

SAFETY ZONE

Volume 1, Issue 5
MAY 2001

TOM'S CORNER: A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY SAFETY OFFICER

By Tom Sproal

Last month, April, a County Safety Office Inspection Team traveled to Blythe to conduct safety inspections of all County facilities and provide training. "Overall, things went very well".

Just less than a decade ago, this was not always the case.

County facilities and in some cases - employees left allot to be desired in reference to safety.

Many County departments were in pre 1950 buildings where floors were uneven, non-ADA compliance, no built-in security measures, air

conditioners or swamp coolers not working properly. Fire and life safety measures, along with Cal/OSHA requirements were questionable and over all, it really didn't do much for the morale of the employee.

It was not uncommon for Safety Office personnel to be greeted at a site with "County Safety Office? When did that start?"

It has been a long and tedious task of inspections the past ten years and I can still recall the reluctance of departments to initiate change because "this is the way we have always done it in Blythe".

Through safety training and education, at all levels of employment, most Blythe County facilities are now within or close to being "within safety compliance standards".

Our job is not done. We must continue to work together in **recognizing, reporting** and **abating** hazards, along with training, for the overall safety of County employees.

Our trip to Blythe was rewarded by the safety commitment exhibited by the majority of all employees, along with their high professional attitude and morale exhibited.

"A job well done Blythe!"

POINTS OF INTEREST

Tom's Corner	Page 1
Safety Office Personnel	Page 4
Equipment Safety	Page 1
What Is An MSDS	Page 1
Monthly Safety Topic	Page 4

In This Months Issue

- Safety Officers Message
- Contacting Safety Office Personnel via phone, FAX or Email
- Driver Safety Crossword
- Monthly Safety Topic
- CAC Drill
- Equipment Accidents
- And other Safety Tips to assist you

EQUIPMENT SAFETY

By Art Pereida, Safety Coordinator

All equipment has some type of "built-in" safety mechanism or a safe way of using it. When you knowingly by-pass the safety mechanism or do not use the equipment properly, you are putting yourself or other employees in an unsafe environment.

Why does one elect to do this? Is it plain laziness? You don't have time for such nonsense? You feel nothing will happen? Or you just don't

care?

Regardless of your poor excuse, it needs to stop.

This will eventually catch up to you and others who are aware of what you are doing when an injury occurs. It will initiate discipline and may even cost you your job.

Are safety short cuts worth it? Absolutely not.

"CAUTION" instructions are there for a reason. Should you ignore them during work

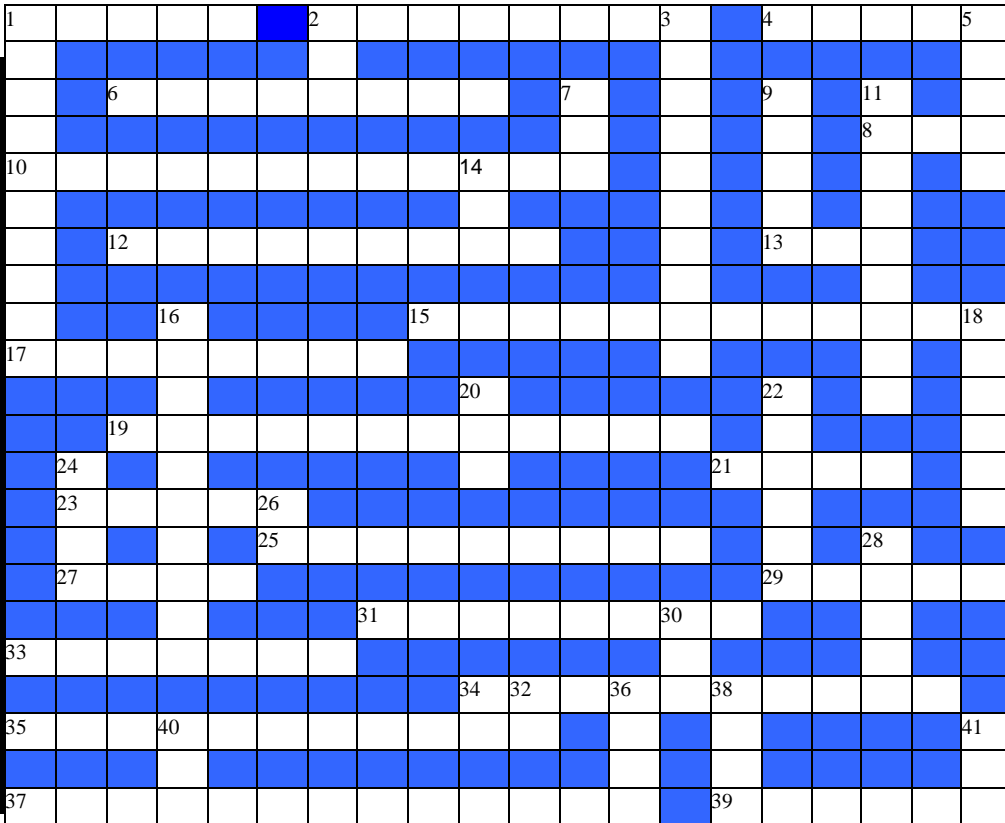
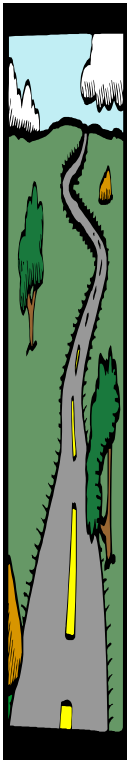
hours, or you or someone else is injured, most likely this accident will be declared "preventable" by the County Safety Committee, which meets monthly to review all incidents. You may also be found negligent of performing your job in a safe manner.

