OSHA AND NIOSH PUBLISH NAIL GUN USER’S GUIDE

By Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell, Esq.

On September 21, 2011, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health released a free booklet entitled “Nail Gun Safety: A Guide for Construction Contractors.” The guide recommends using nail guns with “full sequential triggers” – nail guns that fire a nail only when, first, the contact tip is pressed against a surface and, second, the trigger is pulled. The guide cites studies showing nail guns with full sequential triggers are less likely to be involved in accidents than guns with other types of firing mechanisms called “contact triggers.” This guide also gives advice concerning training employees to use specific nail gun models; providing workers with personal protective equipment, including safety shoes, hardhats, high-impact eye protection, and hearing protection; keeping manuals for nail guns at work sites; and encouraging workers to keep their fingers off the trigger when holding or carrying a gun.

The guide gives advice and recommendations, but is not an OSHA standard. The guide itself recites the disclaimer that, “This guidance document is not a standard, and it creates no legal obligations.” Nonetheless, employers using nail guns would be well advised to review the nail gun safety guide.

If you have questions about this article, please contact Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell at: 330-244-2864 or jcaldwell@kwgd.com.

NOTE: This general summary of the law should not be used to solve individual problems since slight changes in the fact situation may require a material variance in the applicable legal advice.
Issue 10, October 2011

This month’s article is presented by: Safety Resources Company of Ohio. www.srcoh.com.

This newsletter is distributed monthly to keep you advised of developments in the area of OSHA law. Note: This should not be substituted for legal advice and should not be relied upon in a specific case.

Important items to make note of:

1. Semi-Annual Reports are required to maintain your membership with the SCSC. Reports are due July 15th and January 15th each year.
2. Don’t forget to sign-in. If you do not sign the “sign-in sheet” your company will not receive credit for attending. This could hurt your company’s chances of receiving the BWC’s discount.
3. NOTE: July 1, 2011 began a new 12 month period for the BWC’s rebate program. If your company is eligible, you must attend a minimum of 10 events, with your company’s CEO or a senior level manager attending one of these 10, and submit two semi-annual reports. See BWC website for complete rebate details.

October 20:
“In Safe Hands” presentation & tour of Aultman Hospital 8-9:30 a.m. $10.00 register at www.cantonchamber.org

October 29:
14th Annual Pumpkin Race at Whipple-Dale Centre benefiting Stark DD Special Olympics. Contact conniec@chamber.org for more info.

Chainsaw Safety Classes at Stark State College
Sat. Oct. 15 & Mon. Oct. 31 all morning sessions. Fee $80.00. For additional information call Scott Brenner at 330-933-1345.

October 31:
Last day to apply for the $2,000 Business Grant from the SCSC. Contact Gust Callas at gcallas@bmsa.com or call 330.456.8341 for more info.

Fires are classified according to the type of fuel they burn. Using the wrong type of fire extinguisher on a fire may make matters worse. Fire extinguishers will have a label telling you which types of fire they’re designed to fight. The most common is “ABC”. They are designed to extinguish Class A, B, and C fires.

OSHA requires annual fire extinguisher training for employees. Before extinguishing a fire you should call for help. Only small incipient fires should be fought using a fire extinguisher. Also, make sure that it is safe to fight the fire and that you have a clear exit route.

Remember the acronym P.A.S.S.

- Pull the pin. This will also break the tamper seal.
- Aim the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the fire.
- Squeeze the handle to release the extinguishing agent.
- Sweep from the side to side at the base of the fire until it appears to be out.

If you have the slightest doubt of your ability to fight a fire, EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!

Fire extinguishers must be regularly maintained so that they are always in good working order. A qualified person must inspect each extinguisher monthly. A certified person must inspect extinguishers annually.

Annual Hat & Mitten Drive - bring donations to Oct. & Nov. SCSC luncheons

Robin’s Corner

Question: I recently purchased some new lighting for my machining equipment to replace my old clamp lights and the new lighting is approved by OSHA. Will the OSHA approved lighting satisfy the OSHA regulation?

Answer: OSHA does not approve any lighting and/or equipment. OSHA is a regulatory agency.

Clamp lights on machining equipment are not allowed according to the regulation because they are not grounded, there isn’t a bulb guard, and they have metal housings which are electrical conductors. Here are the regulations: OAC (Ohio Administrative Code), NEC (National Electric Code), OAC 4123:1-5-10-(G)-(3), OSHA 29 CFR 1910.305-(j)-(1)-(ii), OSHA 29 CFR 1910.304-(f)-(8)(v), OSHA 29 CFR 1910.334-(a)-(3)-(i), OSHA 29 CFR 1910.106-(e)(5)(d)(17)-(f)-(b), NEC 250-114, NEC 410.42-B & F.

Fires are classified according to the type of fuel they burn. Using the wrong type of fire extinguisher on a fire may make matters worse. Fire extinguishers will have a label telling you which types of fire they’re designed to fight. The most common is “ABC”. They are designed to extinguish Class A, B, and C fires.

OSHA requires annual fire extinguisher training for employees. Before extinguishing a fire you should call for help. Only small incipient fires should be fought using a fire extinguisher. Also, make sure that it is safe to fight the fire and that you have a clear exit route.

Remember the acronym P.A.S.S.

- Pull the pin. This will also break the tamper seal.
- Aim the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the fire.
- Squeeze the handle to release the extinguishing agent.
- Sweep from the side to side at the base of the fire until it appears to be out.

If you have the slightest doubt of your ability to fight a fire, EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!

Fire extinguishers must be regularly maintained so that they are always in good working order. A qualified person must inspect each extinguisher monthly. A certified person must inspect extinguishers annually.

Annual Hat & Mitten Drive - bring donations to Oct. & Nov. SCSC luncheons

Upcoming Program

November 10, 2011

Speaker: Gary Chaddock, Retired Line Supervisor, AEP Ohio
Topic: Don’t be shocked! Be aware of electrical hazards in the workplace.

November Spotlight Company

CTC Technologies, LLC

Helping technology work for you

UPCOMING

October 20: “In Safe Hands” presentation & tour of Aultman Hospital 8-9:30 a.m. $10.00 register at www.cantonchamber.org

October 29: 14th Annual Pumpkin Race at Whipple-Dale Centre benefiting Stark DD Special Olympics. Contact conniec@chamber.org for more info.

Chainsaw Safety Classes at Stark State College
Sat. Oct. 15 & Mon. Oct. 31 all morning sessions. Fee $80.00. For additional information call Scott Brenner at 330-933-1345.

October 31: Last day to apply for the $2,000 Business Grant from the SCSC. Contact Gust Callas at gcallas@bmsa.com or call 330.456.8341 for more info.

Important items to make note of:

1. Semi-Annual Reports are required to maintain your membership with the SCSC. Reports are due July 15th and January 15th each year.
2. Don’t forget to sign-in. If you do not sign the “sign-in sheet” your company will not receive credit for attending. This could hurt your company’s chances of receiving the BWC’s discount.
3. NOTE: July 1, 2011 began a new 12 month period for the BWC’s rebate program. If your company is eligible, you must attend a minimum of 10 events, with your company’s CEO or a senior level manager attending one of these 10, and submit two semi-annual reports. See BWC website for complete rebate details.

This newsletter is distributed monthly to keep you advised of developments in the area of OSHA law. Note: This should not be substituted for legal advice and should not be relied upon in a specific case.