

IRVING MATERIALS, INC.

"WE'RE PROUD OF OUR WORK"



SAFETY TOPICS

SAFETY

Safety is never an accident: it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution! It represents the wise choice of many alternatives!!

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FALL PROTECTION—HIGH & LOW

Falls continue to be a concern. Plenty of our employee injuries are the result of falls. Falls are one of the leading causes of injuries and fatalities at home. I recently read an article in *Pit and Quarry* by Michael T. Heenan on fall protection, so I have borrowed some of his material for this month's Safety Topic.



We talk about fall protection and a lot of different things can provide fall protection: hand rails, barriers, harnesses, tie-offs, etc. We talk about preventing falls from elevated locations. What is an elevated location? The regulatory community, OSHA and MSHA, don't agree on what constitutes an elevated location. OSHA is not consistent in what it refers to as an elevated location that requires fall protection. It depends on the activity and exposure. It might be 6' or 10' or much less. MSHA considers anything above level

ground as a location that requires fall protection. Maybe they have the right idea. They say, "Safety belts and lines shall be worn where there is a danger of falling."

The biggest problem doesn't arise in providing fall protection in high places. We can

all understand the need for steel erectors to wear fall protection when they are hanging from the side of a skyscraper. The problem arises in low places where the perception is, "Oh, I am not going to fall, and even if I do, I won't get hurt." I don't think we recognize the need for fall protection in many low places. But, there are plenty of documented fatalities and tons of serious injuries in falls of three feet or less.

(continued on the reverse side)

I Chose to Look the Other Way — Author Unknown

I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.
It wasn't that I didn't care,
I had the time, and I was there.
But I didn't want to seem a fool,
Or argue over a safety rule.
I knew he's done the job before,
If I called it wrong, he might get sore.
The chances didn't seem that bad,
I've done the same, he knew I had.
So I shook my head and walked on by,
He knew the risks as well as I.
He took the chance, I closed an eye,
And with that act, I let him die.

I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.
Now every time I see his wife,
I'll know I should have saved his life.
That guilt is something I must bear,
But it isn't something you need to share.
If you see a risk that others take,
That puts their health or life at stake.
The question asked, or thing you say,
Could help them live another day.
If you see a risk and walk away,
Then hope you never have to say,
I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.

For What It Is Worth!

- Deep Thoughts -

- If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked?
- If vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?
- If FED EX and UPS merged would they call the new company FED UP?
- If a deaf person swears, does his mother wash his hands with soap?
- What hair color do they put on the drivers license of a bald man?
- It's not the pace of life that concerns me, it is the sudden stop at the end! (with falls as well)

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please sign below as an indication that the material was read:

FALL PROTECTION—HIGH & LOW

So what are we to do?

Identify potential fall hazards

As I have said many times before, consider what can go wrong and make plans for preventing those things. This takes participation and communication. For each of us to go home at the end of the day, in the same good health that we came to work, requires active participation by everyone.

Look out for your fellow employees. Looking out for your fellow employees requires communication. Read the poem on the front of this Safety Topic.

Some fall hazards that I see that we need to think about.

Climbing the ladders and/or accessing the drivers station on any piece of heavy equipment or truck. Use the "Three Points of Contact" rules. That can't be accomplished with something in your hand. The same goes for going the opposite direction. Don't jump down! Maintain "Three Points of Contact".

Working at any elevated platform requires some thoughts about how someone could fall. When a fall hazard exists consider other alternatives such as re-positioning what you are working on or working from a man-basket. A safety harness and tie-off are required PPE in that man-basket. When other alternatives have been exhausted, tie yourself off so that you can't reach the edge. Weather is a consideration as well.

June is National Safety Month

This year's theme is:
"Crash-Free June"

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death in America. Do your part to make June a "Crash-Free" Month.
Drive Safely, Drive Defensively!

Fall protection at ground level may involve nothing more than observing your surroundings. Is the ground uneven? How is the housekeeping in the area you will be traveling? When you are carrying a heavy or awkward object, plan your route ahead of time and plan for where the object will be placed. Look where you are walking and working.

If you have concerns or suggestions about fall hazards or other safety issues, please let Terry or me know. We are not

out there with you every day so we can't see what you see — especially with respect to fall protection.

Make Safety Soar in 2004