



*"Our Work Shows Pride, With Safety As Our Guide"*

IRVING MATERIALS, INC.

# Safety Topics

## ARE YOU SAFE AT HOME?

We have a push on to improve our use of personal protective equipment (PPE). It is not out of an effort to aggravate anybody. It just makes good safety sense. The employees of imi are a great group of people and when they are injured and unable to work they are missed.

It is important to realize that personal protective equipment isn't just for the workplace. In reality there are more injuries occurring away from work than in the workplace. The 2004 edition of "Injury Facts" shows that 40% of all injuries occurred inside or around the home.

At work we know that welding requires face and eye protection as well as gloves and long sleeves. Working at heights requires fall protection. At home do you think about wearing goggles, hearing protection, and foot protection when mowing the lawn? How about when using a chainsaw?

How many power saws and other power equipment will be under the Christmas tree this year? In 2002 U.S. emergency rooms treated an estimated 92,384 injuries from saws; 72,480 injuries involving lawn mowers; and 40,818 injuries involving pruning, trimming and edging equipment. PPE is cheap compared to a visit to the emergency room. How many of these incidents might have been prevented if appropriate PPE were being used?

Common sense should tell us most household chores require the use of some sort of PPE. Cleaning with chemicals or spraying chemicals on the lawn would require some type of respiratory protection, gloves, goggles, and clothes to cover bare skin.

How do you know what PPE is required or when it should be used? With power equipment, the manufacturer provides an instruction manual. Safety precautions are the first things covered in that manual. All containers of hazardous chemicals (and

some not so hazardous chemicals) are required by law to provide safety precautions as a part of the labeling. Granted, you may need a magnifying glass to read all the fine print, but the information is there.

Important safety considerations and the American College of Emergency Physicians at Irving, Texas recommends:

- Wearing appropriate dust masks or a respirator when particles are airborne, or chemical fumes are present.
- Wearing hearing protection if there are loud noises from power equipment or workshop machines.
- Use protective gloves to protect hands.
- Wear hard-toe or safety steel-toe shoes to protect your feet when working with heavy parts or machinery.
- Wear a hardhat when there are overhead dangers.
- Respect electricity. Don't attempt tasks involving electricity for which you are not properly trained. Never enter live circuits—Always shut off the power.

Don't take unnecessary chances. Think about what could go wrong. Follow the manufacturer's safety advise. Please don't assume that a newly purchased consumer item is safe. It is very important to familiarize yourself with a new product before using it.

According to the National Safety Council, there were over 6000 deaths in 2003 in the home due to being struck by or against objects, machinery or electric current. A little thought about safety precautions can mean a lot less pain and suffering!



**Have a Very Merry Christmas  
And  
A Happy New Year!**

### For What It Is Worth! Another Point to Ponder

If you consider that there have been an average of 160,000 troops in the Iraq theater of operations during the last 22 months, and a total of 2112 deaths, that gives a firearm death rate of 60 per 100,000.

The rate in Washington D.C. is 80.6 per 100,000. That means that you are about 25% more likely to be shot and killed in our Nation's Capitol, which has some of the strictest gun control laws in the nation, than you are in Iraq.

Conclusion: We should immediately pull out of Washington D.C

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

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*"We're Proud of Our Work"*



**Words of Wisdom:**

**Take time for all things,  
 Great haste makes great waste.**

Benjamin Franklin

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign below as an indication that the material was read.  
Also, if you have suggestions, they can be included here as well!!

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**7 STEPS TO BETTER ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS**

At a seminar I recently attended, American Safety & Health Management Consultants, Inc. made an very good presentation about "What a Safety Coordinator Needs to Know" and one portion of that presentation talked about *Accident Investigation Reports*. Herein is a portion of that presentation.

There are seven steps to a better accident investigation. Better accident investigations can have valuable input that will improve most safety programs. The Seven Steps are:

1. Was there a written procedure covering the activities that the employee was performing when the accident took place? Safe operating procedures are an essential part of an effective safety program. There is usually only one right safest way to do a job and that should be clearly spelled out in writing.
2. Did the written procedures in place specifically cover the type of work the employee was doing at the time of the accident? It may be time to update the written procedures.
3. Was there training covering this written procedure? If so, when was the training last conducted?



4. Was the employee involved in the accident trained? Was the training adequate?
5. Were there proper tools & equipment available to perform the job safely?
6. Have supervisors conducted regular safety observations? Where necessary, has counseling and enforcement been conducted? Most accidents are the result of repeated unsafe behavior that goes unnoticed. Those near hit reports are important.
7. Were the safe procedures being followed as written? If the first six steps are being followed then the only way for the accident to happen is for the employee to deviate from the proper procedures. If that is the case, what interfered with the employee following the safe work practices?

This may be a little simplistic, but it is not too far out of line. The intent of accident investigations is not to assign blame, but to determine the root causes of accidents. I don't think that I spend enough time looking at the accidents that occur and trying to develop procedures to prevent reoccurrences.

**HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY!**