Prevent Falls in the Fall

November is a fall month in more ways than one. Training on ladder safety can help prevent one of the many emergency room visits that occur this time of year. From choosing the right ladder (length, strength, etc.) to its safe use (secure the ladder, don’t over reach, don’t climb to the top, etc.), training can help prevent injuries both at work and at home.

safetyXchange - www.safetyxchange.org/newsletter.php?id=411

Young Workers At Risk

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that by 2010 the US labor force will include 17.8 million youths aged 16 to 19—up from 16 million in 2000. Limited job knowledge, training, and skills put young workers at increased risk of occupational injury, and age-related factors may make them more susceptible to chemical and other exposure risks. According to NIOSH, agriculture is the most dangerous industry for young workers, accounting for 42% of all work-related fatalities of young workers between 1992 and 2000. Second was retail trades (e.g., restaurants and retail stores), in which workplace homicide was a factor, often associated with robbery. A training program developed by NIOSH provides a full curriculum for classroom or other training settings and is customized to cover state-specific regulations.

NIOSH (Youth@Work: Talking Safety) - www.cdc.gov/niOSH/talkingsafety/
NIOSH (Young Worker Safety and Health) - www.cdc.gov/niOSH/topics/youth/

Procedures Not Followed

A safety lapse made national news when it was revealed that submariners on the USS Hampton skipped a required daily check of the submarine’s reactor for more than a month. Having a safety policy and not following it could have more serious legal consequences than not having a policy at all. If an accident occurs, a judge and jury will compare what you should have done to what you actually did. They’ll need a standard against which to judge your conduct, and that standard may well be your own safe work procedures.

safetyxchange - www.safetyxchange.org/article.php?id=121&cha_id=1

Prevent MRSA Infections

“Staph,” a type of bacteria commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of healthy people, can cause infections, and not only among workers in healthcare facilities. Most of the skin infections are minor and are treatable with antibiotics. However, methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) refers to types of staph that are often resistant to various antibiotics. NIOSH offers the answers to questions about MRSA in the workplace.

NIOSH - www.cdc.gov/niOSH/topics/mrsa/#faqs

Conference Highlights the “Changing Face of Agriculture”

Alternative agriculture in the Midwest, the EPA perspective on biofuels, and USDA procedures for food safety will be among the topics at a November 15-16 conference in Omaha, Nebraska. Information - www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/ (or call 319-335-4224). Registration - www.unmc.edu/dept/rhen/index.cfm?CONREF=77