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DID YOU KNOW?

According to the National Safety Council, exposure to electricity resulted in 156 worker deaths and 1,730 cases involving missed days of work in 2012.

OSHA recommends the following steps to stay safe around power lines:

- Have a utility worker mark the location of buried power lines before beginning work.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from overhead lines.
- Use wood or fiberglass ladders when working near power lines.

OSHA Announces Temporary Enforcement Policy for Work in Confined Spaces

Last month, OSHA announced a temporary 60-day enforcement policy for construction work in confined spaces. The new standard goes into effect Aug. 3, 2015, but OSHA announced that it will delay full enforcement until Oct. 2, 2015.

As long as employers are making “good faith efforts to comply with the new standard,” OSHA will not issue citations for failure to comply with its new standard. The agency indicated that such good faith efforts would include the following:

- Scheduling training, even if the employer was unable to actually train its employees
- Making arrangements for or purchasing necessary equipment, even if the

employer does not yet have the equipment

- Engaging in additional efforts to keep employees safe in confined spaces

OSHA cited numerous requests for extensions as a reason for the temporary enforcement policy. A number of employers in the construction industry told the agency that they needed additional time to train their employees and acquire the necessary equipment.



Walking-working Surfaces Rule Pending

After more than two decades of work, OSHA is on the verge of publishing its final rule on walking-working surfaces, pending a final review by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

OSHA first proposed a rule to address slips, trips and falls in 1990 that identified common hazards and established personal fall protection systems. In the ensuing years, new technologies emerged, and the agency incorporated these technologies in the revised final rule.

OSHA is expected to publish the rule shortly after the OMB completes its final review.