

MFC NEWS

"Building Understanding"

MFC will find out the truth about buildings and answer the hard questions.

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What's New at MFC...

Myles Corcoran was invited by the Monterey County Bar Association to speak at a lunch-and-learn on Tuesday, September 20, 2011. The topic was "California Building Codes: History and Overview." Special thanks to Elaine Richelieu, Esq. for the opportunity.

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Quote of the Day

Architecture should speak of its time and place, but yearn for timelessness.

~ Frank Gehry

What Doesn't Belong in this Photo???



email answer to: mfcnews@mfcbuild.com

MFC Tip

OSHA Releases a Nail Gun Safety Guide for Contractors


The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) have developed new guidance booklet, "Nail Gun Safety – A Guide for Construction Contractors," to help construction employers and workers prevent work-related nail gun injuries.

"Nail gun injuries are responsible for approximately 37,000 emergency room visits annually. In some cases, workers have died from their injuries," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels. "This document will help construction employers make necessary changes to improve nail gun safety and protect their workers from preventable injuries and death."

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Wisdom Corner

EPA Releases Changes to RRP Rule - Check out the latest changes!

As part of an out of court settlement of litigation over certain post-renovation cleaning requirements of the 2008 Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program (RRP) rule, the EPA agreed to a number of revisions to the 2008 RRP rule that established accreditation, training, 

certification, and record keeping requirements, as well as work practice standards for persons performing renovations for compensation in most pre-1978 housing and child-occupied facilities.

The changes are mostly minor, except for new "vertical containment" guidelines. However, some good news for builders was that EPA decided not to add dust or clearance testing requirements for the end-of-job requirements. The agency did make several changes to strengthen the Rule's health protection, provide additional flexibility for renovators, and clarify confusing parts of the rule.

Below is a summary of the changes:

- Requires renovators to build a containment wall — a barrier consisting of plastic sheeting or other impermeable material over scaffolding or a rigid frame — to enclose an exterior work space and prevent the spread of lead dust outside of the area under certain circumstances.
- Clarifies that uncertified workers should be trained by certified renovators in lead-safe work practices.
- Clarifies that certified renovators should ensure their workers maintain containment and do not spread dust or debris.
- Allows states to charge higher penalties for non-compliance with the rule.
- Clarifies that the rule covers other surface coatings (such as varnishes and stains) besides paint.
- Sets more explicit minimum standards for HEPA vacs, including a minimal timetable.

New Vertical Containment Guidelines

The one area where EPA made a more significant change involves using vertical containment on exterior and some interior jobs. Vertical containment is defined as a vertical barrier consisting of plastic sheeting or other impermeable material over scaffolding or a rigid frame, or an equivalent system of containing the work area. The definition further states that vertical containment is required for some exterior renovations but it may be used on any renovation. If the renovation will affect surfaces within 10 feet of the property line, the renovation firm must put up vertical containment or equivalent extra precautions in containing the work area to ensure that dust and debris from the renovation does not contaminate adjacent buildings or migrate to adjacent properties.

EPA has also amended the containment provisions for both interior and exterior renovations to allow renovation firms to put up vertical containment closer to the renovation activity than the minimum floor or ground containment distance previously specified in the RRP rule. This will allow renovation firms more flexibility in designing more efficient containment strategies for particular work sites.

Staying the same

Builders can continue to check the post-project cleanliness of their jobs — as they have since the rule took effect a year and a half ago — by wiping work surfaces with a specialized disposable cleaning cloth and comparing its appearance to an EPA-provided cleaning-verification card. △

OSHA Nail Gun Safety Guide

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"NIOSH is pleased to partner with OSHA in presenting effective, evidence-based guidance for safer nail gun use," said NIOSH Director John Howard, M.D. The guide book highlights what is known about nail gun injuries, including the parts of the body most often injured and the types of severe injuries that have been reported.

Construction workers, particularly those in residential construction, use nail guns nearly every day. Although this tool is easy to operate and increases productivity, there have been reports of internal and external bodily injuries.

These injuries occur as a result of: unintended nail discharge; nails that bounce off a hard surface or miss the work piece and become airborne; disabling the gun's safety features, among other causes.

Here are six practical steps that contractors can take to prevent these injuries:

- 1) Use full sequential trigger nail guns
- 2) Provide training
- 3) Establish nail gun work procedures
- 4) Provide personal protective equipment
- 5) Encourage reporting and discussion of injuries and close calls
- 6) Provide first aid and medical treatment.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. All the more reason to review your tool and safety training today.



Here is a link to this booklet:

http://www.osha.gov/Publications/NailgunFinal_508_02_optimized.pdf

About MFC News

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