



SAFETY UPDATE



February 2013

The Flu: Still Epidemic, But Gradually Subsiding

In the latest FluView, published weekly by the Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov), New York City and 19 states, including New Jersey, still showed high “ILI” activity – meaning a lot of people were visiting healthcare providers exhibiting influenza-like illness. The level of activity is still considered epidemic, but is down from the highest rates measured in January.

BCANJ Sponsors 24th Annual Safety Awards

As we announced in Bulletin #08-13, BCANJ is sponsoring its 24th Annual Safety Awards Program to honor members for their safety excellence during 2012.

Applicants who have made the greatest achievements in terms of lost workday cases with an incidence rate below the national average, as per the Bureau of Labor Statistics, will receive a plaque of commendation. A special award will be presented to contractors who completed the year with zero lost or restricted occupational injury or illness workdays.

Awards will be presented at BCANJ’s Membership Meeting luncheon on June 25, 2013, at The Westwood at Garwood. In the 23-year history of the program, BCANJ has bestowed 397 safety awards.

2011 Injury & Illness Stats

The Bureau of Labor Statistics data for 2011 (the most recent year of confirmed data available) once again reflected little change from the previous year, recording 117 cases per 10,000 full-time workers of nonfatal injuries and illnesses requiring days away from work. In 2009 and 2010, the rate was 118 cases per 10,000 workers. The median days away from work per injury remained at eight, unchanged from the previous two years.

Key findings from the BLS related to the construction industry:

- Five occupations, including construction, accounted for nearly 20% of the days-away-from-work cases
- Injuries in construction required a median of 14 days away from work, nearly double the overall median rate and the third-highest rate among all industries
- 28% of the days-away-from-work injuries were caused by two of the Focus Four hazards: falls on the same level (15%); struck-bys – objects or equipment (13%)

Special Program: Work Zone Enforcement Rules

BCANJ members were invited to join a program hosted by AGC of New Jersey on February 27, 2013, to learn about the recently issued inspection and citation guidance related to OSHA highway work

zone enforcement rules. Brian Crain, OSHA Compliance Officer, reviewed work zone safety issues, and Michael Corbett, OSHA Compliance Assistance Director for Region 2, discussed the specifics and intent of the guidance, enforcement policies and procedures.

Across all occupations, an average of 13 working men and women were killed on the job each day in 2011, and in most cases, the OSHA officials said, the deaths were preventable with basic safety precautions. They remind employers that safety starts at the top, recommending tool box talks on the jobsite as an effective training method.

The OSHA officials also offered employers three other safety practices that work:

- Lead by example
- Reward safe practices
- Listen to workers – the best safety ideas come from the people who do the work

Corbett closed the two-hour program with an update on Region 2 Sandy Response, reporting 16 post-storm fatalities among response workers and volunteers, and 2,600 field interventions by OSHA to prevent injuries. Current emphasis is on the construction trades in rebuilding areas, where OSHA is offering outreach and consultation to employers as well as enforcing safety standards. OSHA had been operating in a “limited enforcement” mode since the Superstorm, but as of March 1 returns to full enforcement mode.

Safety After the Storm: OSHA Fact Sheets & QuickCards

In Bulletin #16-13, distributed at the end of January, we sent members a comprehensive list of OSHA Fact Sheets and QuickCards designed to help protect workers involved in the clean-up and restoration of property damaged by Superstorm Sandy. These safety guides – concise, easy-to-read and convenient to carry or post – contain valuable information that can guard against many of the hazards associated with disaster-relief efforts, such as advising how to

work safely around downed electrical wires, offering tree-trimming tips, discussing hand hygiene and protective gloves and warning against carbon monoxide poisoning from portable generators and other heating devices.

As part of our endeavor to create an Alliance with OSHA, we are assisting the agency with disseminating these Fact Sheets and QuickCards. They are easily available to members. Just access the bulletin on the “Members Only” page on the BCANJ website, www.bcanj.com.

Training Center Safety Courses

As we detailed in Bulletin #19-13, the training centers affiliated with the general construction trades offer the OSHA 30-Hour Construction Safety Course, First Aid/CPR, HazMat and other industry-related programs on a regular basis for their members. We included with that bulletin a list of safety classes available in February and March. Access the bulletin on the “Members Only” section of the BCANJ website, www.bcanj.com.

BCANJ to Host OSHA 30-Hour Safety Course in May

Our next OSHA 30-Hour Construction Health & Safety Course is scheduled for May 20-23, 2013, Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Association office in Edison. In the coming weeks, members will receive a bulletin with complete details and a registration form.

For information on safety issues, regulations and training, contact BCANJ at 732.225.2265.