

## NEED TO KNOW

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS JUNE

In celebration of National Safety Month, EMC encourages you to plan to make a difference in your workplace. "Make a Difference" is the theme of the National Safety Council's 2008 National Safety Month observance in June.

Participation in this month-long series of events is just one way organizations can support the council's efforts to promote safe and healthy behaviors in the workplace and at home. National Safety Month posters and other materials are available at no charge on the council's 2008 National Safety Month Planner's Page at [nsc.org/nsm](http://nsc.org/nsm).

## SAFETY TRAINING FOR SPANISH-SPEAKING WORKERS

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) attributes an increase in the fatality rate for Hispanic N employees, at least in part, to the language barrier. Concerns about that barrier continue to grow as more than 10 million Americans speak little or no English.

OSHA has compiled safety N and health PowerPoint presentations in Spanish. These new resources are designed to assist OSHA N construction and general industry outreach trainers and others in conducting Spanish language training for employees. You can access the presentations at [consultationconnection.org/oti](http://consultationconnection.org/oti).

In addition to OSHA materials, N EMC offers numerous safety training materials for the Spanish-speaking community, including safety signs, Safety Talks and safety videos.



"Texas hot" summer temperatures of 100 degrees or more make it extremely dangerous for anyone working outdoors. No one understands that better than EMC Risk Improvement Representative Kelly Castillo. Castillo works with a variety of policyholders to help them reduce the likelihood of heat-related illnesses.

According to the National Safety Council, on average, 384 people die each year from heat stroke. Castillo notes that the Texas Department of Health Services documented 40 heat-related deaths among all Texans last year. Castillo offers policyholders the following recommendations to help protect workers during the summer months:

- **Acclimate workers to hot weather** — It often takes two to three weeks for an employee to become acclimated to a hot environment.
- **Replace fluids** — Provide cool water or any cool liquid (except alcoholic and caffeinated beverages) to workers and encourage them to drink small amounts frequently (one cup every 20 minutes).
- **Educate workers** — Train workers to recognize the signs and symptoms of heat stress and to provide first aid if necessary.

- **Limit the physical demands** — Use relief workers or assign extra workers to minimize overexertion. You may also want to increase the use of equipment on hot days to further reduce physical labor.

- **Choose the right workers** — N Avoid placing high risk employees in hot environments for extended time periods.

- **Reschedule hot jobs** — Assign heavier work on cooler days or during the cooler parts of the day.

- **Wear the right clothes** — Encourage workers to wear light-colored, loose clothing to protect themselves from the heat.

If these tips are appropriate for policyholders dealing with the 100-plus degree weather of a Texas summer, they will certainly be of value to you and your employees. For additional tips, Castillo suggests visiting OSHA ([osha.gov](http://osha.gov)), the Center for Disease Control ([cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)) or the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health ([cdc.gov/niosh](http://cdc.gov/niosh)).

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BEATING THE HEAT.

# BE ON THE WATCH



# METAL THEFT

## THEFT PREVENTION TIPS FROM THE PROS

EMC offers the following tips from the law enforcement community to help you reduce the likelihood of metal theft:

- **Make security a priority** — Lock all garages, sheds, gates and doors. Enhance your exterior lighting. Consider the installation of wireless surveillance and alarm systems.
- **Mark equipment** — Because law enforcement agencies rarely have serial numbers to trace when investigating metal theft, paint some type of recognizable mark in an inconspicuous place on equipment and materials.
- **Talk to lawmakers** — Encourage them to enact legislation that would require scrap metal dealers to keep accurate records about materials and suppliers.
- **Report all thefts** — Report any metal theft, regardless of the stolen amount. Your report could result in catching criminals who are routinely involved in metal theft.

An EMC commercial policyholder recently took a smart step and invested in heavy metal cages with alarm wire and a louder outdoor siren system to protect his air conditioning equipment. This precaution was necessary to combat one of today's newest risks — copper and aluminum theft.

Should you be concerned about the growing rate of copper and aluminum theft?

A quick survey of the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries' website illustrates how prevalent and costly this crime is becoming.

- In Tennessee, a utility reported the theft of #2 size AWG solid transmission copper wire, estimated at 1,400 feet and 288 pounds.
- The following were among the materials reported stolen from a construction site in Colorado: 1,000 feet of ½-inch copper, 1,000 feet of ¾-inch copper, 500 feet of 1-inch copper and a cutter power head.
- Eight 54-foot copper pipes (1.5" in diameter) were taken from a construction site at a school in Pennsylvania.

### What's Causing The Increase In Metal Theft?

The number one reason why thieves have turned their attention to copper and aluminum is the price. In 2001, scrap metal sold for \$77 a ton. Today, it is quickly approaching \$480. Combine the price increase with the relative ease of stripping construction sites and businesses of metal, and it's no wonder that metal theft has become such a lucrative business for thieves.

### Who Is At Risk?

If your business has any substantial equipment or materials made of copper, aluminum or other metals, you could be a potential target. Utilities, for example, are reporting a dramatic rise in burglaries at substations and other facilities. Unsecured construction sites are an open invitation to metal thieves. Losses have been reported from school athletic fields and city parks to churches and small businesses. Law enforcement departments are responding

to a growing number of calls about thieves stripping wire out of home construction and renovation sites.

It's not just copper and aluminum that are attractive to thieves. Since 2004, cities across the country have experienced waves of manhole cover theft. Fifty million dollars worth of stainless steel beer kegs are stolen every year. Catalytic converters have been pulled out of cars for their palladium and platinum.

