

Better safe than sued

BY CURT HARLER/
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Nobody wants to see a fellow worker or an employee get hurt on the job. But let's face it: safety is given lip service more often than real action during the busy season (and during slack times, too).

As an employer, it's your responsibility to provide proper safety equipment and see that it's used all the time. Lawsuits come from the strangest places — injured workers, endangered passers-by, state or federal agencies, property owners and motorists on the highway. Any of them could be after your hide on an assortment of counts: personal injury, a record-keeping violation, an accident involving a landscaping trailer parked by the side of the road or a stone thrown by a mower.

Stack the deck in your own favor. Look for proper safety equipment and reward workers who get caught "doing something right." You don't have to reward them with a lot — free coffee and doughnuts the next day or lunch at the local dive would be sufficient recognition. Others on your crews will catch on fast after one or two "attaboys" are given.

Best of all, you'll have established a proven track record for emphasizing and rewarding

safety — something that will go a long way toward reducing punitive damages should a disaster hit or a government inspector notice something else you've overlooked.

While you're at it, check the first aid kit in the pickup. Be sure the Band-Aids are new, look for a good antiseptic cream and check that other components are still sterile.

AEARO CO.
800/444-4774

www.aosafety.com

The full line of safety equipment from Aearo Co., Indianapolis, IN, includes eyeglass protectors which fit over prescription glasses, professional impact goggles and tinted or clear safety glasses. Check out the firm's high-visibility safety vests for workers near roadways. Company also offers hearing protection, either as industrial ear plugs or headset style with a band over the head.

Circle #285

BLOUNT, INC.
800/667-3409

www.oregonchain.com

Check out the line of vision protection from Blount, Inc.'s Oregon Cutting Systems Division, Portland, OR. Replaceable polycarbonate lenses in their safety glasses give impact protection whether using a chain saw or other equipment

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Superior Signals' new safety back-up alarm

safety tips

- ▶ **Provide all of the proper safety equipment needed for the job.**
- ▶ **Reward workers for using safety gear, as well as sanctioning failure to use it.**
- ▶ **Have both female and male members of the crew wear protective clothing.**
- ▶ **Make sure your first aid kit is stocked with all of the essentials.**

Im reports

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which may throw chips or dirt. Soft, flexible frame fits over personal glasses. Product is both ANSI and OSHA compliant. Perforations in the frame reduce lens fogging.

Circle #286

JOHN DEERE
800/537-8233

www.deere.com

Dress for success with safety accessories from John Deere's Commercial Division, Raleigh, NC. Full line of footwear includes PVC or latex boot covers and rubber slush



John Deere safety goggles

boots. For the body, check out the basic Tyvic coveralls which provide protection for Class II and IV pesticides; PVC bib apron for Class I-IV pesticides; and Saranex-coated Tyvek-sleeved apron for full-body protection; and rugged rain suits made from 35-mil PVC over polyester for full protection. Firm also has several styles of goggles, including indirect vented for splash and spray to non-vented for anhydrous or other vapors. If trouble hits, pull out the PMKT1540EA decontamination kit.

Circle #287

ECHO INCORPORATED
800/432-ECHO

www.echoincorporated.com

Whether it's reusable vinyl earplugs (with belt-mountable

carrying case), lightweight independent earmuffs or a complete protective helmet system with 6-pt. suspension, ear muffs and face mask, Echo has OSHA and ANSI-approved safety equipment. The Lake Zurich, IL firm also offers a brush-cutter system with visor and earmuffs but no helmet. Chain saw chaps are made of nylon chain-stopping material designed for bi-directional release. They are washable and Teflon-coated to repel oil, water or dirt.

Circle #288

ELVEX CORP.
800/888-6582

www.elvex.com

ProChaps chain saw chaps from Elvex, Bethel, CT, have Polar protective pads that are designed to



ProChaps' lightweight chaps

jam the chain saw when it contacts the chaps. The chaps are lightweight and flexible in order to allow unobstructed movement. With the ProGuard, a chain-saw operator is protected three ways: with an ANSI approved safety cap, face protection and hearing protection in one integrated design.

