



Safety Alliance Updates

OSHA Alliance News

In Conjunction with the OSHA Alliance

2012 Safety Awareness

Safety is not a concept nor is it a theory, it's a device designed to prevent accidents, it's a condition of being safe, and it's a freedom from danger or risk of injury. Are you dialed into your safety device? The OSHA Alliance has a dedicated group of professionals that are interested in the Health and Safety of each and every worker in the Outside Electrical Industry. The Alliance has, in my mind, made great strides in helping the employers and industry partners achieve the ultimate goal of "bringing awareness and changing the safety culture of the workers in our trade," one of many goals that the program set out to accomplish early on.

What type of resources do you utilize to fill your device? We know that each season brings new and challenging safety concerns. Winter brings the "big chill," spring brings "rain and pollen," summer brings the "heat," and fall the "leaves." Every one of us go through each season dialing our devices to the season at hand, some do so a little better than others while most of us always get by.

Most companies have a very good safety database that allows them to aid in every workers approach to the seasons. From there, it is up to the worker to initiate their part to ensure that safety is practiced during all times of the year. Is there any forethought given to this essential preparation? It may easily save someone from an accident, help a worker avoid unintentional harm to another person, or having another life needlessly spent.

We all know the routine at the beginning of the year, there's a safety kickoff. Each day we spend some time going over the projects, challenges and the hazards that will be confronted while performing the work. Do you find this routine a general exercise to start the day? Have you ever witnessed someone not paying attention or being disruptive to the group? Safety is everyone's job. When practiced every day it pays dividends especially when working longer or added work hours as a result of a storm or to just meet a project deadline.

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Important Dates:

May 16, 2012
Alliance Meeting

August 15, 2012
Alliance Meeting

November 7, 2012
Alliance Meeting

Safety Quote:

Bad things happen by accident, good things happen by prior planning!

There is a saying, “bad things happen by accident, good things happen by prior planning.” We all plan to go home every night, but we never plan to have an accident. In 2012 what are you planning? For the Alliance, we have planned the following goals for 2012:

- ◆ Conduct four (4) Alliance meetings for the year, one (1) each quarter.
- ◆ Continue to promote the Alliance through speaking and exhibit engagement / opportunities.
- ◆ Facilitate one (1) stand down for the year.
- ◆ Continue the dissemination of the quarterly newsletter.

In addition, the Alliance will continue to support the sponsoring parties and participants with information, guidance, and access to training resources that will help them protect employees’ health and safety, particularly in reducing and preventing exposure to electrical transmission and distribution equipment hazards.

OSHA, IBEW, SELCAT, and SLCC/NECA will work together to achieve the following training and education goals:

- ✦ Work with OSHA to provide expertise to develop training and education programs for the participant’s employees that focus on safety and health issues related to the electrical utility industry. Safety and health programs will be developed under the broad categories of Hazard Recognition, Management Systems and Health Hazards.
- ✦ Training delivery will be accomplished by the IBEW, SELCAT, and SLCC/NECA. Alliance participants will ensure that experienced workers, as well as, inexperienced workers, including, but not limited to apprentice lineman will receive training.
- ✦ Work with OSHA to provide expertise to develop workplace safety and health curricula focusing on the primary causes of fatal accidents in the electrical utility industry, including improper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), failure to maintain a safe distance, and failure to utilize proper equipotential grounding techniques.

Just as the seasons have become routine for most, so has the daily approach to work and safety become a place of contentment. Join us here at the Alliance to break out of the contentment that is creating “near misses” and “soft tissue” injuries. Help the Alliance make a difference for each worker and their families by establishing your own set of safety goals, not just for each person but for your crew and overall company in

SELCAT NCCCO Course

SELCAT will be hosting an NCCCO course at our facility in Newnan, GA the week of April 30, 2012 - May 5, 2012. This course will consist of a two day prep course to be held April 30th and May 1st, followed by the NCCCO written examination which will be administered on May 2nd. Practical examinations on (large) swing cab and (small) fixed cab cranes, will be held the remainder of the week. Lodging is available on premises, if needed. **The deadline to sign up for this course is Friday, April 13, 2012.** No applications will be accepted after this date. The written exam fee is \$175.00 and will be accepted in the form of money order or cashier’s check only. **This payment should be made payable to SELCAT Trust Fund.** Once they have attended the class, their exam fee of \$175.00 (core exam plus two specialties) will be reimbursed. Please contact SELCAT at 678-423-1338 for more information.

