

Workplan: Conducting Workplace Safety Inspections

Are you regularly doing scheduled workplace inspections? If you're not, you should be and now is a great time to start. Workplace inspections give you a chance to thoroughly evaluate equipment, processes, tasks, tools, and other factors. Regular inspections help you find new hazards, see how existing hazard controls are working, correct or fix issues, and implement new controls (engineering, administrative, PPE) where needed.

Focus On: Five Ways to Improve Your Safety Inspections

Conducting regular safety inspections is a key component of any workplace safety program. Unfortunately, safety inspection methods leave a lot to be desired at many workplaces. Although the specific details of the inspection process will vary from operation to operation, here are five strategies just about any employer can use to improve inspections.

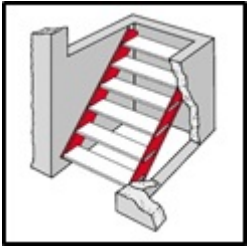
Stairway Collapse



A 64-year-old male employee was fatally injured when the stairway he was standing on collapsed 17 feet (5 meters) to the concrete floor below.

On the day of the incident, the victim was installing a metal kick plate at the top of a steel bolt-in concrete tread stairway. To install the plate, the victim first removed the lag screws from the stairway landing.

Lag screws (aka lag bolts) are used to connect heavy materials, i.e. lumber or metal, that are bearing an intense load.



These screws secured the top of the stairway frame, or stringers, to the landing. With the assumption that the stringers were secured at the bottom step, the victim began to remove the lag screws. The stairwell was **NOT** secured at the bottom and once he removed the lag screws at the top the stairs shifted and collapsed, and the victim fell 17 feet to the concrete floor below.

During the inspection and investigation of the incident it was determined that the employer did not inspect or evaluate the stairways before work began to determine if they were safe to use and could support the weight of workers.

The employer was cited for failing to have and maintain programs that provided for frequent and regular inspections of the job site, materials, and equipment. Regular inspections could have identified hazards, such as incomplete stairways that were being used by employees.

In addition to employer inspection responsibilities, you must take look out for your own safety and get in the habit of checking your work area and equipment for existing or potential hazards. Report hazards and don't start work until it is safe. Remember, you have a legal right to a safe workplace and to refuse work that is unsafe.

Workplan: Lift Plan for Critical Lifts

Most crane collapses, failures, injuries, and deaths can be prevented by using a lift plan. All lifts require at least some planning – how much does the load weigh, what's the capacity of the crane – but critical lifts require more planning and oversight to ensure a safe and successful lift.

Focus On: Crane Safety

Working with cranes, either operating or working around them exposes workers to the hazards of lifted and moving loads and equipment, shock and electrocution hazards from overhead powerlines, and the falling or collapse of the crane itself. The good news is there are things you can do immediately and in the long-term to keep your workers safe and equipment in safe working condition.

Father Operating Faulty Crane Lead to Son's Death

California OSHA cited Disney Construction, Inc. \$106,110 for serious violations following the deaths of two employees who fell 80 feet from a crane-hoisted platform at a bridge construction

site. Crane operator, the father of one of the victims, charged in the deaths.

Crawler Locomotive and Truck Crane Inspection Checklist

This sample checklist, from the North Carolina Department of Labor, is designed to help you in developing programs tailored to your own operation. Please copy, expand, modify and customize this sample as needed.

Mobile Crane Daily/Monthly Inspection

This sample checklist, from the North Carolina Department of Labor, is designed to help you in developing programs tailored to your own operation. Please copy, expand, modify and customize this sample as needed.

Picture This: Unsafe Outriggers

What we've got here are a few people who aren't concerned at all about stability or gravity. My question is how did everyone/anyone on these sites let this happen? Even if you're not well-versed in safety regulations these situations look incredibly unsafe.

Picture This: Four Reasons Inspections are Important

Your safety depends on workplace inspections and the corrective actions that should be taking place. Workplace inspections are designed to uncover hazards, the obvious and not so obvious kind.

Tower Crane Pre-Shift Inspection Checklist for Operators

This sample checklist, from the North Carolina Department of Labor, is designed to help you in developing programs tailored to your own operation. Please copy, expand, modify and customize this sample as needed.

Word Search – Machine and Equipment

Can you find all the words associated with heavy machinery and equipment?

Word Search – Confined Spaces Safety

Can you find all the words associated with the safety precautions and hazards of confined spaces?

Word Search – Laboratory

Can you find all the words associated with laboratory?

Word Search – Health and Safety

Can you find all the words associated with health & safety management?

Word Search – Fire Safety 2

Can you find all the words associated with fire safety?

Word Search – First Aid

Can you find all the words associated with first aid?

Word Search – Human Resources

Can you find all the words associated with human resources?

Word Search – Workplace Safety

Can you find all the words associated with general safety?

Word Search – Chemical Safety

Can you find all the words associated with chemical safety?

Word Search – PPE

Can you find all the words associated with PPE?

Word Search – Ergonomics

Can you find all the words associated with ergonomics injuries?

Word Search – Electrical Safety

Can you find all the words associated with electrical safety?

Word Search – Environmental Protection

Can you find all the words associated with environmental protection?

Infographic: Cross Contamination in the Workplace

Cross Contamination in the Workplace