### What's The Answer?

Unfortunately, as long as there is a market for scrap metal, people will try anything to obtain it. Although 26 state legislatures and several cities have toughened penalties for metal theft, EMC loss control specialists continue to stress the importance of securing construction sites and any exterior metal equipment to deter metal theft and reduce the expense of having to replace stolen equipment and materials.

## Industry Updates



### CONTRACTORS

#### Scaffolding Safety

Find out what steps you can take to reduce the likelihood of scaffold-related accidents.

[INSIGHTS ONLINE](#)

#### Fighting Equipment Theft

According to the National Equipment Register Inc.'s Theft Report, the estimated total value of construction equipment stolen annually ranges between \$300 million and \$1 billion. Go online to learn about techniques to help reverse this costly trend.

[INSIGHTS ONLINE](#)

# WORKING WITH PESTICIDES:

Each year, 67 million pounds of pesticides are applied to lawns. EMC loss control specialists offer the following tips on the proper storage and disposal of pesticides to protect customers, employees and the environment:



**Don't stockpile.** Reduce storage needs by buying only the amount of pesticide you will need in the near future or during the current season.

**Read the label.** Follow the directions to the letter. Pay particular attention to storage instructions.

**Store pesticides in a safe place.** Keep them in a locked cabinet in a well-ventilated utility area. Never store pesticides in cabinets near food, potable water, animal feed, medical supplies, protective clothing, seed, fertilizer or gasoline.

**Keep emergency numbers handy.** Display the National Poison Center toll-free number (800-222-1222) near your storage area.

**Use original containers.** Keep labels intact, as they contain valuable information about ingredients, directions for use and first aid steps in case of accidental poisoning.

**Check with local authorities regarding disposal.** State and local laws regarding pesticide disposal may be stricter than the federal requirements on the label.

For additional tips on using, storing and disposing of pesticides, EMC loss control specialists encourage you to visit the Environmental Protection Agency at [epa.gov](http://epa.gov).

## On The Job With Kelly Castillo



When visiting a jobsite during the summer, EMC Risk Improvement Representative Kelly Castillo is always on the lookout for situations that could lead to heat-related illnesses.

“All too often, I see workers enjoying a cold soda with their lunch,” notes Kelly, who makes it a point to advise workers and employers that the sodium content in soft drinks could cause dehydration. Kelly also takes a look at what workers are wearing. “Workers in short sleeve shirts are more prone to hazardous exposure to UV rays,” comments Kelly.

Drinking the right fluids and wearing the right clothes are just some of the many small precautions you can take to reduce the likelihood of heat-related illnesses. EMC risk improvement representatives like Kelly Castillo can offer valuable advice and help you find more heat-beating tips in the Loss Control section of EMC's website.



### MUNICIPALITIES

#### OSHA Confined Space Rule N

Regardless of the outcome of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's rule for construction in confined spaces, EMC loss control specialists recommend taking all appropriate precautions to keep workers safe and healthy when in these environments.

▶ [INSIGHTS ONLINE](#)

#### Bridge SafetyN

Go online to read what the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) recommends for a bridge safety program to ensure an adequate and economical approach to the inspection, evaluation, maintenance, rehabilitation and replacement of our nation's bridges.

▶ [INSIGHTS ONLINE](#)



### PETROLEUM N MARKETERS

#### Hazmat Bulk LoadingN

Learn how the Department of Transportation is addressing incidents associated with loading and unloading operations involving bulk packages used to transport hazardous materials.

▶ [INSIGHTS ONLINE](#)

#### New Safety Belt Technologies N

Read more about a study on new seat belt technologies and what they could mean to the safety of your drivers.

▶ [INSIGHTS ONLINE](#)



### SCHOOLS

#### Crime Rates Remain StableN

View a study noting that violent and property crime rates at the nation's schools during 2005 were statistically unchanged from 2004. Despite the study, several states are promoting bills that would allow students, faculty and staff to carry concealed firearms on campus. Safety professionals, who question such actions, were relieved to learn that an Alabama Senate committee recently blocked such a gun bill.

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For complete Industry Update articles, visit [emcinsurance.com](http://emcinsurance.com) and click the [INSIGHTS ONLINE](#) logo on the homepage.



# THE BEST IN LOSS CONTROL:

## Safe Driver Award

To help reduce injuries, damages and operational costs of motor vehicle accidents, EMC is teaming up with businesses and organizations to recognize drivers for their safe driving habits. Employees of qualifying organizations who are assigned to a full-time operation of motor vehicles on official business are eligible to participate in this program.

To receive an EMC Safe Driver Award, drivers must complete 12 consecutive months of driving without a preventable accident. Awards range from a certificate for one to four years of safe driving, to a personalized, engraved plaque for 35 years of safe driving.

"The award program is more than a way to reward and recognize drivers with good safety records," notes EMC Vice President of Risk Improvement Norm Anderson. "The program guidelines help outline reasonable safe driving expectations for all professional drivers."

Complete program guidelines are available online in the Loss Control section at [emcinsurance.com](http://emcinsurance.com). If you currently have an EMC commercial auto policy, you can request Safe Driver Awards for eligible drivers by completing the Application for Safe Driver Awards at [emcinsurance.com](http://emcinsurance.com) or by contacting your local EMC agent.

## LOSS CONTROL INSIGHTS

[emcinsurance.com](http://emcinsurance.com) | SUMMER 08

 **EMC** Insurance Companies.

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