

John Meola's
Safety First!
Safety Meeting Topics
for WSA Members



April Safety Info

Spring Fever & Change of Seasons

Spring Fever Attention Problems

Hand and Finger Injury Prevention

Do a Job Safety Analysis for *Every Task*

Adopt Protective Strategies

The Importance of Weather Awareness

Spring Fever

DON'T CATCH IT !!

SPRING FEVER
HOW TO ADDRESS
SHORT ATTENTION SPANS

- Annual bell curve of incidents starts trending upwards
- FOCUS!! Avoid distractions.
- Random multi-tasking = asking for error, fail, incident
- 99.99% preventable ; we will ask hard questions
- Longer daylight hours – we try to do more
- Fatigue; hydration; diet; exercise

HAND & FINGER INJURY PREVENTION



- Best Practice- ALWAYS USE A TOOL; glove; rag; other interface
- Avoid direct skin contact – unless it's a 'typewriter'
- Look where you place hand- finger- body
- Look for pinch, snag, edge, crush, tear, impale, etc.
- Mechanisms of injury – improper tool use; poor posture, strain, pressure point; slippage from poor grip
- Decal, sign, mark, warn, protect, advise
- Glove selection; surface, load, handle config.;
- No jewelry; no long hair; no loose ends; THINK, it happens QUICKLY!
- Slip & fall – boot laces and eyelets – enough to bring you down

THINK!

DO A SIMPLE JOB SAFETY ANALYSIS — FOR EVERY TASK

- WORKING SAFELY is a function of **PLANNING & EXECUTION**.
- **THINK before DOING**. What are the risk factors in this task? What can hurt me?
- Among the most common **RISK FACTORS**:
 - Slip & Fall — uneven surfaces, changes in elevation, use hand rail, etc.
 - Hand & Finger — gloves; look for pinch points, snag & sharp edges
 - Striking tool injury — hammer, pick, etc.
 - Power tool injury — these injuries happen VERY quickly
 - Anything involving a LADDER or climbing
 - Working on the back of a truck — avoid this when possible.

PROTECTIVE STRATEGIES — EMPLOY THEM!

- Protect yourself – at all times; when YOU are doing the work
- Protect yourself – when OTHERS are working near you
- Protect OTHERS – when they fail to follow safety practices, fail to use PPE, etc. Do not hesitate to ‘call them out’ on a safety question.
- There is no “transfer of responsibility” when it comes to safety
- WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE; IN THE ‘FIRST PERSON’
- Safety begins with YOU – attitude & awareness
- In particular NOW, Early Spring – turn up the volume on your “Safety Antennae”

THE WEATHER..... NO LONGER JUST SMALL TALK NUISANCE



- Spring rain = possible monsoon
- Think hydro-plane
- High water vehicle strandings and flash floods
- Power failure
- Sinkholes and other geological fails
- Rock falls
- Other climactic aberration – nothing would surprise at this point
- ‘Prepare and beware’