

Safety Newsletter

October 18, 2024

Bridge collapse in Mississippi kills three workers, injuries four



TL;DR: A bridge collapse in Simpson County, Mississippi, on October 17, 2024, killed three construction workers and injured four. Investigations are ongoing; support for victims' families is prioritized.

- A bridge collapse in Simpson County on October 17, 2024, resulted in three fatalities and four injuries.

- The victims were identified as construction workers from T.L. Wallace Construction, Inc.

- The cause of the collapse is currently under investigation by OSHA, halting all construction operations.
- Local officials and T.L. Wallace are supporting victims' families while praising community response efforts.

Why this matters: The Simpson County bridge collapse highlights significant safety concerns in construction operations, with potential implications for industry regulations and community support systems. This tragedy emphasizes the need for thorough investigations to prevent future incidents and underscores the crucial role of community resiliency in times of crisis.

Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association partners with OSHA for safety



TL;DR: The Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association and OSHA formed an alliance to enhance safety in dairy processing, focusing on communication, resource development, and annual meetings to track progress.

- The Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association and OSHA formed an alliance to improve health and safety in dairy processing.
- Partnership objectives include sharing information about safety laws and promoting communication on key industry issues.
- Annual meetings will identify safety focus areas and track progress in the dairy processing sector.
- The alliance seeks to develop resources addressing workplace hazards specific to the dairy industry.

Why this matters: The alliance between the WCMA and OSHA is crucial for enhancing workplace safety in the dairy processing industry. By sharing information and developing tailored resources, the partnership seeks to effectively address specific hazards, ultimately protecting employees and fostering a culture of safety and communication within the sector.

ASSP updates fleet safety standards to prevent vehicle incidents



TL;DR: The ASSP revised the ANSI/ASSP Z15.1-2024 standard to enhance motor vehicle safety for fleet management in North America, impacting 3.5 million fleets and addressing key safety challenges.

- The ASSP has revised the ANSI/ASSP Z15.1-2024 standard to improve motor vehicle safety in fleet management.

- The updated standard significantly impacts the 3.5 million fleets operating 32 million commercial vehicles in North America.

- Key changes include enhanced incident reporting requirements and adaptations for modern vehicles and technologies.

- ASSP emphasizes the need for guidelines to prevent work-related fatalities caused by motor vehicle crashes.

Why this matters: The revised ANSI/ASSP Z15.1-2024 standard plays a crucial role in enhancing motor vehicle safety across North America's 3.5 million fleets. By addressing modern vehicle challenges and improving incident reporting, this initiative aims to decrease work-related fatalities, underscoring the importance of proactive safety measures in fleet management.

Quick Review

Proper selection and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

gloves are essential to maintaining workplace safety. OSHA standards (29 CFR 1910.138) require employers to provide appropriate hand protection based on the specific hazards present in the work environment. PPE gloves are designed to protect against cuts, abrasions, chemical exposures, heat, and other potential hazards.

To ensure maximum protection, safety managers must conduct a hazard assessment to identify the appropriate type of gloves required for specific

tasks. For example, nitrile gloves are often used for chemical resistance, while cut-resistant gloves made of Kevlar or steel fibers are suited for sharp object handling. Employees should be trained not only on proper glove selection but also on how to wear, inspect, and maintain their gloves.

Regular inspections for wear and tear, such as thinning, holes, or tears, are vital to ensure that gloves remain effective. Damaged gloves should be replaced immediately to avoid compromised protection. Additionally, it is important to understand that gloves should be cleaned and stored according to manufacturer instructions to extend their lifespan.

Remember, using the correct PPE gloves and keeping them in good condition can drastically reduce the risk of workplace injuries.

Trivia Question:

Under OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200), what is required on a label for a hazardous chemical container?

- A) The company's logo
- B) A photograph of the chemical
- C) Pictograms, a signal word, and hazard statements
- D) A copy of the Safety Data Sheet (SDS)

Last week's Answer: **B) The employee must pass a medical evaluation.**

According to OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134), before an employee is permitted to use a respirator for the first time, they must pass a medical evaluation to ensure they are physically able to use the respirator safely. This evaluation must be conducted by a licensed

healthcare professional and take into consideration factors like the employee's health history, specific respirator type, and the conditions under which it will be used.

This step is crucial because wearing a respirator can impose a physiological burden on the worker, such as affecting breathing, increasing heart rate, or even causing discomfort, particularly for individuals with pre-existing health conditions. The medical evaluation is designed to prevent adverse effects and ensure that the worker can safely perform their duties while wearing the equipment.

Find out the answer in next week's newsletter!



ASSP updates fleet safety standards to prevent vehicle incidents

