



# Safety News

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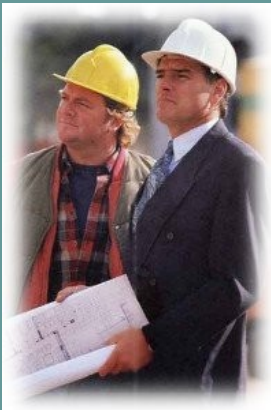
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**November 1, 2010**

## OSHA launches 2010 SST Program

OSHA's [2010 Site-Specific Targeting Program](#) kicked off last week. The 2010 program will focus enforcement efforts on approximately 4,100 different sites with high days away, restricted or transferred rates; or high days away from work injury and illness rates.

OSHA will target:

- About 3,300 manufacturing establishments with a DART rate of 7 or higher, or a DAFWII rate of 5 or higher
- 500 nonmanufacturing establishments with a DART rate of 15 or higher, or a DAFWII rate of 14 or higher
- 300 nursing or personal care facilities with a DART rate of 16 or higher, or a DAFWII rate of 13 or higher

The program is based on 2008 injury and illness data collected in the 2009 Data Initiative, an annual survey on work-related injuries and illnesses. Only nonconstruction workplaces with 40 or more employees are eligible for the SST Program.

## Your Copier's Hard Drive Can Open the Door to Identity Theft

By [William Deutsch](#), About.com Guide

Most office copy machines are equipped with a hard drive that stores images of every scanned, faxed and printed document. The images are often retained, in an unencrypted file, until the disk fills and the oldest data is overwritten.

Which means that the tax returns you copied at the office last year may still be there. Or your company financials may have just left the building with that off-lease copier.

Some copiers have privacy and security software available. Sharp and Xerox copiers, for example, can overwrite images so that they don't remain on the hard drive after the print job finishes. Discuss these features with your vendor; understand them and implement appropriate security policies.

In April of 2010, the subject of copier hard drives gained national attention thanks to [CBS News investigative report](#). A reporter purchased four used copiers from a New Jersey warehouse and found, among other things, documents from the Buffalo, New York Police Department. While CBS producers said that much of the information had been removed from the copiers, they were still able to retrieve documents containing details of drug and sex crimes.

Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown said, "The city's Information Technologies department has a system whereby the memory of the copiers is erased between one day and 30 days. Unfortunately, the Police Department had its own internal IT and was not utilizing the same process as Buffalo City Hall was."

So what can you do to avoid this kind of publicity? Here are a few tips for good copier security:

- Be careful what you copy. Avoid copying personal information on work or public machines. Especially if you have no control over how those machines are administered.
- If you're leasing a machine, discuss end of life security with your service provider to ensure that copy machine hard drives will be completely erased when the machine is removed.
- The other alternative is to destroy or erase the disk yourself before selling the machine or allowing it to be removed from your business.



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"It's All About You"

### OSHA Administrative Penalty Information Bulletin

Another policy change is the [overall increase in penalties and calculation procedure](#) for all inspections. OSHA is implementing several changes to its administrative penalty calculation system. Many of the agency's current penalty adjustment factors have been in place since the early 1970's, resulting in penalties which are often too low to have an adequate deterrent effect. Administrative penalty adjustments will therefore be made to several factors which impact the final penalty issued to employers. These factors include:

1. History Reduction (Time frame increased from 3 to 5 years)
2. History Increase (Possible increase of 10 %, No History if cited within the past 5 years)
3. Repeat Violations (Time frame increased from 3 to 5 years)
4. Severe Violator Enforcement Program
5. Gravity-Based Penalty (see chart below)
6. Size Reduction (10 – 20 % decrease from the past policy)
7. Good Faith (current policy retained with minor exceptions)
8. Minimum Penalties (Minimum of \$500 for Serious and \$250 for posting requirement)
9. Additional Administrative Modifications to the Penalty Calculation Policy

