

1. Change behaviors.
2. Challenge ourselves to re-think how we work.
3. Certify the results on a daily basis.



Tool Box Talk

Week of April 5th, 2010

OSHA's Focus Four Inspections

April's safety topic is "OSHA's Focus Four Inspections". We will provide an overview of what is a Focus Four Inspection, aka "Focus Inspection" and how it could pertain to JJ White work sites.

OSHA has several different types of inspections. Some examples are programmed inspections, employee complaints, referrals, accident, national and the local emphasis inspections such as Process Safety Management (PSM) that took place in refineries recently.

There are two main categories of inspections

- Construction, regulated by part 1926 of OSHA's standard,
- General Industry, regulated by part 1910.

General Industry is often defined as most industry other than construction. Maintenance work in refineries and hospitals are a couple examples.

In 1994, OSHA started conducting Focus Inspections in an effort to effectively utilize resources. Previously, all programmed construction inspections were comprehensive in nature. An inspector would look at everything applicable to the standard encompassing an enormous amount of time. To streamline the effort, focus inspections were introduced. The Focus Inspection idea is centered on a premise that four hazards account for 90% of all fatalities and are also responsible for a large percentage of serious injuries on construction sites. Hence, focusing on these four hazards; falls, struck-by, caught between, and electrical would be vastly beneficial to all American workers.

If a contractor has and follows an adequate safety and health program, had a designated competent person on site responsible and capable of implementing the companies safety program and the OSHA inspector does not find a focus four hazards violation, the programmed inspection would be terminated early and usually no violations would be issued. The OSHA inspector would move on to another work site thus conducting more inspections and spending time where falls, struck-by, caught between, and electrical hazards are not controlled.

Today, when reviewing your JSA and your work site, think about these four serious hazards. Together we can eliminate or best control falls, struck-by, caught between, and electrical hazards. Your input can make a difference, so speak up and be heard.