

THE

CONNECTION

OCTOBER 2006

A Safe Site Is An Orderly Site



What Does Good Housekeeping Mean To You?

For some, it might mean straightening the doilies on the sofa arms. But on a construction site, it's a matter of arranging the tools and materials you use in the safest possible way. Let's talk about a few of the ways we can make a work site safer with good housekeeping.

Here's a story about a fellow I'll call Joe. Joe was a good worker and prided himself on getting the job done fast. Well, one day Joe was hurrying to finish a job. He was working with a solvent-based cement. He knew about the dangers of flammable liquids, but he didn't want to take the time to dispose of the rags he was using to clean up with. He figured he could save a trip and dispose of them all at once at the end of the day. I think you can

guess the rest. It was a hot day, there were dust and fumes in the air, and when Joe switched on the drill there was an explosion. It put an end to Joe's hard work, his construction company, and his life.

Most poor housekeeping accidents aren't as dramatic as Joe's. They involve tripping or stumbling over things that aren't where they're supposed to be, stepping on sharp objects, slipping on a puddle of oil or water, or using a tool that has not been properly maintained.

Good housekeeping here is a matter of separating scrap from usable material and storing it in scrap piles out of the work area. Rags, scrap paper, old rope, and dust are fire and accident hazards. Tools stored in their proper place not only look better, they are easier to find. How many of you have cut your hand while fishing through a toolbox full of sharp objects for the screwdriver in the bottom?

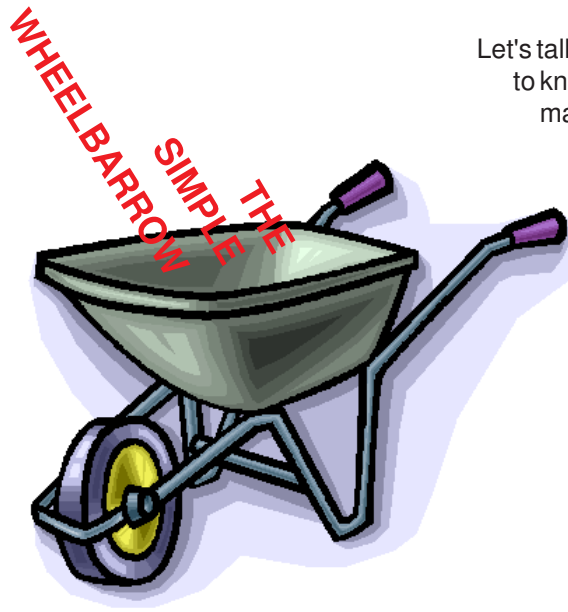
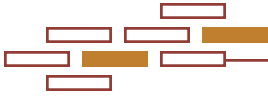
Keeping a safe, orderly site not only protects you, it makes you feel better about your job. It's a boost to your morale to know you're not walking into a mine field every morning. And it makes a big impression on anyone who is interested in the quality of your work, like your boss.

1992 PARLAY INTERNATIONAL

Duck or Duct?

Duct tape was a masking tape that made its debut during World War II and was created by Johnson & Johnson's Permacel Division in 1942. The original use was to keep moisture out of ammunition cases. Because it was waterproof and made from cotton duck, similar to what was used in medical tape, it was given the moniker "duck tape." Military personnel quickly discovered that the tape was very versatile and used it to fix their guns, jeeps, aircraft, etc. After the war, the tape was used in the housing industry to connect heating and air conditioning duct work. Its color was changed from army green to gray to match ductwork. Subsequently its name was changed to "duct tape." Interestingly enough, in today's building industry it is often not considered up to code to use duct tape on A/C or heating ductwork. However, duct tape continues to be a staple in households across the country for other repairs.





Let's talk about using wheelbarrows. Now, I know what you're thinking. What is there to know about wheelbarrows? It's got no motorized parts, no sharp edges, no high maintenance parts, and the design has probably been around for 3000 years.

It's true that wheelbarrows are safe and very simple to use correctly. But, believe it or not, wheelbarrows have caused some serious injuries.

Anytime you balance a heavy load on a single wheel, you have to pay attention to what you're doing. One time a worker lost control of a wheelbarrow as it was going down a ramp with a load of scrap. When the wheelbarrow hit the scrap box it flipped, throwing the surprised worker, who was still holding the handles, into the scrap box. He was lucky to escape with only cuts and bruises.

Because there's no top to a wheelbarrow, some workers think they can keep putting more and more in the wheelbarrow as long as it doesn't fall out. But overloading a wheelbarrow is a sure way to lose control of it. Always put only the amount of weight in a wheelbarrow that you can physically handle on a hill or going around a corner. Making two trips is a lot faster than making one trip and having to stop and pick up the dumped load at the corner or being shorthanded because the person you dumped

the load on had to go to the emergency room with broken toes.

When you raise and lower the handles of a wheelbarrow, treat them like any other heavy load you lift. Keep your back straight and bend your knees. Balance the load over the wheel for good control.

Keep your speed under control and keep a tight grip on the handles. If you lose control of the wheelbarrow, let go of the handles and shout a warning to others if necessary. Losing control is a clue that you have overloaded the wheelbarrow.

Avoid trying to move such things as planks with a wheelbarrow. Use a handtruck for these things.

Keep wheelbarrows properly lubricated for easier use. Store them out of the way of aisles and away from emergency equipment.

It doesn't take a college degree or a technical certificate degree to use a wheelbarrow. Just common sense and a few simple precautions.

Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger

The Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger exists to help hunters, farmers, and anyone else interested in sharing the harvest of the land with those in need.

All donations must be made in compliance with state and federal game laws. If you are interested in donating all or a portion of an animal you have harvested - you can take it to one the MSAH drop stations.

The Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger is committed to linking donor.. to processors.. to charities that feed those in need. Distribution of donations to those in need is achieved primarily through the utilization of the food bank network that exists in Michigan. The local area food banks are, The Food Bank of South Central Michigan, Battle Creek MI; The Second Harvest Gleaners Food Bank, Grand Rapids MI; Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes, Kalamazoo MI.

Some of the processors that are located in our area include: Russell Farm's, Kalamazoo; Galesburg Locker & Meats, Galesburg; Leyen & Sons Meats, Grand Rapid; J&R Grocery, Allegan.

The processing fee is paid for by the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger.

For more information, please contact 313/278-FOOD or you can see their website at www.sportsmenagainsthunger.org.

We welcome your comments and suggestions about the Connection. To submit articles and/or topic ideas, please call: (269) 629-9708 or send to P.O. Box 460, Richland, MI 49083. Also visit our website at: www.CLS-Skilledlabor.com