

THE

CONNECTION

JANUARY 2002

A CLEAN SWEEP FOR SAFETY

Some say that a clean desk or work area is a sign of boredom. But no matter how hectic a day may be, time spent cleaning a work area is time well spent. A disorganized clutter of rags, tools, and any other equipment can pose numerous safety hazards. In addition, a poorly organized work area can slow you down. It's difficult to be motivated and to do a good job when tools are hard to find or if an area has to be cleaned up before a job can be started.

Follow these basic good house-keeping hints:

Always clean tools and store them in their proper place after each use.

Store all hazardous liquids in clearly marked containers with secure lids.

Keep aisles and pathways to fire extinguishers and fire exits clear at all times.

Dispose of used rags in designated containers - never leave them lying around.

Clear your workstation, including the floor, of any debris at the end of each day.



Do You Know What These Winter Warnings Mean?



Before the weather turns too cold, make sure you know what winter weather warnings mean. It might help you avoid an ill-advised trip.

Here is what the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) says common public warnings during the winter mean:

Winter storm watch: Be alert, a storm is likely.

Winter storm warning: Take action, the storm is in or entering the area.

Blizzard warning: Snow and strong winds combined will produce blinding snow, near-zero visibility, deep drifts, and life-threatening wind chill. Seek refuge immediately.

Winter weather advisory: Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous, especially to motorists.

Frost/Freeze warning: Below freezing temperatures are expected and may cause damage to plants, crops, or fruit trees.

Safety & The Supervisor



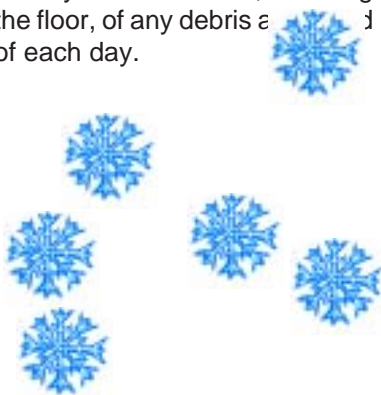
Ladder Safety

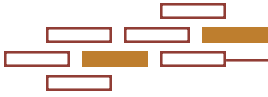
A Few Ideas About How to Stay Safe

You probably already know not to stand on the top step of a stepladder. You learned this because the top step is marked "**Caution: Do Not Use This Step.**"

Most of us can recount this ladder safety tip readily, but here are a few more tips that are just as important:

1. Open a stepladder all the way and secure it.
2. Have someone else hold a ladder that is more than 10 feet in length.
3. Do not use a stepladder as a straight ladder.
4. Never allow more than one person to climb a ladder at one time. If two people must go up, use two ladders.





Clearing the Air on Dust Dangers

Dust may seem harmless, but it can be a potential killer. Because of their small size, dust particles can be easily inhaled. If the dust is toxic, serious illness or even death can occur.

In addition, many materials that are normally inert are potentially explosive when they are in dust form and are exposed to certain elements, such as oxygen, an ignition source, or a confined space. For example, massive concrete grain elevators have been leveled because dust from the grain ignited and exploded.

You can follow these guidelines to prevent a problem from ever occurring:

Wear appropriate respiratory protection when and where it's required.

Follow no smoking rules

Keep your work area clean and free as possible.



1996 Bureau of Business Practice



Leave the balancing acts to circus performers.

Whether you're working with a 4-foot ladder or a 40-foot one, follow the rules of ladder safety.

OUR GREAT INDUSTRY

Bart Carrigan
Executive Vice President
Michigan Chapter AGC

Occasionally, the events of the year come into focus in a way that puts things in perspective for you. The terrorist attacks on our country on 9/11 did so for me.

I take a lot of pride in the fact that I am employed by the members of Associated General Contractors. Year in and year out, I am proud to carry out their agenda, along with my colleagues on the AGC staff. The events of 9/11 make me more proud than ever before.

Along with New York and Washington D.C.'s police and fire personnel, construction industry personnel have been the first responders and ongoing activists in the ground zero area.

At our Associated General Contractors of America Midyear Meeting in Salt Lake City, we were briefed by the architect, structural engineers and contractors who have been involved at ground zero. We learned that the redundancy of structural support designed into the two towers probably kept those buildings standing long enough for personnel to escape, saving thousands of lives. We learned of the ingenuity of AGC member companies who have used their building skills in an altogether different way. AGC members are the "go to guys" when our citizens respond to a disaster.

The role of the tradesmen cannot take a back seat to anyone involved in this process. They became first responders as they left other construction projects in Manhattan. Ironworkers, Operating Engineers, Laborers, Carpenters and others quickly plunged in with professional skills and unrelenting dedication to save those who were trapped. New York City residents cheered their hardhats as they scrambled to the work zone to perform the hardest tasks of our young century.

So here we have both management and labor in the construction industry responding to the needs of our country, when attacked by terrorists. I hope no one takes

this for granted. For these people are extraordinary heroes.

All of which, upon reflection, makes me proud to be a part of our great industry.

Michigan Constructor, Winter 2001



What You Can Do to Help Employees Get to the Eyewash Station Safely

Emergency eyewash stations can only help protect workers from accidental contact with harmful substances if employees can reach them. Placing anything in front of the station can render it ineffective.

Never store boxes, containers, cleaning supplies or anything else employees might trip over near emergency eyewash stations. Even if these items are stored to one side, they could fall and block access to the station.

Why Two is Sometimes One Too Many

When it comes to ladders, two workers is one too many. Ladders are designed to support one person at a time. If a job requires two people working with a ladder, workers should know to use two separate ladders.

Safety & The Supervisor