

OSHA Security Checklist Developed By Chicago Firm

The Federal Government's hard-line follow up on the new Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) was evident in a 12-month report just issued.

According to Charles Wessel, vice president of Interstate Service Corp. of Chicago, a Globe Security Co., the industrial community is feeling the impact of the Government's rapid and effective implementation of OSHA by what has probably become the busiest Review Commission in the country.

"More than 32,707 compliance inspections have been made," Wessel said, "covering about 29,500 establishments employing approximately 5.9 million workers."

"Although about 25% of the locations inspected were found to be basically in compliance with OSHA standards," he pointed out, "still there were 102,816 violations reported and 23,231 citations issued."

"The dollars it will cost the companies in penalties levied by OSHA regional directors have mounted to \$2,291,147."

Wessel who heads the organization that has become one of the nation's top four security firms,

said that the Federal Government's focus on a major problem in America today is both timely and imperative.

Interstate Service, with more than 80 years of experience in the industrial/commercial security field, is a leading proponent of the now popular theory, that safety and security indeed go hand in hand.

"Safety for an individual worker comes about only after safeguards have been undertaken," Wessel pointed out. "It is not enough that machinery is accident proof, and the materials the workers use be harmless; the employee and the equipment must be guarded by an effective safety and security program that systematically covers every weak point."

"Materials must be arranged to avoid the threat of fire, alarm systems must be designed to protect all vulnerable areas of an establishment, locking devices must be installed in such a way that the building is impregnable against outside vandals. The only way a company can be both safe and secure is to have a thorough-going program designed for their individual needs."

"One concern of the Government," Wessel explained, "and it is a proper one, is to overcome security and

safety weakness before disaster occurs."

The ramifications to an individual company or firm, subject to the relatively new Government regulations under OSHA, are complex. Wessel suggested that firms gird themselves both in general knowledge of the Act and the specific application to their companies.

"The added stigma a company may receive now from non-compliance with a Government regulation is another reason for preventative measures," Wessel added. "The company's employee relations and its image to its stockbrokers and the public at large are all endangered by a lack of understanding of the Act and therefore a lack of obedience to the law."

To assist businesses of every description, large and small — new organizations and established firms — Interstate Service Corporation is offering consulting services on the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Interstate also has developed a detailed security check list that is available upon request. By using the check list, businessmen can effectively check their own security quotient and perhaps grasp a better reading on their safety requirements, Wessel stated.



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