

Loss Control Newsletter

Kansas Automobile Dealers Workers' Compensation Fund

This newsletter is distributed to you by the Kansas Automobile Dealers Workers' Compensation Fund (KADWCF) to increase the awareness of and stress the importance of safe work practices.

Personal Safety Prevention of Eye Injuries

Every working day, employees are exposed to job hazards. First and foremost on their minds should be their personal safety. While safety experts and management can create policies and provide task specific protection and equipment, employees ultimately shoulder the responsibility for their personal safety.



Wearing Eye Protection

Eye protection should be worn for almost every task in a dealership. Workplace eye injury is a leading cause of eye trauma, vision loss, disability and blindness, and can interfere with an employee's ability to execute normal job activities. On any given workday, 2,000 workers receive medical treatment for their eyes.

Damage to the eyes is usually caused by unexpected events. Many injured employees say they didn't think they needed eye protection or were wearing eyewear inappropriate for the task. In most cases, common sense and diligence is the best way to prevent serious eye injury. **Eye injuries are preventable when appropriate safety glasses are worn.**

Mechanics have the highest frequency of eye injuries. The eye and orbital area is one of the weakest parts of the human body as far as natural protection goes. **Due to the high potential for injury to this area, the eyes need to be protected at all times when performing repairs or routine service work.**

Every dealership should stress the use of protective eyewear.

- Any employee working on or around equipment or with potential exposure to caustic liquids should wear appropriate eye protection at all times.
- Any employee working in or passing through areas that pose eye hazards should wear protective eyewear; no exceptions.
- Tasks involving welding, grinding, hammering or prying, addressing hoses with fluids, etc. all pose risks for eye injuries; protective eyewear should be mandatory.

The eye protection equipment needed depends on the hazards in the workplace, but should be OSHA compliant and ANSI approved (American National Standards Institute). For anyone working in an area with particles, flying objects or dust, the worker should wear safety glasses with side protection (side shields). If working with chemicals, the worker should wear goggles that completely cover the eyes and wrap around the sides of the face.

Encourage good habits. Wearing eye protection is a good habit. Regular prescription glasses do not offer sufficient protection and therefore should never be considered as a substitute for safety glasses.

If you have any questions regarding this newsletter or for additional loss control information, please contact Mark Valentine at 816-698-4611 or via email at mark.valentine@aon.com.



Preventing Hand Injuries

Your hands are probably the second most important body part when it comes to doing your work, the first being your eyes. For auto service workers, hands are involved in almost every task. Yet many of these tasks are done without first giving thought to the risk of injury. Your hands go where you send them, so you should continually think about safeguarding them.

Traumatic hand injuries are caused by machinery and tools and often result from carelessness. Common hand injuries include: getting caught, pinched or crushed in chains, wheels, rollers, or gears; and punctured, torn or cut by spiked or jagged edges on tools and parts as well as tools that shear or chop.

The #1 safety precaution: handle tools with care and keep hands, jewelry and clothing away from moving parts. In addition:

- Use shields, guards, gloves, or safety locks as appropriate.
- Follow all lockout/blockout procedures for machinery and equipment.
- When carrying loads in or out of tight spaces, take extra care to protect your hands from being pinched, scraped or crushed against walls or doorways.
- Keep tools and sharps in their proper place. Stay alert to jagged edges, splinters of metal, metal banding or protruding objects.
- Use extra care when handling tools that cut, drill or grate.

Protect yourself from hand injuries by:

- Assessing your situation before undertaking a task.
- Recognizing potential hazards.
- Thinking through the job process before you begin.
- Following safety rules.
- Avoiding shortcuts.

Seek immediate first aid or medical attention and promptly report all injuries. A slight cut, bruise or burn can sometimes turn into a more serious injury if ignored. Healthy hands will last a lifetime. The impact of injuries can also last a lifetime. Protect and safeguard your hands at all times.

What one thing can mechanics do to best protect their hands? Pay attention! Think about what your hands are about to do before you take action, and then do everything necessary to keep your hands safe.



Reporting a claim to Gallagher Bassett (GB)

Fund Account Number: 004352

Internet: www.risxfacs.com

Telephone: 1-800-779-6142

Fax: 1-800-748-6159

Email: tnwclaims@tnwinc.com

Dedicated Adjuster:

Josie Landes – Senior Adjuster
Phone: 816-216-5516
Josephine_Landes@gbtpa.com

Claim related medical bills should be mailed to:

Gallagher Bassett Central Bill
Processing Center
P.O. Box 23812
Tucson, AZ 85734

Any other claim related information should be mailed to your adjuster at:

Gallagher Bassett
1300 E. 104th Street, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64131

or Fax to: 816-942-0695

You can also email the information directly to the adjuster. The preferred method to report claims is via the internet.
