



May 2018

Hello RETRO Members;

May is **National Electrical Safety Month** and is sponsored by [ESFI.org](http://esfi.org), an organization dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety in the home, school, and workplace. Their annual campaign is educating people about the steps that can be taken in order to reduce the number of electrically-related fires, fatalities, injuries, and property loss which can be found at <http://esfi.org/index.cfm/pid/10257>.

First topic is: **Global Harmonized System (GHS)/Safety Data Sheet (SDS)** - This is globally recognized and brings a common format to labels, data sheets and pictograms which became effective in 2016. Manufacturers, distributors, and end users will be utilizing the same format – globally. Workers that use chemicals as part of their regular work functions; janitorial, paint stores and automotive shops servicing automobiles, should have been trained on understanding these changes. **If you have not yet done training**, the [RASI Safety Library](#) and [RASI SafetyTV](#) has more information on this topic. If you have additional questions or need help, please contact me. This is L&I's number one cited item for 2017.

The second item is: **Late Night Working Safety** - Employees who work alone or in isolation face an increased risk of confrontations or even violence, particularly if they are on shift during late night hours. For example, a lone retail worker may be more vulnerable when dealing with angry, difficult, or abusive customers. Even if an incident doesn't lead to a physical confrontation, it can still be stressful or emotionally traumatic for the worker. And if a lone worker is injured or an emergency occurs, how does the worker get help? The [RASI Safety Library](#) has section on *Working Late and Violence* to help you on this topic. Here is the [L&I Rule](#) for reference. [Downloadable slide show](#) (provided by WorkSafe BC).

The **SAFEME** app <http://www.wrasafeme.org/> has training modules on GHS and the types of Workplace Violence. Have your employees take the lesson and email you their passing certificate!



Final item is - **Struck by Object**. This term is often used in accident reports and can describe many things. What is often discovered was that the person was not wearing proper personal protective gear like gloves or eyewear. In some instances it is not using powered equipment properly and not realizing the level of 'stored energy' that is created while using the machine. Other times it is not properly using the machine guarding and the machines often win.

With proper training on the tool, or equipment and using the appropriate PPE, these accidents can be significantly reduced and the employees go home with the full use of an eye, hand or limb. If you see a person not performing the job correctly, stop them and re-train or remind them about the PPE needed. Don't accept the line 'I forgot'. Remember that management also sets the example and must have their PPE on when on the shop floor.

Here at WRA, we want all employees to take the time and be safe! Remember, DOSH can fine your business if you do not have an Accident Prevention Program in place.

Thinking safety for you,

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