#### **Gravity-Based Penalty: Before Credits OR Increases Applied**

<b>Current</b> -----	<b>&gt; New</b>
High/Greater: \$5,000 or \$7,000-----	\$7,000
Medium/Greater: \$3,500-----	\$6,000
Low/Greater: \$2,500-----	\$5,000
High/Lesser: \$2,500-----	\$5,000
Medium/Lesser: \$2,000-----	\$4,000
Low/Lesser: \$1,500-----	\$3,000

Employers need to be aware of the current [OSHA policies](#). The agency will be targeting industries that have high fatality, injury and illness rates. Be aware of the list of "high emphasis hazards" and address the hazards before it leads to the Severe Violator Enforcement Program and/or higher penalties.



#### **CDC provides toolkit for employers to prevent seasonal flu**

To help businesses, employers, and their employees learn about strategies for preventing flu, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides a toolkit, flyers, posters, and other materials to post and distribute in the workplace.

The purpose of "Make It Your Business To Fight The Flu: A Toolkit for Businesses and Employers" is to provide information and recommended strategies to help businesses and employers promote the 2010 - 2011 seasonal flu vaccine.

The CDC says "Take 3 Actions" to Fight the Flu, and also provides a brochure and poster to promote the flu vaccination.

For more information, visit <http://www.flu.gov/professional/business/toolkit20102011.html>



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"It's All About You"

## OSHA publishes proposed rule change to SHARP

OSHA has proposed a [rule](#) that would revise the circumstances in which the agency may conduct inspections of sites participating in its On-Site Consultation Program.

The proposed rule, published in the Sept. 3 *Federal Register*, affects employers in OSHA's Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program, which recognizes small businesses with "exemplary safety and health management systems."

The proposed rule:

- Clarifies OSHA's ability to define sites to receive inspections regardless of SHARP exemption status
- Allows compliance officers to conduct enforcement visits from referrals at sites undergoing consultation visits or that have SHARP status
- Limits how long SHARP participants are exempt from OSHA's programmed inspection schedule

Comments on the proposed rule are due Nov. 2.

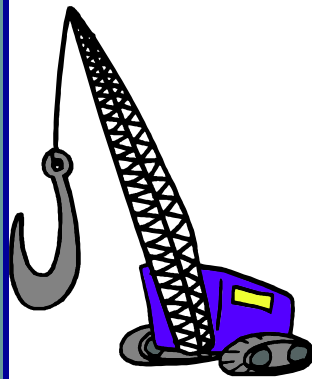
## New study addresses return-to-work challenges

A new scientific study released by Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety (LMI) takes a closer look at the obstacles employers and employees face when trying to return an employee to work following an injury.

Specifically, LMI provides an overview of the causes and costs associated with long-term disabilities, common problem areas, and things to consider when starting the returning-to-work process.

To read the study entitled "Achieving Return to Work Success," visit the Liberty Mutual website by clicking [here](#).

## New compliance resources for cranes & derricks rule now available online



Additional compliance assistance resources for the cranes and derricks in construction final rule have been posted to the OSHA Web site. These resources include two facts sheets on Subpart CC of the rule, which addresses requirements for crane and derrick [assembly and disassembly](#) and [operator qualification and certification](#). A [PowerPoint presentation](#) providing an overview of Subpart CC is also available online. In addition, OSHA's [Cranes and Derricks in Construction Final Rule](#) page contains the complete text of the rule, an archived Web chat and answers to frequently asked questions.

## OSHA Sends Letter to Grain Handling Facilities

OSHA Asst. Sec. of Labor, David Michaels, PhD, MPH, sent letters to all grain handling facilities. Grain entrapments are happening too frequently, researchers at Purdue University documented 38 grain entrapments in 2009 alone. OSHA has found that grain entrapments generally occur because of employer negligence, non-compliance with OSHA standards, and/or poor safety and health practices. The Asst. Sec. of Labor states, "If any employee dies in a grain storage facility, in addition to any civil penalties proposed, OSHA will consider referring the incident to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution pursuant to the criminal provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970".

