



# eNewsletter



Summer 2017

July 20, 2017

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## Compliance 101-Don't Wait for the Fine

### ***Part 1 - Introduction of a series by Sam Lines, OPCA Technical Consultant and Engineering Manager for Concrete Sealants.***

In August 2010, OSHA published the Final Rule on Cranes and Derricks in Construction. The rule set in motion a requirement for operators of cranes in construction sites to be certified by November 2014. By September of that year, it was becoming apparent that the rule provided too broad of a cross-section, and that the operator of a 5-ton rail crane used for septic tank installations did not need to pass a test for a 100-ton crane used for a variety of applications. OSHA extended the deadline for certification to November 2017. During this three-year extension, the National Precast Concrete Association lobbied significantly to get a 21-ton and under certification approved.

On June 23, 2017, OSHA issued a press release stating that the timeline for getting crane operators certified is extended by one additional year. As it stands today, precasters will have until November 10, 2018 to get their crane operators certified to meet the requirements of the standard. For more details on the law, see 29 CFR 1926.1427. This article is Part 1 of a series called 'OSHA Compliance 101-Don't Wait for the Fine' where I will address issues that face precast plants every day. Many of you have spent time and money to comply with one OSHA regulation that continues to be kicked down the road. The crane operator certification rule has consumed hundreds of hours of time from our national association to ease the burden

### ***Recent OSHA Crane Rule Modifications:***

- Crane operator certification deadline extended 1 year to Nov. 1, 2018
- Monorail Hoists are exempted from Crane operator certification Rule (General Industry CFRs still apply)



Courtesy NPCA

on its members. The concern that this author has is that there are hundreds of critical laws passed by Congress and enforced by the Department of Labor, specifically the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. One law does not carry more weight than another, and we must not get complacent on the obvious violation that can easily be cited with penalties in the tens of thousands of dollars.

***There are hundreds of critical laws... One does not carry more weight than another, and we must not get complacent on the obvious violation that can easily be cited with penalties in the tens of thousands of dollars.***

There are so many safety and health laws required by the Code of Federal Regulations that one could not possibly mention every one of them. Most

safety professionals have laws that they are most familiar with. As a highly trained safety professional, this author can tell

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**[www.ohioprecast.org](http://www.ohioprecast.org)**

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## Compliance 101 (continued from p.1)

you that he is far from an expert on many of them. Also, many of the requirements are common sense; but as the saying goes, common sense is not always common. For that reason, it is very important to work with a safety consultant and have them provide a plant-wide assessment at least annually. Alternate each year with a different expert to find different issues.

There are also many sources that provide safety consultation at no charge. Ask your insurance carriers or material suppliers if they offer these services.

—Next Issue - Part 2 “The potential cost of an OSHA citation and why you should be concerned about much more than the certified crane operator law.”



## Wanted: Tech-Talk Articles

We are looking for informative, technical articles for this publication. Do you produce a product that solves a problem found in common or unique field conditions? Have you refined a process that could benefit others? Do you have breakthrough news to share about a product or service?

We are not asking for any trade secrets or proprietary information to be shared. However, as an association, we share common general knowledge and we also celebrate with colleagues whose discoveries/innovations can bring benefit to our overall industry. Our hope would be that this information can lead to more collaboration among members, and possibly even solve more customers' problems.

Articles can be up to 500 words. They cannot be in the form of advertising, but we will give the author a byline that includes their company name.

For more information, contact Toni Thompson, OPCA Executive Director: [info@ohioprecast.org](mailto:info@ohioprecast.org)

## OSHA Rules to Watch

### OSHA will delay enforcement of the respirable crystalline silica standard

In an April memorandum, OSHA announced delay of enforcement of the Crystalline Silica Standard for Construction under 29 CFR 1926.1153 until September 23, 2017, to conduct additional outreach and provide educational materials and guidance for employers.

### OSHA proposes to delay compliance date for electronically submitting injury, illness reports

OSHA is proposing to delay the 2017 compliance date for electronic submissions of injury and illness logs from July 1 to December 1. The five-month delay will allow the agency to further review the final rule to improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses.

Keep up with the latest safety updates from OSHA by subscribing to **Quick Takes Bi-Weekly Newsletter**. Go to: <https://www.osha.gov/as/opa/quicktakes/subscribe.html>

The **OPCA Website** is also YOUR resource for safety updates, industry news and links. Visit us at <http://www.ohioprecast.org/info.html>

## From the Director



How fast this first year with OPCA has flown! I have learned so much from our Trustees and Technical Consultant Sam Lines. It was exciting to prepare for and participate in the OSHA 10-Hour Safety Training Class in Mansfield (January), as well as The Precast Show in Cleveland and our own Annual Conference in Dublin (both in March). I especially enjoyed meeting other state and regional precast association directors, NPCA leaders, and our own OPCA members.

There is still much more to learn! To that point, I will be hitting the road soon to visit our 20 Producer Member locations. My objectives include introducing myself to staff and principals (as available), gaining a better understanding of the vast capabilities each member company brings to the association, and receiving feedback about our training opportunities, annual conference offerings, and the communication tools we use, namely our website, group email blasts, and eNewsletter. I will call ahead to let each member know when I plan to be in their area. Recognizing this is the busy season I won't take up a lot of time, but the feedback will be invaluable and truly appreciated.

