

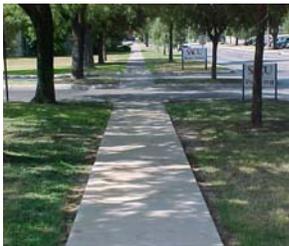
SAFETY UPDATE

**Fort Sam
Houston
Directorate of
Public Safety**

Safety / Public Works Making a Difference Around Post

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San Antonio Credit Union.

Uneven sidewalks replaced along Stanley.



Sidewalk in front of the Eisenhower Bank

Fort Sam Houston has seen many safety improvements to facilities over the last year. To mention a few: uneven sidewalks have been replaced/repared, crosswalks were remarked, window screens have been placed in warehouses in order to keep birds out of the facilities, steps have been replaced, and non-skid material was applied to floors at building 2841.

Troops have moved into the new dorms — Building 272 which replaced the old building 250. Medical troops have moved from building 2791 into the new dorms by BAMC.

Making Fort Sam Houston a safer, better place to work and live!



Step edgings were replaced at building 2840 and 2841.



Screens were installed at building 4190 to keep birds out.



Non-skid layer was applied to the floors at building 2841.

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Upcoming Training:

- *Hazard Communication, 13 Sep*
- *Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), 19 Sep*
- *Back Injury Prevention, 20 Sep*
- *Risk Management, 27 Sep*

Accident Reporting Online Stats -

An accident is defined as an unplanned event. Not all accidents result in injuries, however, those that do, receive the most attention. All accidents should be of concern ... especially the near misses.

Near Misses or “wake-up calls” can sometimes foretell future accidents. The key to accident prevention is recognizing near misses when they occur and taking the appropriate steps to make our work environment safe.

The following are the total statistics collected from online accident reporting for the April-July 2001 timeframe:

15 Cuts, 10 bruises, 9 strains, 6 sprains, and 6 hearing loss claims filed.

Classes are currently held at the Roadrunner, Building 2797. For dates and times check out our website at www.cs.amedd.army.mil/iso or call us at 221-9872.

**Mr. Guadalupe Gomez,
Safety and Occupational
Health Manager**

Construction Safety—Ladder Safety

Ladders are a vital part of every day work on many job sites. We have seen an increase of ladder discrepancies during our construction site visits. Your personal safety should be paramount when working on a ladder. Here are some safety guidelines to follow:

General Guidelines:

Individuals who work on ladders should wear slip resistant footwear, and ensure ladder rungs are free of oil, grease, or other slippery substances. Before climbing any ladder, check its condition. Are nuts and bolts tightened? Are rungs secure? Do spreaders work? Are safety feet functional? If the ladder is in good condition, climb and descend it facing the ladder itself, and holding on with both hands. When

working on a ladder, use the three point contact rule at all times. That means: two hands and one foot or two feet and one hand. If you must carry tools, use a tool belt or a bucket attached to a hand line to pull tools up and down. And remember, *never* use a metal ladder when working with electrical current.

Step Ladders:

When working on step ladders, remember never to climb past the manufacturer's recommendation, usually the second rung from the top (check the label). Ensure that spreaders are functional and locked in place before climbing. If the ladder is positioned by a door or walkway, make sure that the door is locked or the walkway barricaded to prevent collisions. Do not overreach

while working on a step-ladder--climb down and reposition the ladder. Avoid leaning over the base of support.

Straight Ladders:

When working on straight ladders, use the four-to-one rule: position the ladder base one foot away from the wall for every four feet of ladder height (up to the support point). Never climb past the third rung from the top on a straight ladder. A straight ladder should extend at least 3 feet past its support point. Tie down the ladder as close to the support point as possible. Make sure that straight ladders have safety feet. Avoid overreaching, do not let the trunk of your body extend past the side of the ladder.

