

The "C-Change" Initiative:

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 July 12th, 2010

Slip, Trip and Fall Hazard Awareness

This is the first in our series of July's Slip Trip and Fall (STF) hazard Safety Tool Box Talks. The goal of this Tool Box Talk is to raise awareness for the potential of a slip trip or fall injury on JJW projects. We will look at industry statistics as well as recent events within the company.

JJW Inc. performs work that covers a wide variety of locations, equipment, tools and personnel. Each project location carries its own unique set of hazards and challenges. JJW has a nucleus of personnel that, through Certified Foreman's training and experience, have adapted to identify significant hazards at many of these work sites as they shift from project to project. Most JJW supervision does an excellent job of identifying IDLH situations and serious hazards that faces our crew. They communicate these hazards to the crew through the use of JJW's enhanced JSA. Our latest version of the JSA used by all JJW personnel, identify and categorize these hazards. Through the use of engineering controls, administrative and finally PPE, we can eliminate or greatly reduce the chance of an incident occurring.

Over the past quarter, JJW has experienced three significant slip trip and fall injuries. Most occurred during routine tasks that many of us have performed many times before. Looking back at each, JJW determined that each incident, as in the case of most injuries, could have been avoided. This past month, JJW management has asked that we look closely at the potential slip trip and fall hazards on our jobsite. This part of the planning process is often over looked, not identified or not considered a serious hazard. The following statistics show that slip trip and fall hazards ARE a significant hazard and warrant the same level of identification and elimination as other IDLH and serious hazards.

Here are some basic slip and fall statistics, taken from the National Safety Council and the Bureau of Labor Statistics:

- Slip and fall accidents kill more workers than all other on-the-job fatalities combined.
- Seventy percent of slips and falls occur on level ground
- An average of 17,000 Americans die from their slip and fall accidents
- Slips and falls are the single most common reason for visits to the emergency room.

- The average cost of a slip and fall injury is \$28,000, including medical bills, physical therapy, and missed wages.
- Slips and falls are the number two cause of accident death and disability, following behind automobile accidents.

As you can see from these statistics, slip trip and fall hazards are a real threat to everyone's health and safety. Through the use of hazard recognition, our JSA and communicating these hazards to all, we can eliminate STF's on the job and at home. In the upcoming tool box talks, we will look at identifying STF hazards and discuss ways to eliminate them.