*Please note: this course is available to **first time testers** who hold the classification of Journeyman Lineman or Operator and are IBEW members of local unions within SELCAT’s jurisdiction or are employees of signatory contractors working with SELCAT’s jurisdiction.*

2012.

Cranes and Derricks in Construction Final Rule

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) released a historic new standard, addressing the use of cranes and derricks in construction and replacing a decades old standard. The significant number of fatalities associated with the use of cranes and derricks in construction and the considerable technological advances in equipment since the publication of the old rule, issued in 1971, led the Labor Department to undertake this rulemaking.

In 1998, OSHA's expert Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health (ACCSH) established a workgroup to develop recommended changes to the current standard for cranes and derricks. In December 1999, ACCSH recommended that the Agency use negotiated rulemaking to develop the rule. The Cranes and Derricks Negotiated Rulemaking Committee (C-DAC) was convened in July 2003 and reached consensus on its draft document in July 2004. In 2006, ACCSH recommended that OSHA use the C-DAC consensus document as a basis for OSHA's proposed rule, which was published in 2008. Public hearings were held in March 2009, and the public comment period on those proceedings closed in June 2009.

✦ The rule becomes effective 90 days after August 9, 2010, the date the final rule was published in the *Federal Register*. Certain provisions have delayed effective dates ranging from 1 to 4 years.

The final rule was published on August 9, 2010 by the Federal Register, and can be found at http://www.osha.gov/FedReg_osha_pdf/FED20100809.pdf.

✦ A copy of the regulatory text is available at: <http://www.osha.gov/doc/cranesreg.pdf>

✦ This new standard will comprehensively address key hazards related to cranes and derricks on construction worksites, including the four main causes of worker death and injury: electrocution, crushed by parts of the equipment, struck-by the equipment/load, and falls.

✦ Significant requirements in this new rule include: a pre-erection inspection of tower crane parts; use of synthetic slings in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions during assembly/disassembly work; assessment of ground conditions; qualification or certification of crane operators; and procedures for working in the vicinity of power lines.

✦ This final standard is expected to prevent 22 fatalities and 175 non-fatal injuries each year.

Several provisions have been modified from the proposed rule. For example:

Employers must comply with local and state operator licensing requirements which meet the minimum criteria specified in § 1926.1427. Employers must pay for certification or qualification of their currently uncertified or unqualified operators.

Written certification tests may be administered in any language understood by the operator candidate. !

! When employers with employees qualified for power transmission and distribution are working in accordance with the power transmission and distribution standard (§ 1910.269), that employer will be considered in compliance with this final rule's requirements for working around power lines.

Employers must use a qualified rigger for rigging operations during assembly/disassembly. Employers must perform a pre-erection inspection of tower cranes.

✦ This final rule requires operators of most types of cranes to be qualified or certified under one of the options set forth in § 1926.1427. Employers have up to 4 years to ensure that their operators are qualified or certified, unless they are operating in a state or city that has operator requirements.

✦ If a city or state has its own licensing or certification program, OSHA mandates compliance with that city or state's requirements only if they meet the minimum criteria set forth in this rule at § 1926.1427.

✦ The certification requirements in the final rule are designed to work in conjunction with state and local laws.

✦ This final rule clarifies that employers must pay for all training required by the final rule and for certification of equipment operators employed as of the effective date of the rule

✦ State Plans must issue job safety and health standards that are “at least as effective as” comparable federal standards within 6 months of federal issuance. State Plans also have the option to promulgate more stringent standards or standards covering hazards not addressed by federal standards.

✦ OSHA will have additional compliance assistance material available within the next month.

Safety Alliance Updates

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