a life. They are tragic, but they will occur because we all are human and make errors. Training, exposure to safe work practices, continuing reminders about how to survive work, and re-training at frequent intervals can go a long way to prevent work site deaths. Those constant reminders frequently eliminate the human failure factor.

Our last issue discussed heat as a potential fatal exposure. Many other accidents may have had a heat factor involved, but since it may not be a direct cause, we don't list heat as a frequent cause of death. It is more common than we know. Employees exhausted by heat exposure all day long, and all week long, tend not to think as defensively as they should. Lapses in judgment, training and discipline occur. Lapses lead to shortcuts and death in too many cases.

We frequently get questions about how often an employer should train his employees. In many cases I am tempted to answer that retraining is indicated every time an employee is killed. This would obviously be cruelly incorrect. Maybe the correct answer is to retrain employees every time one sees a failure of prior training. That might be equally as late as waiting for a death to occur. Simply stated, there is no right answer. Fall safety should be re-addressed every time someone has to go above the next lower level by more than a few feet. Employees working around machinery that they can be caught in need to be reminded of the horror of being crushed to death, or asphyxiated by something that presses so hard on us we cannot breathe. Other employees working where falling objects can strike them on the head or upper body hard enough to cause death need constant reminders that a hard hat can be their best friend when something falls.

"What is training?" is another question we frequently receive. Training can be a formal issue, in a classroom or lecture hall. It can be a "tail-gate" session prior to the start of work. It can be an after-work debriefing session as everyone is preparing to go home. It can be a formal document given to all employees to read, sign and return. Other forms of training are videos, slide shows, meetings and one-on-one sessions. It cannot be a written document in English, where the employees are Spanish speaking. It cannot be a document posted on an office wall where few employees frequent the area. It cannot be a general email when employees do not all have email availability.

In each of the fatalities so far this year, training could have played a more important role in preventing the accident. In fact, training could have saved some lives! Not providing frequent and effective training is the "Fatal Mistake."

-Ernie Miller, Safety Consultant

### Consultation Efforts Rewarded

We recently received a letter from Triumph Builders regarding ADOSH's consultation and partnership programs, highlighting the benefits that can result.

*As Triumph Builders has entered its second quarter of its second year in the Partnership Program with ADOSH, I wanted to take a moment to thank you and all of your OSHA consultation officers that have visited our jobsite projects throughout Tucson. We are also very appreciative of all the training sessions your staff have taken the time to prepare and [present to] our staff.*

*As I have indicated to you when we first started this program, Triumph Builders'*

*corporate culture is one that includes a major emphasis of safety on all of our jobs. Since joining the formal ADOSH Partnership [Program] we have made great strides in our safety program on our jobsites and the education that we have received from ADOSH has been extremely beneficial to our organization and to our subcontractors.*

*On behalf of Triumph Builders, its employees and our subcontractors, I would like to formally THANK YOU for allowing Triumph Builders to enter into this Partnership Program. I look forward to many more years of continuing success in working along side ADOSH in the future.*

*Best Regards,  
Triumph Builders SW, LLC*

Triumph's experience is just one example of how ADOSH's consultation and training program can benefit employers. If you haven't worked with the consultants in the past, give them a call and see if they can assist your company.

-AA

Terex Cranes has released a "Campaign Bulletin" (CB-010-005) regarding potential problems associated with the boom cylinder holding valve velocity fuse in all truck & RT cranes shipped since September 1, 2007. The fuse may fail, resulting in an abrupt falling of the boom and attachments.

If you have a crane that falls within the scope of this alert, or think you may have one, contact Terex at 910-395-8501, or [www.terex-cranes.com](http://www.terex-cranes.com) for more information.





### A Thousand Words

A recent inspection revealed this power cord to a saw. The saw was on the metal table shown. The cord looks like many we've all seen before: frayed and lacking strain relief.

In examining the condition more closely, the inspector noted that her voltage detector lit up when it was placed near the table. Upon unplugging the cord, the detector no longer indicated the presence of voltage on the table.

Much time could be spent discussing the "whys." Why did the detector pick up voltage at the table? Why did an employee not get shocked when touching the table? Such questions would distract from the more important point: a regular, electrical equipment inspection program is imperative!

### 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:** A concern was recently raised in my workplace regarding employees working alone. Are their regulations requiring employees to work in pairs, depending upon the industry or nature of the work?

**A:** There are no OSHA regulations prohibiting an employee from working alone, regardless of the industry, except for work in confined spaces.

**Q:** I would like to know what responsibility I have as an employer if an injury were to occur to an employee while he is telecommuting. Should it be recorded the same as it would if the employee were at the worksite? Am I responsible for inspecting the home work location to ensure it is safe? If no inspection is performed, what is my liability?

**A:** When an employee is injured while in telecommute status (working from home), the injury is recorded on the OSHA 300 log just as it would be if it occurred in the typical workplace, assuming it meets the other conditions for a recordable injury.

As to home inspections, it might not be a bad idea to take a look at the area where work will be performed to ensure it is safe, but that is a decision you will have to make; ADOSH would not get involved in conducting an inspection at an employee's home work station.

