

Environmental, Health and Safety News

July 2014

We're Proud of Our Work



Something to Think About!!

It is much easier to go down a hill than up; but the best view is from the top!

Safety First! All Day, Every Day - Our Families, Friends and Customers Depend On It!

Driver Safety

I seem to spend a lot of time talking about driving in this venue, but if you think about it, our entire company's success depends on driving safely. I would have no idea about how many miles all of the imi family drives in a month's time.

I am stealing much of this month's topic from Titan America, from their safety bulletins. My thanks to their safety department for sharing.

Drivers, whether operating a car, a pick-up truck, a ready mix truck, a quarry truck, a distributor, a tri-axle truck, or whatever, has responsibility for safely delivering: persons, information, concrete, aggregates, hot mixed asphalt, and on and on! And that has to be done while maintaining the quality of the product. While loads vary in size depending on what is being delivered from a few pounds to 150,000 pounds or more, in the case of a quarry truck, each load is important. In the case of ready mixed concrete the load is highly perishable.

Occupation hazards for drivers:



Slips, trips and falls from truck and equipment, elevated work stations, and walking surfaces account for roughly 50% of injuries. Hazards include slippery surfaces, unstable footing, damaged ladders and walkways, not maintaining three-points-of-contact, and other issues. Overcome these hazards by:

- Using a good three point climbing technique.
- Only climb where proper hand and footholds are provided.
- Keep climbing surfaces free of mud or other slippery material.
- Inspect equipment prior to use looking for damaged ladders or steps.
- Use an elevated platform whenever possible.



Mechanical hazards are present in the form of pinch points or the possibility of being struck by moving equipment. Moving parts of equipment, opening and closing doors or gates, or falling materials can present hazards while completing tasks associated with driving. Remember these points to minimize hazards associated with mechanical hazards:

- Never place hands in a pinch point.
- Make sure all guards are in place and secure.
- Never wear loose or baggy clothes.
- Always don your hardhat and safety glasses before leaving the operators' station.

Ergonomic risk factors include whole-body vibration from driving trucks and equipment, awkward and fixed postures, extremes in temperatures, and repetitive twisting of the back and neck. Work-related stress can impair work performance and has shown to cause numerous health problems and has been linked to chronic work-related musculoskeletal disorders.

- Maintain good posture while operating vehicles or equipment.
- Minimize lifting activities when possible.
- Use proper lifting techniques (Lift with legs and keep the back straight).
- Don't be afraid to ask for assistance when lifting heavy or awkward objects.

Chemical exposures can be present, especially with our ready mix truck drivers. Concrete and some admixtures contain materials that may cause skin irritation and allergic reactions once sensitized. Eye injury from splash of concrete or dust may occur during loading or unloading operations.

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- Use proper personal protective equipment such as eye protection and gloves.
- Be aware of hand washing and eyewash stations. Wash hands thor-

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Safety is never an accident: it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skilled execution! It represents the wise choice of many alternatives!!

oughly, and as soon as possible, after exposure to chemicals.

- Review the training materials regarding the revised GHS pictograms symbols for hazardous materials.

Special Note: Vehicle accidents continue to be the leading cause of injury and death in the workplace. You are actually more likely to be killed on our highways than in any other place. The size and weight of the trucks we operate make them slow to stop. As professional drivers, we have a responsibility to follow the rules of the road, drive defensively, be well rested and focused on the task at hand before starting each shift.

From the website of the Harvard Medical School, Harvard Health Publications, I found this article regarding the 4th of July standard of celebration—Fireworks.

Each year, especially during the early summer weeks around [the Fourth of July](#), thousands of people are treated in emergency departments for fireworks-related injuries. While some are minor, many of these injuries are serious, for example, resulting in burns or blindness. In 2008, seven deaths from fireworks-related injuries were reported; perhaps these could have been prevented.

Children should **never** be allowed to use fireworks! Of the 9,800 fireworks-related injuries reported to the U.S. [Consumer Products Safety Commission \(CPSC\)](#) in 2007, almost half occurred in children under the age of 15.

Location: _____

Supervisor: _____

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All fireworks are dangerous—even sparklers—which cause the majority of fireworks-related injuries to children under the age of 5. Sparklers burn at very high temperatures (up to 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit), sending out sparks that can easily set clothes on fire and cause permanent eye damage.

Because the risk of injuries when using fireworks is so high, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) supports a nationwide ban on the private use of any and all fireworks. Instead, families should attend public fireworks displays, which are much less dangerous.

Have a Safe, Healthy and Happy July!!

EEHS—Everyone, Everyday, Home Safe