Accident Reporting ... continued

Fortunately, most of these accidents have resulted in minor injuries. The bruises and strain were from private owned vehicles (POV) accidents. Five of the strains listed were neck strains reported from the driver and four passengers involved in a single POV accident. Causes for the cuts, as listed on reports, were from lack of preventive maintenance, uneven walking surfaces, and falls (slippery surfaces).

Lost work days involved 46 days for a broken foot and 30 days from a head

Safety is a personal responsibility—everyone is responsible for safety. Reporting is the first step to ensuring a safe and healthy work environment.

wound. One recent slip and fall resulted in a broken bone to the leg ... 3 lost work days thus far with a anticipated 99 light duty days ahead. People are our most important resource. If people are injured—the mission suffers.

From the POV local stats, use care at the following intersections while driving around San Antonio:

IH 410 & Harry Wurzbach

Loop 1604 & IH 35

Loop 1604 & IH 10

Loop 1604 & Military Highway

Safety is a personal responsibility—everyone is responsible for safety. Keep reporting accident / incident / near misses at www.cs.amedd.army.mil/iso or 295-SAFE (7233).

Youth Center Sponsors—BIKE RODEO



JC Anders, Safety Specialist, shows a parent how to properly fit and wear a bike safety helmet.

On July 19, The Directorate of Public Safety joined forces with the Youth Center in a very successful Bike Rodeo. Over 200 children participated in various planned activities. A five part driving skills obstacle course was set up with awards given to first, second and third place winners based on age group.

LTC Goggins, Director of Public Safety, demonstrated why bike safety is important and bike helmets were properly sized and handed out to children. Children were photographed and fingered printed for parents attending. Thank you all who participated!



Lupe Gomez, Safety Manger, looks on as LTC Goggins performs the egg drop demonstration for the children.

OSHA NEWS

New Head of OSHA

President Bush nominated John Lester Henshaw to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health. Henshaw served for sixteen years in the Air National Guard as a Bioenvironmental Engineer. He is a graduate of Appalachian State University and received a Master's degree from the University of Michigan. Henshaw, a certified industrial hygienist, has served as Director of Environment, Safety and Health for Astaris and Solutia, Inc. From 1975 to 1995, he was with Monsanto Company in a variety of positions including Corporate Director of Quality and Compliance Assurance and Corporate Stewardship for Environmental Safety and Health and as Corporate Industrial Hygiene Director. The selection of Henshaw is one OSHA issue that labor and business groups agree on.

ERGONOMICS

On July 16th Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao opened the first of three public forums to be held on the issue of ergonomic injuries and a warning to all sides to set aside politics and concentrate on worker protection.

"The issue isn't about whether we should deal with ergonomic injuries," Chao said. "It's about how we deal with them. That is why I've spent more time than any previous labor secretary meeting with injured workers and other stakeholders to hear what they think about ergonomic injuries and the best way to prevent them."

Chao also cautioned against repeating the mistakes that led to congressional invalidation of the previous ergonomics regulation after numerous complaints that it was too far-reaching and unworkable. Chao

stated: "As they say in my home state of Kentucky, there's no education in the second kick of a mule." The Fort Sam Houston Safety Office

"The issue isn't about whether we should deal with ergonomic injuries," Chao said. "It's about how we deal with them ... the best way to prevent them.".

has conducted over 280 on site ergonomic evaluations. These have not only included computer workstation evaluations but also situations such as:

- Entering and exiting a truck for an individual less than five feet in height
- Heavy equipment operators exposed to excessive vibration from equipment
- Ladder users loading and unloading ladders from vehicles
- Laboratory technicians using microscopes for extended periods of time
- Fire Service first responders transporting an unconscious patient down three flights of stairs due to no elevator available in some buildings

Do we have any success stories? Absolutely! 85 –90 % of our post surveys accomplished indicate that the discomforts have gone away.

The Occupational Health Clinic has set aside 6 appointments for muscular skeleton disorder evaluations and referral to the BAMC Occupational Physical Therapy Clinic. The number to call for an appointment is 295-2500.

