

# ADOSH ADVOCATE

Improving  
workplace  
safety &  
health



<http://www.ica.state.az.us>

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## ADOSH ADVOCATE

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Darin Perkins, Director

## Fatal Mistakes

Three employees were working on a residential re-roof project. The residence was in an older section of Scottsdale, where 1950's vintage homes are becoming candidates for refurbishment, including re-roofing.

While working on the lower edge of the roof, in weather that was not ideal in that there was a continual light mist falling, one employee was working near the weather head and mast pipe used for a 240 volt alternating current electrical system.

The roofing employees had been assured all systems were disconnected, and in fact had checked at the breaker panel for live current and had found none. They had also been told that the old 200 Amp service that entered the weather head mast pipe was inert, and had not been live for many years. The service had run to a small machine shop in the original owner's garage. No machines had been run there for many years.

Appearance of the top of the weather head seemed to bear out the claim of the system being disconnected. Insulation was rotted off the cables, the connectors were corroded, and it seemed pretty clear that it was indeed abandoned.

As the employee working near the weather head mast got closer, the mist became a bit heavier. Finally he slipped a bit, he stood to regain balance contacting an overhead electrical line, and grabbed the steel mast pipe for support. Wet hands, wet feet and a strong grip connected him as the path to ground for the 240 volt circuit that had never really been abandoned. Between the overhead line and the 240 volt current running through the mast pipe because of rotted insulation, this employee was electrocuted, his hand firmly gripped to the pipe

for several seconds until the breakers opened.

The roofer contacted a live overhead line that was too close to the roof for our modern standards, but "grandfathered" for certain residential situations and a mast pipe that carried 240 volts due to rotted insulation on a system everyone told the roofers had been dead for many years.

A clear attempt was made to verify that electrical power was indeed inert by checking the breaker panel. Word of mouth was not sufficient verification of the absence of power. The overhead power cable that was simply too close to the roof under modern standards could have been moved or rendered inert by the power company prior to beginning this re-work project had the contractor submitted such a request. So, really there were many opportunities to prevent this accident.

The message to survivors is to not work until all sources of power have been rendered inert, appropriate controls placed on devices that could reconnect power, and every potential source of electrical power is checked to ensure that it is indeed inert.

In old newspaper terms, this is "30" for this writer. Retirement has succeeded in seducing me, and this column will be taken over by a new writer in the next issue. Writing this column has been a highlight of my work here at ADOSH and I have enjoyed the association with all of you through this column. So-long, and be safe!

-Ernie Miller, Safety Consultant



**A Thousand Words**

Observed along the new light-rail route, these employees were working on the side of a building. They discovered an ingenious method of creating an elevated work platform, using two forklifts, some wooden pallets and some plywood.

They also constructed a "fall protection" system for themselves, using some rope as a catenary line, run through the D rings on their harnesses, and tied to the forklift mast on either side.

One must give them an "A" for effort and for a genuine attempt to create a safe working environment using the materials they had available to them at the time. Nevertheless, the hazards are obvious and, with a little more forethought, could have been effectively avoided.

**The "Inbox"**

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

**Q:** Recently, my employer decided to prohibit hourly employees from having any containers of liquids for drinking at their workstations, within reach when needed. Is it legal for an employer in Arizona to flatly prohibit hourly employees from having immediate access to the beverage of their choice at their workstation?

**A:** OSHA standards require employers to provide potable water for drinking purposes. There are no standards requiring employers to allow employees to have a beverage at their workstation. ADOSH would not cite an employer

unless we could show that the employer was either failing to provide or not allowing employees to access drinking water or other beverages when needed.

**Q:** How long can an employer force an employee to work without giving the employee a break?

**A:** The laws require employers to properly compensate employees for all hours worked, but do not require employers to provide break or lunch periods.

**Q:** Is there a shelf loading standard?

**A:** There is not an OSHA standard specific to shelving unit safety, but there is an ANSI standard on storage shelves. ANSI standards can be obtained through the American National Standards Institute. Contact information can be located on the internet.

**Q:** I recently went to work in a dental office and have been told that I am not allowed to wear earrings due to OSHA standards. Is this true?

**A:** There are no OSHA regulations regarding the wearing of earrings in dental facilities.

**VPP Update**

Congratulations to Hamilton Sundstrand for their achievement of the VPP STAR designation. Hamilton Sundstrand was approved on September 22, 2008. The company is involved in the manufacturing of electronic devices and components used in the aerospace industry. Hamilton's Phoenix operations demonstrate that they are committed to maintaining a safe and healthy work environment for almost 450 employees. Congratulations on a job well done!

(Continued from page 3)

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Class</u>                    | <u>Location</u>  | <u>Trainer</u>   | <u>Registration No.</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| March 18    | Violence in the Workplace       | Yuma             | Jenny Mandeville | 928-373-1138            |
|             | Noise and Hearing Conservation  | Yuma             | Jenny Mandeville | 928-373-1138            |
| March 26    | Confined Spaces                 | Estrella College | Jenny Mandeville | 623-535-2800            |
|             | Electrical Safety Awareness     | Peoria           | Jenny Mandeville | 623-773-7679            |
|             | Construction Hazard Recognition | Tucson           | Mark Norton      | 520-628-5478            |
| March 31    | OSHA Recordkeeping              | Peoria           | Jenny Mandeville | 623-773-7679            |

