

Daylight Savings is back on March 13<sup>th</sup>!

March 2022

Hello Retro Members;

March is [Save Your Vision](#) and [Workplace Eye Health](#) and Safety Month. This is an opportunity to check your personal protective eye gear and ensure that your employees are properly using them. Eyes are priceless, and eye protection is cheap compared to the loss of an eye!



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**Safety Inspections.** Giving your shop an annual 'physical' by conducting a top-to-bottom in-depth review is essential, even though you routinely perform safety inspections for the different parts of your operation.



Just like getting an annual check-up with your doctor, helping to ensure your company is in good *safety health* requires a thorough review. You will need to review every aspect of your business, including your Accident Prevention Plan, Hazard Communications-SDS, posters, workstations, personal protective gear, emergency plans, first aid kits, fire extinguishers, electrical cords, smoke alarms, and the like. It's important to involve your employees to help as they are usually familiar with potential issues that haven't been reported.

Checking all aspects of your operation thoroughly should produce a list of items that will need attention or correction. You will want to take the time to fix them as soon as possible rather than procrastinating. Making sure

your operation is doing its best to reduce accidents helps to build a culture of workplace safety.

Here is a link to our RS SAFETY library's [Check List worksheet](#). This worksheet is a Word document. If you need a different format to make it easier for you to modify, please [contact me](#) for an Excel version.

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**Forklift Safety.** Common forklift injuries are often due to driving off the edge of loading docks or falling off an unsecured trailer. Workers can also be injured when struck by a forklift, falling off an elevated stack of pallets, or off the forklift's tines. Most incidents also involve property damage, including overhead sprinklers, racking, pipes, walls, and other machinery.



Additionally, consider the type of load, speed, incline, and floor surface when operating a forklift. Remember, **forklift operators are required to be at least 18 years old and have a separate operators certification.**

You will find several of our safety videos on [RS SafetyTV](#) in the forklift section and additional forklift [training tools from L&I here](#).

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**Compressed Gas.** You may have different types of compressed gas cylinders in your shop for welding or for use with a torch to loosen bearings or bolts. These cylinders need to be stored properly when not in use, which means **removing the gauge/hose set, re-capping, and securing tanks** so they can't tip over.

Most of us know what the various compressed gas cylinders are used for on the job, but not everyone knows that the gases stored in those cylinders are under pressure from 250 psi to 2200 psi. These pressures not only make the cylinders dangerous from a fire standpoint, but if not handled and stored correctly, they could become a bomb or rocket.



Let's talk about the safe use of compressed gas cylinders and steps you can take to help prevent serious injury:

1. Always store compressed gas cylinders in a secure and upright position.
2. Always store with caps over the valves. Remove gauges and hoses after use.
3. Never store two different types of gases closely together.
4. Never tamper with any safety devices on the valve or cylinder.
5. Always open valves slowly.
6. Avoid storing cylinders in areas of high temperatures.
7. Never use cylinders for rollers or sawhorses.
8. Never attempt to repair valves or regulators.

9. Separate full cylinders from empty ones.
10. Do not try to transfer gases from one cylinder to another.
11. Keep a fire extinguisher nearby when handling or working with compressed gas cylinders.
12. Keep cylinders secured to a cart designed for that purpose when in use.
13. Remove empty cylinders from the work area.
14. Never expose gases to oil or grease.

Remember that improper use of compressed gas cylinders is a common safety violation. Most people think the cylinders are safe, which is true, but only if stored and used properly. To ensure your cylinders don't become a hazard, follow the basic rules listed above and take a look at *Part K* on this [L&I rules](#) page.

Helping you with your safety,

***Rick Means***

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