Circle #289

DIRECT SAFETY CO.
800/528-7405

Code 4 glasses from Direct Safety Co., Tempe, AZ, provide excellent



Direct Safety Co.'s hip glasses offer peripheral protection

peripheral protection. Wrap-around design and non-slip rubber nose piece provide a secure fit, even during physical activities. Glasses give maximum UV protection. Shatter-resistant polycarbonate lens exceeds ANSI Z87.1 standards.

Circle #290

FERRIS INDUSTRIES
800/933-6175

www.ferrisindustries.com

The new 4-pt. roll-over protection system (ROPS) for the Pro-Cut Z from Ferris Industries, Munsville, NY, offers better



Ferris Industries' roll-over protection system

weight distribution and helps spread out stress on the machine's main frame. Front mounting also deflects branches that might otherwise catch under a rear-mount system.

Circle #291

C.C. FILSON CO.
800/624-0201

www.filson.com

The new Foul Weather Coat from Filson's, Seattle, WA, will keep workers dry and protected. Its cloth is 100% tightly woven cot-



Filson's coat is saturated in paraffin to resist wind and rain

ton fabric saturated with paraffin wax to beat off wind and rain. Full-body cotton lining adds protection and an optional virgin wool removable zip-in liner forms an inner layer. There are six snaps with storm flap in the front and adjustable cuffs. Comes with buttons to add optional hood and make it snug in any weather.

Circle #292

FLA ORTHOPEDICS, INC.
800/327-4110

flaortho@worldnet.att.net

There are a lot of heavy bags and buckets to be moved in a day's work. Help the crew avoid back problems with the DynaBack braces from FLA Orthopedics, Miami Lakes, FL. Universal size model fits 24-46" waist. All units come with elastic side pulls, Velcro closure, and adjustable shoulder straps. The rear Safe-T-Straps have breakaway buckles to prevent the strap from getting caught by disconnecting at 10 lbs. pressure. Company also makes the Pro Series Back Ice Pack for days when lifting was too much.

Circle #293

Im reports

GEMPLERS 800/382-8473

www.gemplers.com

Full 13-in., 15-mil Nitrile gloves allow excellent dexterity yet provide good chemical resistance. They are great for safe handling of chemicals, solvents, acids or caustics. Nitrile resists abrasion, punctures and cuts, so these gloves are replaced less frequently. For use with pesticides whose labels refer to categories A, C, E or F. They come in a variety of sizes, from XS to XL, and are available from Gemplers, Belleville, WI. The company's full catalog contains over 10,000 items from gloves to coveralls for any kind of daily or specialized use.

Circle #294

GENERAL MACHINE PRODUCTS 215/357-5500

www.gmptools.com

The Pole Trailer Light Kit from General Machine, Trevese, PA is a D.O.T.-approved system for improving visibility of trailers and



General Machine's high visibility Pole Trailer Light Kit

other service vehicles. Kits sturdy aluminum weldment is finished

with bright yellow polyester-powder coating. Comes in 24 or 46-in. models. "Swings on Turns" legend is included with larger model. Safety lights are installed with shock mounts to increase bulb life and make it easy to replace burned out bulbs. Also available are heavy duty 4-way and 6-way plugs suited to most trailers.

Circle #295

MTD PRO 330/225-2600

www.mtdpro.com

Whether the crew is working with a blower, using a hedge trimmer, spraying chemicals or tilling up a seedbed, equip them with safety goggles. Both clear and tinted goggles are available as part of the parts and accessories packages

available from MTD Pro, Cleveland, OH. These goggles are comfortable and protect the eyes from flying objects or spray.

Circle #296

PROTECTOSEAL CO. 800/323-2268

www.protectoseal.com

Value-priced line of safety cabinets constructed of 18-gauge steel and compliant with NFPA and OSHA for storing flammable or hazardous materials is available from Protectoseal, Bensenville, IL. Cabinets are designed with leak-proof 2-in. bottom well in the event of a container leak. Come with either manual or self-closing doors.