Regarding liability, you should consult with your attorney on that matter to determine the extent of your liability in any given situation.

**Q:** Regarding the recent ruling that employers are responsible for purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE), where does that responsibility end? Does that mean provide it for them once or as often as they need it?

**A:** 1910.132(h)(5) states that the employer must pay for replacement PPE except when the employee has lost or intentionally damaged the PPE. You could have a policy that requires employees to turn in their old PPE prior to getting new. If an employee cannot turn in the old because it is lost, then he would be responsible for the replacement.

An employee that turns in the old equipment and it is clearly in unacceptable condition due to normal wear and tear would be entitled to replacement PPE without cost.

-AA

### Safety Works Expo

SCF's annual Safety Works Expo is set for October 7th and 8th at the Holiday Inn Palo Verde Tucson Airport hotel, located at 4550 S. Palo Verde Blvd. in Tucson.

The Expo is designed for safety professionals, employers, employees and anyone in charge of overseeing workplace safety and health. The Expo will feature exhibits, classes and a tradeshow floor with vendors.

The cost of the Expo is \$70, which includes continental breakfasts and lunches each day, as well as admission to all workshop sessions. For more information, contact 602-631-2002, or visit [www.scfaz.com](http://www.scfaz.com).

Manitowoc Cranes has issued a service bulletin (W08-010) regarding the safety of the boom, mast and luffing jib sections of certain model 16000 cranes. These sections may have chords with non-conforming wall thickness which could impact the structural integrity of cranes incorporating these sections.

If you use, or suspect you may use a Manitowoc crane with these sections, contact Manitowoc at 920-684-6621 for more information.

## 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>
October 1	Recordkeeping/300 Log	Phoenix	Melissa Schmaltz	602-441-9185
	Back Injury Prevention	Phoenix	Melissa Schmaltz	602-441-9185
	Violence Prevention	Phoenix	Melissa Schmaltz	602-441-9185
October 2	Back Injury Prevention	Peoria	Melissa Schmaltz	623-773-7679
October 7	OSHA in the Medical Office	Phoenix ICA	Melissa Schmaltz	602-542-1640
October 8	Scaffold Safety	Bullhead City	Joe Gates	928-758-2198
	Excavation Awareness	Tucson	Tom Webb	520-628-5478
	Excavation Safety	Bullhead City	Joe Gates	928-758-2198
	Hazard Communication	Prescott	Melissa Schmaltz	928-541-5001
October 9	Violence Prevention	Avondale	Melissa Schmaltz	623-535-8888
October 14	Lockout/Tagout	Avondale	Joe Gates	623-935-8888
October 15	Back Injury Prevention	Phoenix	Melissa Schmaltz	602-631-2008
	Personal Protective Equipment	Tucson	Cheryl Caballero	520-628-5478
October 22	Forklift Train-the-Trainer	Yuma	Joe Gates	928-373-5092
	Safety Management	Yuma	Joe Gates	928-373-5092
October 28	Basic Accident Investigation	Tucson	Mark Norton	520-628-5478
October 29	Forklift Train-the-Trainer	Tucson	Bill Garton	520-628-5478
	Bloodborne Pathogens	Prescott	Melissa Schmaltz	928-541-5001
October 30	Electrical Safety	Peoria	Joe Gates	623-773-7679
November 4	Bloodborne Pathogens	Peoria	Melissa Schmaltz	623-773-7679
November 5	Confined Space	Phoenix	Melissa Schmaltz	602-441-9185
	Hazard Communication	Phoenix	Melissa Schmaltz	602-441-9185
	Hearing Conservation	Phoenix	Melissa Schmaltz	602-441-9185
	Lockout/Tagout	Kingman	Joe Gates	928-757-0849
	Machine Guarding	Kingman	Joe Gates	928-757-0849
November 6	Back Injury Prevention	Avondale	Melissa Schmaltz	623-535-8888
November 11	Hazard Communication	Tucson	Dave Snover	520-628-5478
November 12	Scaffolding Safety Awareness	Tucson	Tom Webb	520-628-5478
	Hearing Conservation	Prescott	Melissa Schmaltz	928-541-5001
	Forklift Train-the-Trainer	Phoenix	Joe Gates	602-631-2008
November 13	OSHA 300 Recordkeeping	Mesa	Joe Gates	480-732-7080
	Safety Management	Tucson	Mark Norton	520-628-5478
November 19	Fall Protection Awareness	Tucson	Cheryl Caballero	520-628-5478
	OSHA 300 Recordkeeping	Yuma	Joe Gates	928-373-1138
November 20	Bloodborne Pathogens	Avondale	Melissa Schmaltz	623-535-8888
November 25	Asbestos Awareness	Phoenix ICA	Melissa Schmaltz	602-542-1640
December 2	Hand & Power Tools	Tucson	Bill Garton	520-628-5478
December 3	Hazard Communication	Phoenix ICA	Melissa Schmaltz	602-542-1640
	OSHA 300 Recordkeeping	Tucson	Cheryl Caballero	520-628-5478
December 10	Electrical Safety	Bullhead City	Joe Gates	928-758-2198
	Fall Protection	Bullhead City	Joe Gates	928-758-2198
December 16	Respiratory Protection	Peoria	Melissa Schmaltz	623-773-7679
	OSHA 300 Recordkeeping	Phoenix ICA	Joe Gates	602-542-1769
	Forklift Train-the-Trainer	Tucson	Bill Garton	520-628-5478
December 17	Job Hazard Analysis	Tucson	Tom Webb	520-628-5478
	Electrical Safety	Phoenix	Joe Gates	602-631-2008

(Schedule continues on next page)

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.

