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## DID YOU KNOW?

OSHA has fined Kapco Inc., a Wisconsin-based manufacturer, over \$200,000 after a worker amputated part of her finger on a welding machine. Last year, another worker suffered a similar injury on the same machine, and Kapco has now been cited for two “egregious willful” violations for its failure to implement safety procedures following the first incident.

Kapco was also cited for additional safety violations for failing to use lockout/tagout devices during machinery maintenance, and for failing to perform annual energy control inspection procedures.

## OSHA Proposes Rule to Limit Beryllium Exposure

OSHA recently proposed a new rule that would limit worker exposure to beryllium, a metal found in many manufacturing facilities, due to the negative health effects it causes. The new rule would cut the maximum amount of exposure by 90 percent.

Employers may be required to implement additional measures to protect workers from beryllium, such as medical surveillance, regulated beryllium work areas and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Additional engineering and work practice controls may also be necessary depending on your facility's use of beryllium.

Beryllium is a known carcinogen and can cause a number of adverse health effects, including respiratory disease, skin disease and heart problems. OSHA believes that the proposed rule will better protect the 35,000 workers who are currently exposed to beryllium in the course of their work.

This change has only been proposed and is not yet enforceable, and the general public has until Nov. 5 to submit comments to OSHA on the proposal. For more details about the rule, or to submit a comment, go to [www.osha.gov/beryllium](http://www.osha.gov/beryllium).

## Prepare a Pre-incident Fire Plan

Manufacturing facilities have an increased risk during fires; unlike smaller commercial buildings, they often contain hazards and feature complex layouts. Limit your risk by working with the local fire department to draft a pre-incident fire plan.

Walk through your facility with a fire officer to identify hazards and collaborate on a fire plan based on your findings. The fire plan should at least include a complete layout of your facility, the location of hazardous materials and a description of any workers with special rescue needs. Contact Atlantic Pacific Insurance for more information to keep your workers and property safe from fires.