Initial and periodic refresher training is required to insure proper use of equipment and it must be documented.

Remember, safety short-cuts are just not worth it.



FLASH says: "Safety hardhats are so cool"



SAFETY ZONE



PUZZLED ABOUT SAFE DRIVING?

By Art Perelda, Safety Coordinator

Safe driving is an art and science. Like many of the sciences, safe driving has rules and formulas. And like many of the arts, you acquire safe driving expertise through study, practice and experience.

To help you get started towards those goals, here is a crossword puzzle with solutions based on some elementary safe driving tips. Have fun while you learn.

ACROSS

- 1. Get plenty of this before starting a trip.
- 2. Always wear it.
- 4. Check tire pressure regularly once a _____.
- 6. Always maintain a safe ____ between vehicles.
- 10. A major cause of crashes on the road.
- 12. Set up these warning signs if stopped or stalled along the highway.
- 13. Slow down when a sign indicates there's one ahead in the road.
- 15. Tune these out while driving.
- 17. Follow the 3-second rule so that you don't _____.
- 19. Steer clear of these people.

- 21. Journey.
- 23. Interstate highway drivers stop here for rest and refreshment.
- 25. Stay alive and be a ____ driver.
- 27. Lemon _____.
- 29. Brook's first name.
- 31. This emotion can cause crashes.
- 33. Signal and use caution when _____.
- 34. If you decide to drink, appoint a ____ driver.
- 35. Children 40-80 pounds fit into this.
- 37. Use these during the day for added safety.
- 39. Always do this before changing lanes.

DOWN

- 1. Not to be exceeded.
- 2. A resort for rest and recreation.
- 3. Do this to help you stay awake.
- 5. When you check engine belts, check these too.
- 7. This weather condition impairs visibility.
- 9. Keep erratic drivers well ___ of you.
- 11. A hands-free one is best.
- 14. Hazardous to driving when it's on the road.
- 16. Truck drivers can't see you in these areas.

- 18. When traffic conditions are hazardous, drive more _____.
- 20. Change this liquid goal according to your owner's manual.
- 22. Even if your car has one or more, use your seat belt.
- 24. Check under this to prevent overheating.
- 26. South Dakota.
- 28. Must be replaced immediately when worn out.
- 30. Show biz synonym for a joke.
- 32. Visitor from another planet.
- 34. District Attorney.
- 36. The eye has one; also a perennial planet.
- 38. Pull over and take one of these if you feel tired while driving.
- 40. This can cause glare.
- 41. Friend.

(Hint: Some answers consist of two or three words).