If you have a grain storage bin, please see the attached OSHA Fact Sheet on Worker Entry into Grain Storage Bins.

# OSHA<sup>®</sup> FactSheet

## Worker Entry into Grain Storage Bins

### Engulfment and Suffocation Hazards

Grain storage bin entry is very dangerous and exposes workers to serious suffocation hazards - a leading cause of fatalities in this industry. Suffocation can occur when workers are engulfed (buried or covered) by grain or when bins develop hazardous atmospheres or a lack of oxygen.

Engulfment can occur when a worker does the following:

- Stands on moving/flowing grain (see figure 1) – The moving grain acts like “quicksand” and buries the worker in seconds.
- Stands on or below a “bridging” condition (see figure 2) - “Bridging” occurs when grain clumps together, because of moisture or mold, creating an empty space beneath the grain as it is unloaded. If a worker stands on or below the “bridged” grain, it can collapse, either under the worker’s weight or unexpectedly, thus, burying the worker.
- Stands next to an accumulated pile of grain on the side of the bin (see figure 3) – The grain pile can collapse onto the worker unexpectedly or when the worker attempts to dislodge it.

The grain’s behavior and weight make it extremely difficult for a worker to get out of the grain without assistance. Tragically, incidents in grain bins often result in multiple fatalities because coworkers attempt rescue and fall victim as well. These fatalities are preventable if employers follow work practices and provide training and equipment as required by OSHA’s Inspection of Grain Handling Facilities standard, 29 CFR 1910.272.

### Where Workers Enter Storage Bins, Employers Must:

- De-energize (turn off) and disconnect, lock-out and tag, or block off all mechanical, electrical, hydraulic and pneumatic equipment that presents a danger, *particularly grain-moving equipment*. Grain must not be emptied or moved into or out of the bin

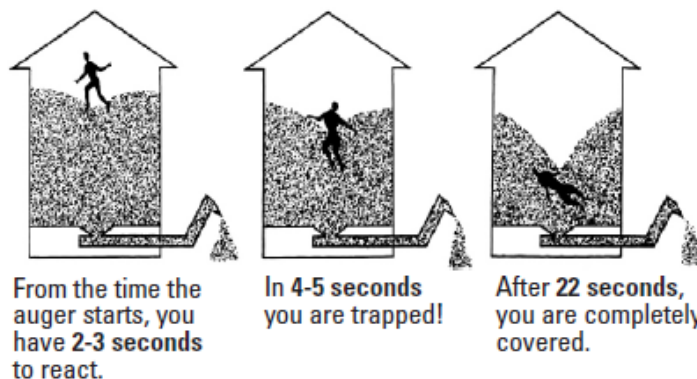


Figure 1. Flowing grain can bury a worker in seconds.

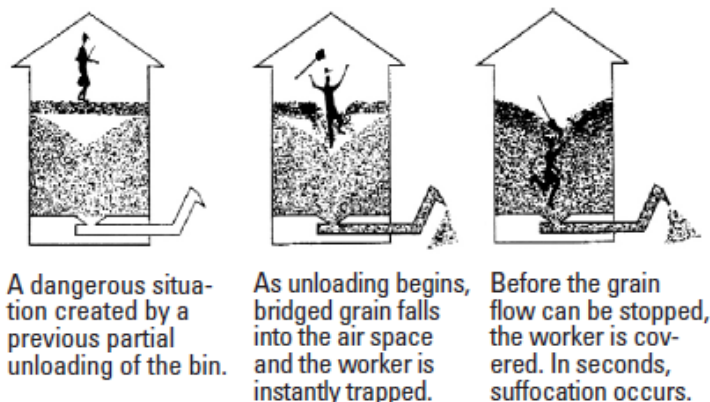


Figure 2. “Bridging” condition that results in engulfment.