# ADOSH ADVOCATE

## Education & Training Calendar - Cont'd.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Trainer</u>	<u>Registration No.</u>
December 18	Bloodborne Pathogens	Phoenix	Melissa Schmaltz	602-441-9185
	Hazard Communication	Phoenix	Melissa Schmaltz	602-441-9185
	Respiratory Protection	Phoenix	Melissa Schmaltz	602-441-9185
	Construction hazard Recognition	Tucson	Mark Norton	520-628-5478

## Newest SHARP Members

ADOSH recently welcomed two new employers into the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP). Lumber Products in Chandler, and the STO Corporation with locations in both Glendale and Phoenix, were recently recognized in separate ceremonies highlighting their accomplishments regarding employee safety and health.

Lumber Products is a multi-state company providing quality hardwood lumber, hardwood plywood, and door and millwork products to the northwest and intermountain states since 1938. Lumber Products' Chandler facility provides door sales and service to much of the state of Arizona. The plant has approximately 70 employees.



STO Corporation, in both Glendale and Phoenix, is a world leader in cladding, coating and restoration systems. The company is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. In North America, the company manufactures specialty coatings, hard coat stucco, and cement board stucco, as well as concrete repair and air and moisture barrier products.

The Arizona operations include approximately 25 employees at each of the two plants.

Congratulations to both companies on a job well done!

## Check Your Source

The proverbial "they." We've all heard it. "They said I could do it" or "they told me to do it this way." If you're like me, then your first question is probably "who's they?"

When it comes to safety and health, sometimes the answer to the "who" is OSHA or ADOSH. "ADOSH said it was ok" or "OSHA said we could do it this way." Does that sound familiar? Maybe you've heard someone make that statement as justification for the way he was performing a task. Maybe you've said something like that to someone else.

There are a lot of risks associated with accepting that type of a statement as fact (or with making that type of a statement). Just because someone says that ADOSH said that something is ok,

doesn't make it so, for several reasons. First, are you sure that an ADOSH representative actually gave the stated advice? If so, can you be certain that the individual receiving the advice understood what was being communicated, or that it was communicated correctly? Let's face it, we all make mistakes and miscommunicate from time to time.

Second, how many "hands" has the information passed through before it reached you? Are you getting it first hand? Second? Fifth? Tenth? If so, chances are good that the information is no longer accurate. Over time and as statements get passed from one person to the next, they seem to take on a life of their own and sometimes they don't even resemble the original information.

Third, how well do you trust the individ-

ual from whom you're getting the information? Is he known for giving out accurate information? Does he have any knowledge or authority to speak about the subject? Accepting advice from just anyone may not be the wisest thing to do.

Prior to resting on the advice granted (or perceived to have been granted) an employer would be wise to do some follow up work. Check with other, reliable sources. Before deciding to do something in a way that "they" told you, be sure that "they" are correct. A great resource on OSHA requirements is OSHA's web site at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).

"Because they said so" is not a good defense to a position.

-Darin Perkins, Director



## ADOSH ADVOCATE

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### Occupational Fatalities Investigated by ADOSH April 1, 2008 through June 31, 2008

- 1) An employee loading materials onto trucks fell from a 4.5' high loading dock, striking his head.
- 2) An employee was crushed between a load of hay bales and a flat-bed truck.
- 3) An employee was run over by a tractor trailer as he was assisting in the backing up of the trailer.
- 4) A construction employee died from heat exposure.

### ASA "Lunch & Learn" Seminar

Howard Schapira, owner of Action Scaffolding and past national president of the Scaffold Industry Association (SIA) along with David Lanza, Safety Director for PCI Contractors and current president of the local chapter of the SIA will make a presentation on scaffold safety at the October 21<sup>st</sup> American Subcontractors Association of Arizona (ASA) Lunch 'n Learn at 11:30 at the Phoenix Airport Hilton. Also in attendance will be ADOSH Director Darin Perkins who will participate with the SIA in a Q & A following the presentation. This is a great opportunity for business owners and Safety Directors to get up to speed with current OSHA scaffold standards and get training materials to educate their work force on the safe use, erection and dismantle of scaffold products. Scaffold related OSHA violations continue to represent three of the top ten OSHA citations. Education and training is the key to reducing citations and accidents. To register contact the ASA offices at 602-274-8979.

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**ADOSH  
800 West Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ. 85007**