OSHA Fines

1. OSHA proposed fines of \$23,800 to a contractor following a chemical fire which sent three workers and four firefighters to the hospital. The fire occurred when employees were cutting pipes which formerly carried the flammable chemicals toluene, cyclohexanone and methyl ethyl ketone sol-

vent, when residual amounts of the toluene and cyclohexanone contained in the pipes spilled onto the concrete floor and were ignited by sparks from the workers' cutting tools.

OSHA's inspection found that the company failed to purge, ventilate and test the pipes prior to cutting, did not instruct employees in the hazards associated with the chemicals and the pipe cutting, lacked written hazard communication information about the chemicals and failed to provide the workers with protective clothing and gloves, face shields and respiratory protection.

2. OSHA found 6 men working in a trench over twenty feet deep and without cave-in protection. The proposed fines are over \$40,000. The company not only failed to provide the shoring, they also failed to provide ready means of egress. The workers had to climb the "forms" to escape. The "training" that was provided at the beginning of the job was not extensive and was provided in English although the workers were predominantly non-English speaking.

Army POV Accidents/Fatalities

Army wide we have had 82 POV fatalities through 9 Aug—13 of these are motorcycle related.

Commanders and Directors are reminded to use the Risk Management process for all operations.

1. Identify the hazards
2. Assess the hazard
3. Develop controls and make risk management decisions
4. Implement controls
5. Supervise and evaluate

Address your high hazard areas and follow these principles accordingly to ensure we are protecting our valuable resources.

Please Distribute this News Letter Throughout your organization !

What's New—

- Look for the new FSH SAFETY VIDEO—soon to be released. Currently in production, this video covers general safety topics specific to Fort Sam Houston and will be distributed to all organizations on Post for use by newcomers and during annual safety briefs. KUDOS to Ms. Linda Barcus, Script Writer, and Mr. Clyde Kramer, Production Chief, and all his crew for the outstanding support they have provided the Safety Office. Thank you to all who participated or contributed to this project as well.
- Be sure to nominate personnel from your organization for the next quarterly Safety Award—There are many well deserved individuals performing outstanding safety duties who should be recognized.
- Three safety topics per month are sent to supervisors and CDSOs for use in their safety briefings. These will be published on the web page in the event you may have missed a topic from the previous months.
- We have added new Safety Videos to the Video Library—Stop by building 2250 (2nd Floor) to check them out for your safety meetings.

SAFETY AWARD WINNERS—4th Quarter

Civilian Category

Sharon Cushing—CABC (Billeting/CDSO)



Ms. Cushing, has proven herself an outstanding Collateral Duty Safety Officer (CDSO) to her organization. Not only does she ensure she has met all her own training requirements but she has also been instrumental in coordinating Safety Training, e.g. Heat Stress, Hazard Communication, Bloodborne Pathogens, and Ergonomics, for personnel in all areas of responsibility. Personnel state that she has raised safety awareness throughout her organization.

Ms. Cushing is quick to respond to safety concerns within her organization and to bring them to the attention of the Safety Office not only for personnel working in billeting but for the guest staying in there as well.

Thank you—Ms. Cushing for taking safety seriously and setting the example for all to follow!

Soldier Category

SFC Rivera—AMDEDDC&S (Classroom Support)



SFC Rivera is the focal point for zero accidents in the civilian workplace of the classroom support section. His “Safety First” attitude keeps his work area “accident free”.

SFC Rivera was the project manager for the bird/bat exclusion project in AHS. By deterring the yearly bat migratory period, he was instrumental in saving many man hours and money that would have been necessary to clean up the residual guano and be detrimental to occupants health.

SFC Rivera implemented the “water recovery response” via classroom support in response to the many slips, trips and falls that have occurred in the past in this facility. His rapport with the cleaning contractors proved invaluable in clearing the loading dock recently to unusual amount of trash accumulated when a new compactor was installed.

Thank you —SFC Rivera for your “Can Do” Safety Attitude!