Order yellow for storing two 55-gal. drums of flammables; blue for

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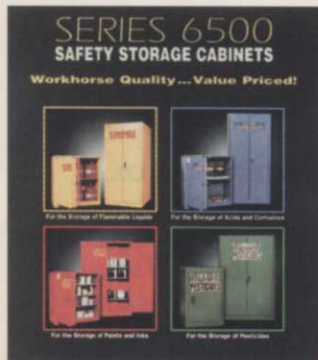
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We understand that failure is not an option for our customers

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Protectoseal offers a wide variety of safety cabinets

acid-resistant cabinets that hold acids or corrosives from 15-60 gal.; red for Class III combustibles; green for pesticide cabinets that hold 12-45 gal.

Circle #297

RADIANS

877/723-4267

www.radians.com

New safety eyewear from Radians, Memphis, TN, offers a sleek, fashionable style and comfortable, non-invasive Jelli™ earplugs that attach directly to the temple post of the glasses. Available in six different colors — clear, mirror, grey, amber and two shades of green — the 100% polycarbonate lens blocks out over 99% of UVB and



Radians' sleek and comfortable safety eyewear

UVA rays. The distortion-free lens is also scratch resistant, anti-static and anti-fog. A black breakaway neck cord is included with each and every pair of Radians A.V.

Circle #298

SAFETY STORAGE

800/344-6539

info@safetystorage.com

Store palletized, volatile chemicals in a safe place at a constant temperature. The Model 4508C dual-temperature controlled building from Safety Storage, Hollister, CA,



Store chemicals safely in Safety Storage's steel building

is a prefabricated, relocatable steel building with dual refrigeration systems. Controller is programmed to alternate systems on a 7-day cycle and to activate the off-cycle system if the operational system fails. Building is 46x8 ft. providing 288 sq. ft. of storage behind R-22 insulation.

Circle #299

SMUCKER MANUFACTURING

800/333-4503

www.smucker.net

A full line of safety and comfort equipment for Polaris ATV's, as well as other accessories, is available from Smucker Manufacturing, Harrisburg, OR. Their windshields for Polaris ATVs are built twice as thick as competitors'. The full-flared design provides upper body and hand protection. They're available in mid-height or tall. Other accessories are available from their catalog.

Circle #300

STIHL, INC.

800-GO-STIHL

Uvex Bandit eye wear from chain saw manufacturer Stihl, Virginia



Stihl's stylish safety eyewear

Beach, VA, are sporty and stylish with wraparound frame and dual-lens look. They actually are a single lens with molded-in side shields and brow guards for excellent protection and visibility. They are coated with Uvextreme AF, an anti-fog, anti-static, anti-scratch, anti-UV coating.

Circle #301

SUPERIOR SIGNALS, INC.

800/447-3693

New safety back-up alarm line from Superior Signals, Olathe, KS, the Safe-T-Alert 2500 series comes in six models. Units have decibel ratings from 87 dB to 107 dB. Self-adjusting models available. Voltage ratings vary from 12 to 80 VDC. Units come with a range of mounting options and can be steam cleaned after use in rugged environments. All alarms are UL listed and conform to SAE specifications.

Circle #302

ULTIMATE GOODS

888/880-1997

www.ultimategoods.com

Since introducing its Ultimate Gardening Glove in 1992, this Rollingbay, WA, firm has kept improving them year after year. The Hot Tamale is very durable and quite comfortable with its waterproof PVC outer shell, seamless acrylic fleece lining and textured grip for slippery, oily or wet objects. Keep this handy for cold weather uses



Ultimate Goods' handy work gloves

— it remains flexible to temperatures of -4 F.

Circle #303

ULTRATECH INTERNATIONAL

800/353-1611

www.spillcontainment.com

These Ultra-Collection tanks from UltraTech International, Jacksonville, FL, meet EPA's container storage regulations for collection of hazardous wastes. One piece, molded polyethylene tanks range



Ultratech's hazardous waste storage containers deter leaks

from 50-500 gal. Each is equipped with secondary containment sump to capture any leaks or overflows. Tanks also have collection funnel to allow safe pouring and draining of waste.

Circle #304