## 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> |
|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| January 6   | Forklift Train the Trainer     | Phoenix          | Jenny Mandeville | 623-535-2800            |
| January 8   | Safety Management              | Tucson           | Mark Norton      | 520-628-5478            |
| January 7   | OSHA Recordkeeping             | Prescott         | Jenny Mandeville | 928-541-5001            |
| January 13  | Welding & Cutting Safety       | Lake Havasu      | Jenny Mandeville | 928-505-8104            |
|             | Safety Management              | Lake Havasu      | Jenny Mandeville | 928-505-8104            |
|             | Excavation Safety Awareness    | Tucson           | Bill Garton      | 520-628-5478            |
| January 14  | Lockout Tagout                 | Tucson           | Cheryl Caballero | 520-628-5478            |
| January 15  | OSHA Recordkeeping             | Flagstaff        | Jenny Mandeville | 928-522-3032            |
|             | Safety Management              | Flagstaff        | Jenny Mandeville | 928-522-3032            |
|             | Electrical Safety Awareness    | Tucson           | Tom Webb         | 520-628-5478            |
| January 20  | Safety & Health Management     | Peoria           | Jenny Mandeville | 623-773-7679            |
| January 21  | Machine Guarding               | Yuma             | Jenny Mandeville | 928-373-1138            |
|             | Electrical Safety/Lockout      | Yuma             | Jenny Mandeville | 928-373-1138            |
| January 27  | OSHA Recordkeeping             | Prescott         | Jenny Mandeville | 928-541-5001            |
|             | Excavation Safety Awareness    | Tucson           | Mark Norton      | 520-628-5478            |
| January 28  | OSHA Recordkeeping             | Phoenix          | Jenny Mandeville | 602-631-2228            |
|             | OSHA Recordkeeping             | Tucson           | Cheryl Caballero | 520-628-5478            |
| January 29  | OSHA in the Office Environ't   | Peoria           | Jenny Mandeville | 623-773-7679            |
| February 3  | Job Hazard Analysis            | Peoria           | Jenny Mandeville | 623-773-7679            |
|             | Forklift Train-the-Trainer     | Tucson           | Bill Garton      | 520-628-5478            |
| February 4  | Fall Protection                | Prescott         | Jenny Mandeville | 928-541-5001            |
|             | Job Hazard Analysis            | Tucson           | Mark Norton      | 520-628-5478            |
| February 5  | Safety Management              | Phoenix          | Jenny Mandeville | 602-631-2228            |
| February 11 | Electrical Safety Awareness    | Kingman          | Jenny Mandeville | 928-505-8104            |
|             | Scaffold Safety Awareness      | Kingman          | Jenny Mandeville | 928-505-8104            |
|             | Confined Spaces                | Tucson           | Cheryl Caballero | 520-628-5478            |
| February 12 | Scaffolding Safety Awareness   | Tucson           | Tom Webb         | 520-628-5478            |
| February 18 | Asbestos Awareness             | Yuma             | Jenny Mandeville | 928-373-1138            |
|             | Hazard Communication           | Yuma             | Jenny Mandeville | 928-373-1138            |
| February 19 | Bloodborne Pathogens           | Estrella College | Jenny Mandeville | 623-535-2800            |
|             | Ergonomics                     | Peoria           | Jenny Mandeville | 623-773-7679            |
| February 24 | Confined Spaces                | Peoria           | Jenny Mandeville | 623-773-7679            |
| March 3     | Hearing Conservation           | Peoria           | Jenny Mandeville | 623-773-7679            |
|             | Back Injury Prevention         | Peoria           | Jenny Mandeville | 623-773-7679            |
|             | Basic Accident Investigation   | Tucson           | Mark Norton      | 520-628-5478            |
| March 4     | Welding & Cutting Safety       | Peoria           | Jenny Mandeville | 623-773-7679            |
| March 5     | Hazard Communication           | Estrella College | Jenny Mandeville | 623-535-2800            |
|             | Fall Protection                | Flagstaff        | Jenny Mandeville | 623-522-3032            |
|             | Construction Safety Management | Flagstaff        | Jenny Mandeville | 928-522-3032            |
| March 10    | Lockout/Tagout                 | Bullhead City    | Jenny Mandeville | 928-505-8104            |
|             | Forklift Train the Trainer     | Bullhead City    | Jenny Mandeville | 928-505-8104            |
|             | Hand & Power Tool Safety       | Tucson           | Bill Garton      | 520-628-5478            |
| March 11    | Heat Stress                    | Phoenix          | Jenny Mandeville | 602-631-2228            |
|             | Bloodborne Pathogens           | Tucson           | Cheryl Caballero | 520-628-5478            |
| March 12    | Back Injury Prevention         | Prescott         | Jenny Mandeville | 928-541-5001            |
|             | Fall Protection                | Tucson           | Tom Webb         | 520-628-5478            |

(Calendar continued on page 2)

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

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### Occupational Fatalities Investigated by ADOSH July 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008

- 1) An employee untrained in forklift operations, accidentally backed over a coworker, fatally injuring him.
  - 2) An employee backed a raised, articulating boom lift into an overhead power line and was electrocuted.
  - 3) Two employees were struck by a backing loader, fatally injuring one of them.
  - 4) An employee was crushed between the buckets of two backhoes when one machine moved unexpectedly.
  - 5) An employee climbed or fell into an 18" wide air return duct and expired before being noticed.
  - 6) An employee working on a conveyor belt system was killed when a coworker started the system.
  - 7) An employee was killed when he was run over by a CAT crawler.
  - 8) An employee was crushed when a stack of 22 sheets of melamine particle board fell on him.
  - 9) An employee finishing cement on the second floor, fell 17 feet when he backed under the midrail.
  - 10) An employee fell through an open hole in a rooftop, 30' to the ground below.
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