



SAFETY FIRST

PERRY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS EMPLOYEE SAFETY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2017

DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU!

Here are descriptions of two recent accidents in our township:

1. An employee recently fell face first on the sidewalk while leaving a building. This fall caused a lot of pain, soreness, bruising, and even the loss of teeth. There are many root causes for falls. However, when we talk to people who have fallen, we find that the most common cause is not paying attention to the task of walking. Our minds stray to the events of recent meetings or exchanges with students or co-workers, etc. We don't think about walking. The simple remedy is to clear your mind and watch where you are going. It sounds much simpler than it is, but try it.
2. An employee was vacuuming using a backpack vacuum. However, the harness was not attached properly. As she bent over to straighten a hallway mat, the vacuum fell on her head. Many of our employees use equipment that have safety features such as straps, harnesses, etc. Take the time to use all safety features of equipment to avoid injury. Short cuts can be dangerous.

SPRING SAFETY REMINDERS

SPRING CLEANING

- Household and pool chemicals, paints and poisons should be properly marked and stored under lock and key, away from children's reach. Dispose of any that are leaking, expired, or that look bad.
- When cleaning up hazardous chemicals, wear rubber gloves and follow the safety directions on the packaging. Never mix chemicals in the same container. If you don't know how to dispose of them, seek outside advice. Never put them in the trash or pour them down the drain.
- Make sure gasoline and cleaning fluids are well-marked and stored in a cool, dry place away from the house and out of reach of children and pets. Use only approved containers for gasoline storage.
- Never use gasoline to clean skin, clothes, auto parts or floors.
- Clean up work areas. Put dangerous tools, adhesives, matches or other work items away from children's reach.
- Remove all fire hazards, including stacks of rags, newspapers and magazines. Pay special attention to the spaces around your furnace, hot water tank, fireplace, space heaters and dryer, as well as under your stairs.

YARD CLEANUP

- Always wear protective clothing when you handle pesticides and fertilizers.
- Rake before you mow to prevent any stones and loose debris from launching into the air.
- Never operate a mower in your bare feet and avoid wearing loose clothing.
- Never start a mower indoors.
- While refueling your mower, make sure the engine is off and cool. Don't spill gasoline on a hot engine - and DON'T SMOKE while pouring gasoline.
- Never leave your mower unattended.
- Don't use electrical mowers on wet grass.
- Read the manufacturer's instructions carefully before using tools.
- Inspect tools for damage and don't use them if there are problems.
- Use proper eye protection.

- Make sure blade guards are in place on all cutting equipment.
- Don't let tools get wet unless they are labeled "immersible."
- Unplug all tools when not in use.
- Make sure the tool is in the "off" position before you plug it in.
- Store gasoline-powered equipment away from anything that uses a pilot light.
- Make sure you use the right saw for the task, and always wait for the saw blade to stop before pulling away from a cut to avoid kickback.
- When pruning trees, be careful not to let metal ladders or trimmers contact overhead wires.
- Before you do any "hands on" weed removal, be sure you know how to identify poison ivy, sumac, oak and similar toxic plants. Find out ahead of time how to treat the rashes they cause to reduce the irritation.

OUTDOOR SAFETY

- Winter's inactive muscles can take only so much strain. Don't overdo it - build up slowly so you don't have strains that can put you out of commission for some time.
- Spring's extra rain and thawing snow can cause normally safe rivers, streams and creeks to turn treacherous. Even standing on banks can be risky, as they can be undercut by the rushing water and give in under your weight.
- Springtime can also be severe weather time. If the skies look threatening, check to see if a storm watch or warning has been issued before you initiate outdoor activities. If you're already outside and thunderstorms threaten, go immediately into a building or enclosed vehicle. For tornadoes, go to the nearest safe structure, or the basement or interior first-floor room of your home. If there's no time to follow these precautions, take cover in a ditch or depression in the ground.

EMPLOYEE ACCIDENTS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

1. A sliver of metal shot into an employee's eye while he worked on an engine.
2. A rack fell on an employee causing an arm injury.
3. An employee fell off of a desk that he was using as a ladder.
4. An employee sustained a cut finger from a paper cutter.
5. An employee suffered a hand injury after getting her hand caught in a dishwasher.
6. An employee burned her thumb as she removed a hot pan from an oven without using proper PPE.
7. An employee fell and sustained a wrist injury when the wind blew her off balance.
8. An employee was pushing a cart and fell causing injury to her wrist.
9. An employee sustained a knee injury when a pan was dropped.
10. While bending over to pick up a tray, an employee hit her head on a serving line.
11. An employee sustained a cut to her thumb while using a paper cutter.
12. An employee walked off of a sidewalk and twisted an ankle.
13. An employee tripped over an engine cover and sustained strains to his neck and shoulder.
14. An employee stepped onto a curb and lost balance causing a knee injury.
15. An employee sustained burns while pouring food into a steam table tray.
16. An employee tripped over a jack and injured his wrist and knee.
17. An employee passed out and hit her head on the floor.
18. An employee twisted his back as he lifted food containers.
19. An employee sustained a hand injury as she transferred a student into a chair.
20. An employee sustained a burned arm as she removed a pan from a steam table.
21. An employee injured both knees while attempting to climb stairs.
22. An employee injured his thumb as he was checking to see if outside doors were secure.
23. In addition, ten employees were injured in separate incidents by students while the employees tried to restrain or calm the students.