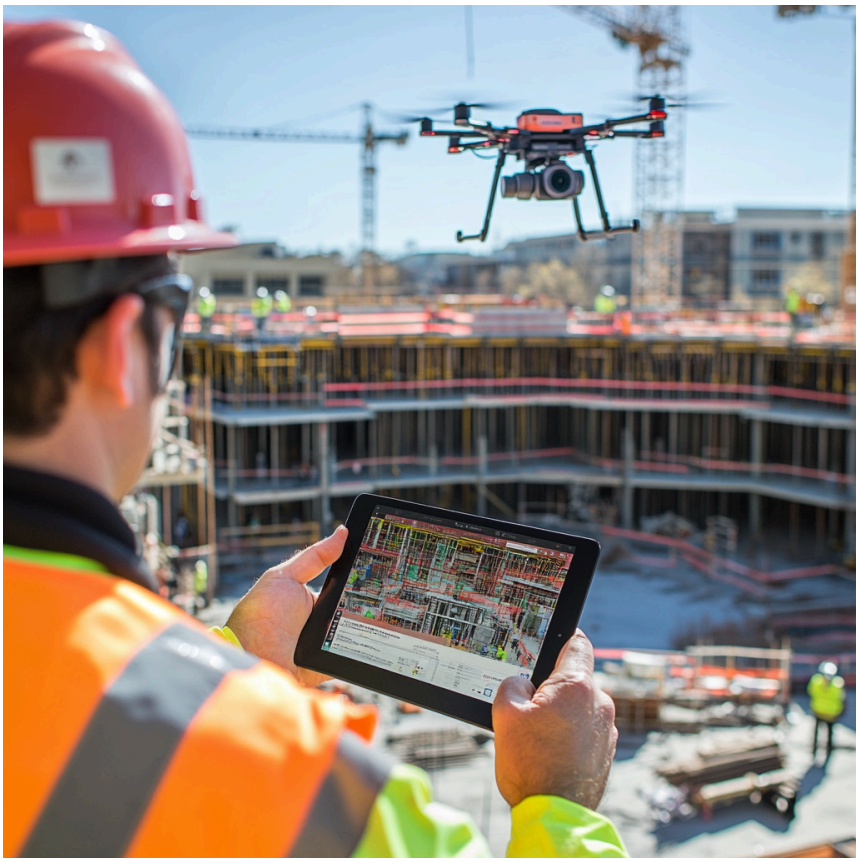
Safety Newsletter

October 11, 2024

DroneDeploy's Safety AI improves construction site safety drastically



TL;DR: DroneDeploy's Safety AI tool identifies safety risks on construction sites, improves OSHA compliance, and reduces unsafe conditions by 89%. It helps contractors manage risks and lower insurance costs.

- DroneDeploy has introduced Safety AI to automatically identify and prioritize safety risks on construction sites.

- The tool improves compliance with OSHA standards and aims to lower insurance costs for contractors.

- Beta users reported an 89% reduction in unsafe conditions within three weeks of using Safety AI.

- Safety AI processes data to proactively address high-risk behaviors and enhance project oversight for contractors.

Why this matters: Safety AI revolutionizes construction site management by enhancing safety compliance and reducing accident rates. The significant decline in unsafe conditions reported by beta users illustrates its effectiveness. By proactively addressing risks, it not only safeguards workers but potentially reduces operational costs, ultimately driving industry standards higher.

OSHA fines highlight serious construction safety violations

TL;DR: OSHA imposed large fines in Q3 2024 on construction companies for serious safety violations, emphasizing the need for compliance to protect workers and prevent accidents.

- OSHA issued significant fines in Q3 2024 for serious worker safety violations in construction companies.

- U.S. Tank Painting Inc. faced $485,580 in fines due to a worker's fall caused by safety neglect.

- Boston Waterproofing & Construction Corp. was fined $451,694 for life-threatening excavation hazards leading to trench collapses.

- The penalties highlight the critical need for compliance with safety regulations to protect construction workers.

Why this matters: The significant fines imposed by OSHA underscore the urgent necessity for stringent safety protocols within the construction industry. These penalties not only hold companies accountable but also aim to foster a safer work environment, ultimately reducing life-threatening incidents and protecting the lives of construction workers.

OSHA cites shipyard for fire safety violations

TL;DR: OSHA cited South Marine Systems LLC for safety violations following a fire during welding. The company faces a $164,540 penalty and needs to enhance training and hazard assessments.

- OSHA has cited South Marine Systems LLC for safety violations after a fire incident at Port of Ashtabula.