# Summertime Safety



OSHA's Heat Illness Prevention campaign, launched in 2011, educates employers and workers on the dangers of working in the heat. Through training sessions, outreach events, informational sessions, publications, social media messaging and media appearances, millions of workers and employers have learned how to protect workers from heat. OSHA's safety message comes down to three key words: **Water. Rest. Shade.**

Every year, dozens of workers die and thousands more become ill while working in extreme heat or humid conditions. More than 40 percent of heat-related worker deaths occur in the construction industry, but workers in every field are susceptible. There are a range of heat illnesses and they can affect anyone, regardless of age or physical condition.

Under OSHA law, employers are responsible for providing workplaces free of known safety hazards. This includes protecting workers from extreme heat. An employer with workers exposed to high temperatures should establish a complete heat illness prevention program.

- Provide workers with water, rest, and shade.
- Allow new or returning workers to gradually increase workloads and take more frequent breaks as they acclimatize, or build a tolerance for working in the heat.
- Plan for emergencies and train workers on prevention.
- Monitor workers for signs of illness.

## **GET THE APP!**



Download the OSHA-NIOSH Heat Safety Tool Smartphone App for iPhone or Android, featuring real-time heat index and hourly forecasts specific to your location, as well as occupational safety and health recommendations from OSHA and NIOSH. The OSHA-NIOSH Heat Safety Tool is a useful resource for planning outdoor work activities based on how hot it feels throughout the day. Click the link above or go to: <https://www.osha.gov/heat/index.html>

# Let Us Know!

*Please consider the following questions and respond via email to [info@ohioprecast.org](mailto:info@ohioprecast.org). Thank you in advance for your thoughts!*

- What are some topics you would like to hear about at next year's Annual Conference?
- The Annual Conference typically runs over two half-days. Do you have a preference for Monday-Tuesday or Tuesday-Wednesday?
- If you did not attend this year's conference, why not?
- Do you have any comments about or suggestions for improvement of the OPCA eNewsletter?
- Do you have any comments about or suggestions for improvement of the OPCA group email blasts?
- Do you have any comments about or suggestions for improvement of the OPCA website?

Many safety violations can be obvious.  
But as our cover article points out,  
common sense is not always common!



## Ohio Precast Concrete Association

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## OUR PURPOSE

The Ohio Precast Concrete Association (OPCA) is a group of producer members and associated industries cooperating together as an association. The intent being to bring pertinent issues and information that impact the Precast Concrete Industry, to the attention of government agencies which participate in the origination of these issues.

The OPCA is interested in assisting these agencies by providing expert advice and counsel in the development of regulations involving the industry and the general public.

The OPCA producer and associate members whose products and services range from the construction of buildings and highways to the manufacture of precast concrete products for the treatment of commercial and residential waste water. The OPCA member products and services affect the lives of nearly every Ohioan on a daily basis.

Some specific areas of interest being pursued by the OPCA are as follows:

The introduction of new sewage guidelines relating to the specific construction and operation of home waste water treatment products (septic tanks, aerators, etc.) by the Ohio department of health and the Ohio EPA.

The introduction of programs and policies relating to the testing of materials and products being used on Ohio Department of Transportation projects.

The development of quality control procedures and inspections services training by the Ohio Department of Transportation.

The Ohio Precast Concrete Association will be expanding its' scope of interest as membership roles grow and diversify. The need for input, regarding issues and regulations which effect the large segment of the public which it serves, comes to the forefront.

# OPCA Member Companies

## PRODUCER MEMBERS

Carey Precast Concrete  
E.C. Babbert, Inc.  
Encore Precast, LLC  
Everly Concrete Products, Inc.  
Forterra Pipe and Precast  
J.K. Precast, LLC  
Lindsay Precast  
Mack Industries  
MW Concrete  
Norwalk Concrete Industries  
Portage Septic Tank  
Premier Precast Products  
Quaker City Concrete Products, LLC  
Scioto Valley Precast  
Sickels Septic Tanks, Inc.  
Spoerr Precast Concrete, Inc.  
Stiger Precast, Inc.  
Uniontown Septic Tank, Inc.  
United Precast Industries, LLC  
USA Precast Concrete, Ltd.

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

A-lok Products, Inc.  
A.L. Patterson, Inc.  
Baughman Tile Company, Inc.  
Blackthorn, LLC  
Cavert Wire Company  
Champion Pump Company  
Concrete Sealants, Inc.  
Consolidated Treatment Systems, Inc.  
EJ USA, Inc.  
EMH, Inc.  
Engineered Wire Products, Inc.  
Euclid Chemical  
EZG Manufacturing  
GCP Applied Technologies  
Gotham Staple Co., Inc.  
Hamilton Kent, LLC  
Haarup North America, Inc.  
Hill and Griffith Company  
Infiltrator Systems, Inc.  
Irving Equipment , LLC

Jet, Inc.  
Lehigh Cement Co.  
M.A. Industries  
MEVA Formwork Systems, Inc.  
Mixer Systems, Inc.  
Ohio Electric Control, Inc.  
Polylock, Inc. / Zabel Environmental  
Premiere Concrete Admixtures, LLC  
Press-Seal Corporation  
Sika Corporation  
Tuf-Tite, Inc.  
W.P. Hilts & Company

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Concrete Engineering Solutions  
Delta Engineers  
Knight Insurance, Matt Werner