SPECIAL SAFETY INSERT

COUNTY SAFETY OFFICE

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“CAC EVACUATION DRILL A SUCCESS”



CAC employees wait in line while CAC Security checks their ID's before returning to the building after the drill. This is routine and emphasizes the importance of always carrying your County of Riverside employee photo ID.



Tom Sproal (Left), County Safety Officer, critiques the drill with Dan Kerker (Center), Building Services Security Coordinator and Doug Clarke (Right), Riverside County Fire Systems Inspector.

SPECIAL SAFETY INSERT



James Stratton (In green vest), TLMA Agency Program Administrator, is also the Second Floor Warden during evacuation procedures. "I thought the drill went very well" exclaims James Stratton to other TLMA employees.



FLASH: "I am so proud of all of you"



On the scene at the fire drill for the County CAC is Transportation employee Criss Crissman, sporting a red "honorary" firefighters hat. Criss is assigned to provide direction to emergency stair exits during the fire drill, and to keep visitors from using the elevators. When not performing evacuation drills, Criss is an Associate Civil Engineer on the 2nd floor.

Criss mentions "a recently hired employee was viewing a training video when the alarm went off and had no clue how to exit the building. Staff was able to direct her to the southwest fire exit stairwell".

All employees and visitors need to be accounted for and Corinne Landeros, Building Inspector III, with the Building and Safety Department holds up a sign that clearly identifies the floor and department for employees to meet and be accounted for. Other employees look on and wait for further directions.



What is an MSDS?

By Tom Sproal, County Safety Officer and Art Pereida, Safety Coordinator

Material **S**afety **D**ata **S**heet is a document developed by the manufacturer that supplies information about a particular product, substance or mixture. The MSDS is intended to alert the user to the potential hazards and the basic principals or methods to be considered for the safe use and handling of the material.

Unfortunately, there are many different types of MSDS formats. Some manufacturers use the standard OSHA Form 20, and some others use what is called "essentially similar" form design of their own. Regardless, essential elements of the chemical product is identified as follows:

The **MSDS** identifies **I**) the chemical by Manufacturer, Product and Trade Name **II**) Hazardous ingredients **III**) Physical State such as odor, color, water soluble **IV**) Fire and Explosion Hazard **V**) Health Hazard Data **VI**) Toxicity **VII**) Reactivity **VIII**) Spill or Leak Procedures **IX**) Special Protection **X**) Storage and Handling Information **XI**) Regulatory Information and **XII**) Reference

for additional research.

Many office personnel think this has nothing to do with them. This only applies to industry. Think again. Have you checked the MSDS on the toners used in



your copier and the precautionary measures you need to take for installing and discarding the old cartridge?

Employees must be trained by the work location supervisors on how to handle substances safely and how to use personal protective equipment. Supervisors must also explain first aid and emergency procedures, in case of accidental exposure, and show where to find the MSDS sheets if needed, and also how to read them.

The **County MSDS Program** is now online and accessible via the County of Riv-

erside **Intranet**. This program will enable County work areas and facilities to access the County Safety Office MSDS Inventory for the entire county.

You are now able to look up a chemical by product name, manufacturer or generic use. The program is equipped with a "fuzzy search" in case you misspell a word and the system will be updated continually to provide the latest inventory county wide.

Do we still have to keep hard copy MSDS at our work site?

Yes—At least until we have this program fully operational. As the County Safety Office continuously monitors this new program and the system is working to its capacity, the County Safety Office will advise when this change will take place. **For now, an MSDS "yellow" binder is required at each work site till further notice.**

For more information on this program, contact the County Safety Office at (909) 955-3520 for any additional assistance, training or clarification.

SPECIAL ARTICLE: Accessing County MSDS Site

By Art Pereida, Safety Coordinator

Gaining access to the County MSDS Program can be as simple as clicking on this hot-link: <http://intranet.co.riverside.ca.us/> and then saving it in FAVORITES or HOTLINKS in your PC.

Or, you can type it in and this will also prompt you to the Riverside County Intranet Web Page.

Next, click on the little man with the hard

hat holding the MSDS sign.

Now, "**CLICK HERE TO ACCESS MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS**". (Do this for the next step)

Type the following:

USER: riverside

PASSWORD: river

Click on "Logon"

(A window may appear prompting you,

click "yes")

"YOU ARE IN!"

Explore and learn to use it.