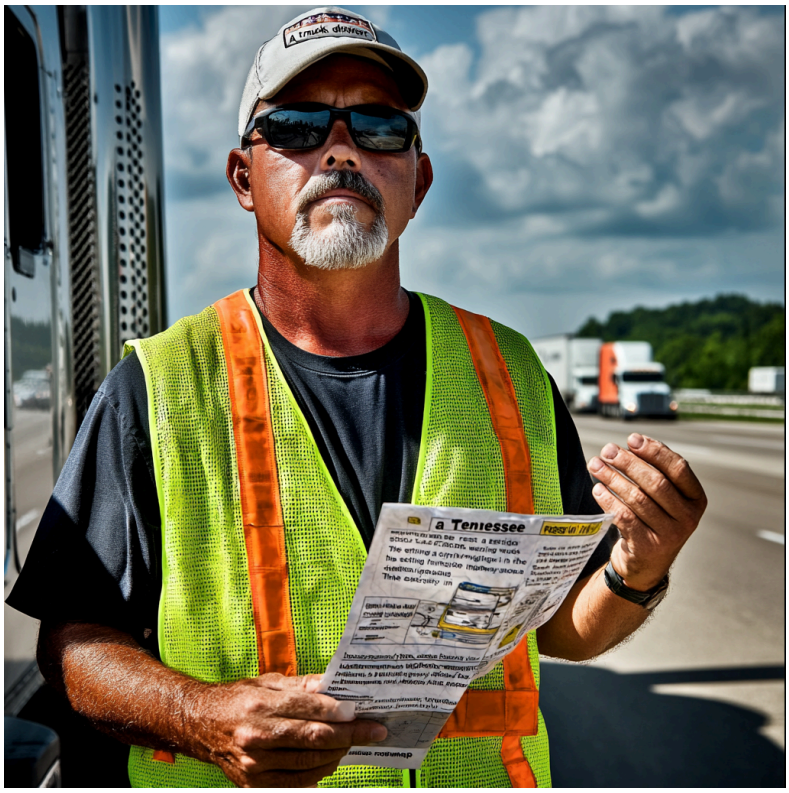
- The fire occurred due to unsafe welding practices while a worker removed paint from the ship.

- South Marine Systems faces a proposed penalty of $164,540 for 16 violations of basic safety standards.

- OSHA highlights the need for improved training and hazard assessments to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Why this matters: The citation against South Marine Systems LLC reveals systemic safety failures that jeopardized worker safety and highlights the urgent need for stricter adherence to safety protocols in hazardous environments. This incident serves as a critical reminder of the importance of training and hazard assessments in preventing workplace disasters.

OSHA cites Universal Recycling for safety violations, penalties



TL;DR: Universal Recycling Technologies was cited by OSHA for exposing employees to hazardous lead and cadmium levels, facing $202,820 in penalties due to safety failures and inadequate monitoring.

- OSHA cited Universal Recycling Technologies for exposing employees to dangerous levels of lead and cadmium during recycling processes.

- The investigation revealed the company failed to implement adequate safety measures, leading to recommended penalties of $202,820.

- Key failures included inadequate biological monitoring, lack of safety training, and insufficient contamination control measures.

- Universal Recycling Technologies has 15 business days to address the violations or contest the findings with OSHA.

Why this matters: The cited violations at Universal Recycling Technologies reveal a critical failure in workplace safety, endangering employees' health from toxic exposures. The hefty penalties underscore the importance of compliance with safety regulations, highlighting the need for proactive measures in industries handling hazardous materials to prevent repeated infractions.

Quick Review

Maintaining Safety Data Sheets (SDS) is crucial for compliance with OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200). Safety managers must ensure that an SDS is available for every hazardous chemical in the workplace, and these sheets should be accessible to all employees during their work shifts. Each SDS must be formatted into 16 specific sections, including information on the chemical's properties, potential hazards, safe handling practices, emergency control measures, and exposure limits. Regularly updating the SDS files when new chemicals are introduced or existing products change is also essential to stay compliant.

Furthermore, employers are required to ensure that employees are trained on how to read and understand the information on the SDSs, including recognizing the hazards and knowing how to handle chemicals safely. The SDS must be kept in either electronic or paper format, but must always be readily available to employees. Consistent review and clear communication regarding SDSs not only helps avoid regulatory fines but also ensures a safer, more informed workplace.

Trivia Question:

According to OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134), what must be done before an employee is permitted to use a respirator for the first time?

A) The employee must watch a training video
B) The employee must pass a medical evaluation
C) The employee must complete an online safety course
D) The employee must sign a waiver

Last week's Answer: **B) Apply locks and tags to isolate energy sources**.

Under OSHA's Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) standard, one of the primary steps in ensuring machinery is safely de-energized before maintenance is to apply locks and tags to isolate energy sources. This prevents the accidental release of hazardous energy, ensuring the safety of workers performing maintenance or repairs.

Find out the answer in next week's newsletter!