

Safety NEWSLETTER

provided by
**The Safety Council
of East Texas**
as a service to its members

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"Working together for a safer tomorrow"

Does your Job Hazard Analysis include the preparation phase? The Risk Starts Before the Job Does

Hitting the ground with tremendous force and causing nearby workers to bounce off the ground, one of the nation's largest mobile cranes collapsed at a Houston oil refinery on July 19, killing four workers and injuring several others. Although the cause of the tragedy is not known, it is clear that the incident occurred during the process of setting up the crane for its primary job, lifting the roof off one of the refinery's coker units.



Just one month earlier, and less than a mile away, an operations supervisor was killed and several other workers were injured when a heat exchanger ruptured as it was being prepared for maintenance. According to the Chemical Safety Board, in that incident a block valve underneath the exchanger's pressure relief valve had been closed. When an operator used steam to clean out the shell side of the exchanger, residual product inside the shell expanded and caused the exchanger to rupture violently.

These incidents highlight the importance of evaluating the hazards that exist during the PREPARATION phase of the job. In the preparation phase, the risks are just as great, but often the level of concentration is not. Here are some things you can do to make sure the set-up is just as safe as the job:

- Make sure you have the proper permits for the preparation work
- Do a JHA (Job Hazard Analysis) for the preparation phase
- Double check the condition and stability of ladders, scaffolding, and platforms
- Watch your step and keep your eyes on path - preparation frequently involves more travel
- During hot weather, stay hydrated. Just because you're not exerting as much doesn't mean you're not losing fluids



School has started.
Watch out for the students.

Safety Resources on the web:

National Safety Council: www.nsc.org
OSHA: www.osha.gov
Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov
Texas Safety Council: www.list.nsc.org/texas/
Chemical Safety Board: www.chemsafety.gov
Safety Council of East Texas: www.etsafety.org
National Fire Protection Assn: www.nfpa.org



Personal protective equipment: it's not just for work.

ARE YOU A DEFENSIVE DRIVER?

Drive Predictably

Try to avoid sudden, dramatic moves with your auto.

If you come upon your expressway exit unexpectedly, don't veer over, go on to the next exit and come back.

In turn lanes with two lanes, stay in your lane; don't slide over from the inner lane to the outer lane in the turn.

SAFETY CHECK Of the month



It's estimated that over 23,000 auto accidents are caused by tire blowouts each year. An often overlooked fact is that the hot East Texas summers can degrade rubber and cause cracking.

Check your tires now, not only for tread wear, but also for heat cracking and other damage.

Underinflation is also a contributor to blowouts as the greater friction with the road increases heat buildup. Make sure your tires are properly inflated.