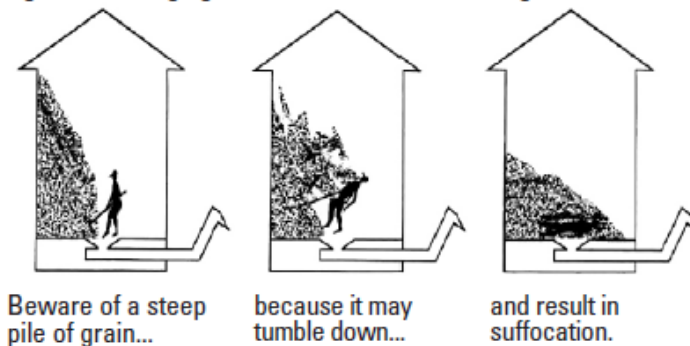


Figure 3. Accumulation on bin side that results in engulfment.

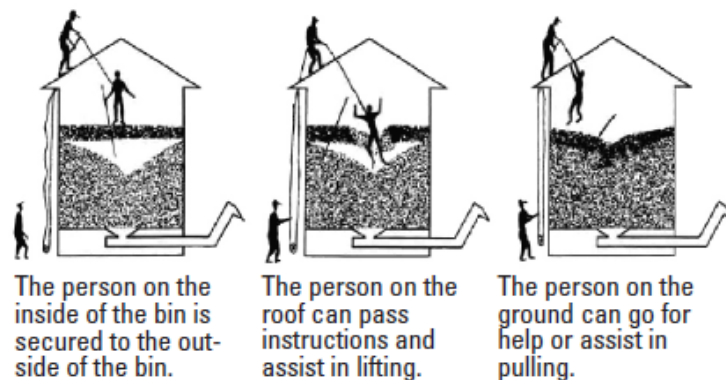


Figure 4. Illustration of successful rescue of worker during “bridging” condition.

while workers are inside because it creates a suction that can pull the worker into the grain in seconds.

- Prohibit walking down grain and similar practices where a worker walks on grain to make it flow.
- Prohibit entry onto or below a bridging condition, or where grain is built up on the side of the bin.
- Provide each worker entering a bin from a level at or above stored grain, or when a worker will walk or stand on stored grain with a body harness with a lifeline, or a boatswain's chair. Ensure that the lifeline is positioned and of sufficient length to prevent a worker from sinking further than waist-deep in grain.
- Provide workers with rescue equipment, such as winch systems that are specifically suited for rescue from the bin (see figure 4).
- Station an observer who is equipped to provide assistance and perform rescue operations outside the bin (see figure 4).
- Ensure that communications (visual, voice or signal line) are maintained between the observer and the workers who entered the bin.
- Test the air within a bin for oxygen content and the presence of hazardous gases before entry.
  - Provide and continue ventilation until any unsafe atmospheric conditions are eliminated.

- If toxicity or oxygen deficiency cannot be eliminated, workers must wear appropriate respirators.
- Issue a permit each time a worker enters a bin, unless the employer is present during the entire entry operation. The permit must certify that the above precautions have been implemented before workers enter the bin.

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### Additional Guidance

- For additional information on safe work practices in grain handling facilities, please see:
  - 29 CFR 1910.272, Inspection of Grain Handling Facilities.
  - OSHA's Grain Handling Safety and Health Topics Page: [www.osha.gov/SLTC/grainhandling/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/grainhandling/index.html).
- For additional information on safe work practices in confined spaces, see 29 CFR 1910.146, Permit-Required Confined Spaces.
- For additional information on respirators, see 29 CFR 1910.134, Respiratory Protection.
- For additional information on preparing young workers to work safely, please visit:
  - [www.osha.gov/SLTC/teenworkers/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/teenworkers/index.html), and
  - [www.osha.gov/SLTC/youth/agriculture/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/youth/agriculture/index.html)

This is one in a series of informational fact sheets highlighting OSHA programs, policies or standards. It does not impose any new compliance requirements. For a comprehensive list of compliance requirements of OSHA standards or regulations, refer to Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This information will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. The voice phone is (202) 693-1999; teletypewriter (TTY) number: (877) 889-5627.

For more complete information:



U.S. Department of Labor

[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

(800) 321-OSHA

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