



THE DMI - LOSS CONTROL 'TOP 10' FOR THE PAST YEAR

Provided by Jim Lang of Gallagher Bassett Loss Control Services

More than 600 “Hazard Survey Recommendations” were written during the first year of DMI’s safety consulting visits. It’s amazing how many of the same recommendations were repeated as we went through the DMI buildings and facilities! Here’s the TOP 10 list of the most common safety infractions:

10. Students, faculty, and staff NOT wearing their **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** when required. In auto shops, we frequently saw students working under a car with safety glasses, but the teacher (standing right next to them) wasn’t wearing any!
9. **Improper and worn-out ladders** – We found many old wood stepladders which should have been discarded years ago! They’re weak, wobbly, and don’t have any skid protection (rubber feet). Our suggestion: Cut them in half, throw them out, and replace with heavy-duty fiberglass ladders.
8. Housekeeping problems in **boiler, mechanical, and electrical rooms** – These are rooms that should NOT be used for storage, especially flammable stuff! Get those gasoline cans, propane cylinders, and snow blowers out of these rooms!
7. Improper **storage of medical supplies** (syringes, needles, drugs, etc.) in the various classrooms and laboratories. This stuff needs to be kept locked up!
6. **Expired eyewash bottles** and non-working emergency eyewash stations. The sealed bottles are only good for about 2 years, and then must be replaced. The eyewash ‘sinks’ need to be flow tested and flushed on a weekly basis.
5. **Drill presses and pedestal grinders** that aren’t bolted down to the floor. This is a common OSHA citation – as this type of equipment is somewhat top-heavy and can be knocked or tipped over.
4. Missing (or needing adjustment) of the **tool rests and tongue guards** on grinders. The tool rests should be within 1/8” of the wheels, while the tongue guards (the upper guard) should be within ¼”.
3. **Chemical storage** issues – Fume hoods being used for chemical storage, open flammable and acid cabinets, improper cabinets, ‘chemicals all over the place’ and ‘too much of a chemical in one area’ are common problems. Just how many GALLONS of Sulfuric Acid does a chemistry teacher need each semester?
2. **Slip/fall hazards** in the kitchens, cafeterias, and serving areas. Water and grease on very slippery floor tiles, missing and worn out anti-skid strips on the floor, and power cords on the floor create the trip hazard.

And the Number 1 “Hazard Survey Rec”:

1. **Extension cords and outlet strips EVERYWHERE!** There are never enough electrical outlets, and cube taps, power outlet strips and extension cords seem to multiply almost overnight. Cube taps and grounding adapters must be outlawed on the campus, and only ONE multiple-outlet power strip can be plugged into a branch circuit (not even one per outlet – one per circuit). And remember – extension cords are for ‘temporary use only’ – one shift or one day is considered temporary. If you need it for longer than that, put in a work order for a new, permanent outlet!