

OSHA Means Business

Keep Your Operation Inspection Proof

By Tom Hopf

In the May 1975 issue of HOLE NOTES an OSHA report was published which covered the Minnesota Law, how it differs from the Federal Law and a brief list of job safety conditions that should be checked periodically. I say checked periodically because unsafe working conditions can develop very rapidly.

There is apparently no major change in the law, the standards or enforcement procedures to report. However, I may be able to give you more information on how an OSHA inspection takes place and the things an inspector will look for.

In September of this year all departments of a moderate size municipality in Minnesota which operates an 18-Hole golf course were inspected. This resulted in citations for 45 non-serious violations and one citation for a serious violation.

Two inspectors appeared without advance warning and requested a city representative to accompany them on the inspection. They made it clear that no one was to block their attempt to inspect all city departments, facilities and equipment. They said the inspection was the result of an employee complaint and that no action or harassment could be aimed at the employee without the employer being subject to severe penalties. The inspection took over one week to complete.

The following is a list of violations that were found. All city departments are included and in some cases the violations were found in more than one department.

- (1) Failure to provide the number and proper type of fire extinguishers in several areas.
- (2) Failure to have fire extinguishers recharged and inspected on an annual basis.
- (3) Failed to have side guards on bench grinders.
- (4) Failed to have tongue guards on bench grinders. (This covers the face of the wheel at the top of the opening.)
- (5) Failed to have electrical equipment grounded which is connected by cord and plug. The general rule is any equipment that has a heater, a motor or a compressor must be grounded.
- (6) Failed to provide V belt and pulley guards. This includes mowers and most of the other equipment used in turf maintenance. Most new equipment is not sufficiently guarded.
- (7) Failed to provide NO SMOKING sign and guard posts by gasoline pump.
- (8) Defective and unsafe ladders.
- (9) Illegal lighting in paint spray booth.
- (10) Failed to provide minimum 3 foot clear space free of combustible material on all sides of spray paint booth.
- (11) Allowed non approved electrical wiring within twenty feet of paint spray booth.
- (12) Allowed excess of minimum amount of flammable liquids required for one day or one shift in or near spray paint booth area.
- (13) Failed to provide lower blade guard on radial arm saw.
- (14) Failed to provide automatic return on radial arm saw.
- (15) Allowed more than 30 PSI air pressure to be used for cleaning.
- (16) Storage balcony did not have posted capacity rating.
- (17) Failed to maintain fire extinguisher free and clear of obstructions.
- (18) Failed to remove or repair defective hand tools. (This also includes employees' tools if used on the job.)
- (19) Failed to have aisles free from obstructions.
- (20) Failed to have aisles marked.

- (21) Improper use of flexible electric cord.
 - a. Cord running through a wall.
 - b. Use of flexible cord in place of permanent wiring.
- (22) Failure to use approved storage for gasoline.
- (23) Welding cables in poor condition; improperly spliced.
- (24) Failed to have grounded 55 gallon drum of Class I flammable liquid. Any Class I liquid (gasoline or solvent) must be grounded to container that is being filled to eliminate chance of fire from static spark.
- (25) Failed to provide emergency eye wash in battery charging areas and areas where acid is used.
- (26) Failed to have two ways of egress from a boiler room.
- (27) Failed to secure compressed gas cylinders. (Must be chained to a wall in an upright position.)
- (28) Failed to maintain free access to electrical control panels.
- (29 & 30) Failed to provide guard over floor openings.
- (31) Failed to provide approved respirator in the chlorine room at swimming pool.
- (32) Failed to provide exit signs.
- (33 & 34) Failed to provide guards on fly wheel of circulator pump and fans with openings no more than 1/2 inch.
- (35) Access to exits blocked in storage building.
- (36) Failed to provide cover to ladder of lift station which is safe and secure.
- (37) Failed to provide landing platforms or safety device on ladders of twenty feet or more at lift stations and water towers.
- (38) Failed to provide guard on pump shaft.
- (39) Failed to prohibit smoking or open flame in gun powder storage area.
- (40) Unsafe overhead storage in storage building.
- (41) Failed to maintain inspection records on crane (heavy equipment).
- (42) Failed to provide fire extinguisher in cab of crane.
- (43) Failed to provide boom stops on crane ANSI B30.5-1968 Sec 5-1.9.1a
- (44) Failed to provide barrier guards around hoists and dumb waiters.
- (45) Failed to guard live contacts on terminals on transformers operating at over 50 volts in an area in which employees are exposed.

Serious Violation:

(1) Employer failed to furnish employees conditions and a place of employment free from recognized hazards that were likely to cause death or serious injury to employees by allowing the unsafe conditions to exist at the Hostatler building which is in such a rundown condition that employees have fallen through parts of the building.

Questions can be answered by contacting Mr. Ivan Russell or Mr. Al Hartman at the Department of Labor and Industry, 296-2116.

SPECIAL NOTICE: As of October 1, 1975 the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association will once again headquarter in the offices of the Minnesota Golf Association. The address is 7100 France Avenue South, Suite 207, Edina, Minn. 55435. Telephone 612/927-4643. The offices are open year around, five days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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