Remember, the County Safety Office manages the site and is the only user authorized to modify, edit or add to the system.

This is "your" tool to assist your office 24/7.

Questions or Comments? Contact us at (909) 955-3520 or GroupWise.

"BUGS AND OTHER BITES"

By Art Pereida, Safety Coordinator

Some people have serious reactions to bites and stings by bees, wasps, black flies, and other insects. **Immediate medical attention** is required for workers bitten who experience nausea, dizziness, hives stomach cramps, or severe swelling after an insect bite.

Most spider bites are harmless, but several are poisonous. Be careful when working near woodpiles and basements. Symptoms of a poisonous bite include sweat-

ing, twitching, shaking, and tingling in the area bitten.

Ticks live in grass and shrubs and carry Lyme Disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever which produce flu-like symptoms. To prevent these bites, when working in grassy areas:

- Cover the body with snug clothing and tuck pant legs into socks or boots.
- Don't use cologne, aftershaves, or

perfumed soaps

- Apply insect repellent containing DEET to exposed body parts and special tick repellents to clothes and shoes.
- Before going indoors, check your body for ticks, especially around the hairline, ears and legs.

Where snakes may be a concern in certain parts of the county, high boots are recommended. More on snakes in June.

COUNTY SAFETY OFFICE

3901 Lime Street
Suite #100
Riverside

Office Hours Monday thru Friday
7:30 A.M to 5:30 P.M.

Phone: 909-955-3520

Fax: 909-955-9200

Email: See Listing

Web site: <http://intranet.co.riverside.ca.us/safety>



"FLASH Safety Tip"

"Seatbelts give great safety hugs"

County Safety Office Staff are available to assist you at all times. Our office is in the (909) area code, on MICRO and all have Email.

COUNTY SAFETY OFFICER

Tom Sproal, County Safety Officer 955-5859

Safety Personnel

Mike Bowers, RCRMC Safety Coordinator 486-4689

Ken Brooks, Safety Coordinator 955-9205

Lou Giantonio, Safety Coordinator 955-3522

Tony Gonzales, Safety Coordinator 955-5881

Steve Hickam, Health Safety Specialist II 358-5547 or 955-5892

Steve Hutchings, Safety Coordinator 955-3521

Art Pereida, Safety Coordinator 955-5883

Dave Rich, Safety Coordinator 955-9527

Joe Salinas, Transportation Safety Coordinator 955-6788

Brian Teig, M. H. Safety Specialist II 358-4747

Occupational Health Nurse Consultant

Becky Perkins, RN (Temporary Ph.#) 955-3520

Safety Office Support Personnel 955-3520

Lydia Temmen, OA III

Jan Zimmermann, OA II

Tawni Grubbs, OA III

Speak up for safety

By Dave Rich, Safety Coordinator

When you have a good idea at work, share it. Your suggestion could be the one preventing an accident.

As the employee actually doing the job, you are in a unique position to see problems and find solutions. Since you are doing the process day to day, you might see things that your supervisor and other staff members may overlook. Find out your department's procedures on offering recommendations for making changes.

How you present your suggestion makes a difference in whether it is considered. These tips may help you get your point across:

Talk to the right person. Your supervisor is a good place to start, and he or she may send you to expand on your idea with someone else.

Bring up your ideas during your safety

briefing meeting. Other employees may be able to add to your suggestion.

Be positive. Instead of complaining about what is wrong, talk about how the problem can be solved.

Be courteous. It's difficult to get anything useful out of angry, sarcastic, or rude speech.

Timing is everything when it comes to approaching your supervisor with a suggestion. If it's one of those days and everything seems

to be going wrong, your idea might not get the best attention. Wait for a time when your supervisor can give your idea the attention it deserves.

Some departments even hold brainstorming sessions in an attempt to tap into the knowledge and experience of their employees. If you are part of an idea meeting, contribute as much as possible, and encourage others to do the same.

Other workplaces use suggestion boxes, allowing you to make suggestions without being identified. Use the box the way it is intended, to get ideas for improvements.

Whether your suggestion is to remove a hazard or speed up a process, it is important for you to communicate.

Think Safety!

Article contributed by Safety Smart, Volume XIV, Issue 4

Web site: www.safetysmart.com

