

## OSHA Violations

**OSHA has cited New Balance Athletic Shoe Inc.** for alleged repeat and serious violations of workplace safety standards following an inspection at the shoe manufacturer's Lawrence, Mass., distribution center. The company faces a total of \$42,225 in proposed fines.

OSHA's inspection found unqualified employees working on electrical panels that had not first been de-energized to prevent electric shock hazards. In addition, the workers had not been trained in safe electrical work practices, including the use of personal protective equipment, and were not wearing protective gloves. The inspection also identified ungrounded equipment, unmarked electrical disconnects, extension cords used in place of fixed wiring, and wooden pallets that posed a fire hazard.

"Electricity moves at the speed of light and can kill or disable a worker literally in a flash, which is why proper training, procedures, and personal protective equipment are all essential to safeguarding workers against this hazard," said Paul Mangiafico, OSHA's area director for Middlesex and Essex counties.

"While it is fortunate that no electrocution occurred in this case, worker safety must not ever be left to chance."

As a result of its inspection, OSHA has issued the company three repeat citations, with \$35,000 in fines, for

the lack of training and personal protective equipment and for an ungrounded piece of equipment, and four serious citations, with \$7,225 in fines, for the remaining items. The repeat citations stem from New Balance having been cited by OSHA in 2006 for similar hazards at its Norway, Maine, location. OSHA issues serious citations when death or serious physical harm is likely to result from hazards about which the employer knew or should have known.

Source: <http://ohsonline.com/articles/2009/11/02/osha-proposes-more-than-42000-in-fines-against-new-balance-athletic-shoe.aspx>

**OSHA has cited Crane and Grain Service LLC of York, Neb.** for alleged violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. The agency cited the company following an investigation into a fatal incident in which a 23-year-old foreman for the company was electrocuted from an improperly wired flexible cord; he had been assembling a grain bin on a farm near York. The inspection found three alleged serious violations of the OSH Act.

"This accident was preventable," said Charles Adkins, OSHA's regional administrator in Kansas City, Mo. "Employers need to be proactive in addressing safety issues to ensure their workplaces are safe and healthful."

OSHA said the alleged serious

violations stem from the employer using a flexible cord that was not properly wired, improper use of ladders that were damaged, and lack of ladder training. The agency issues a serious citation when death or serious physical harm is likely to result from a hazard about which an employer knew or should have known.

The violations carry \$9,300 in proposed penalties against the company. It has 15 business days from receipt of these citations to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA's area director in Omaha, or contest the findings before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

Source: <http://ohsonline.com/articles/2009/11/02/crane-grain-service-fined.aspx>

**The Department of Transportation has proposed a \$466,200 fine** to Enterprise Products Operating LLC for alleged violations of federal pipeline safety regulations. The fine follows the DOT's investigation into the pipeline company's September 2007 failure near Englewood, Kan.

"Today's action reinforces a message the department has communicated for years to owners and operators of pipeline systems and other freight and commodity transporters--safety first," said Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood.

*continued on back*

## OSHA Violations *continued from front*

The proposed fine and finding of probable violation are a result of an accident investigation recently completed by the DOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). During the investigation, PHMSA investigators discovered possible failures by Enterprise Products to ensure pipeline workers were adequately trained to perform necessary system repairs as required by federal operator

qualification regulations. Proper implementation of operator qualification programs by pipeline companies is vital to preventing system failures, injury to people, property damage, and other serious consequences. Other probable violations include failures to conduct required drug testing of maintenance personnel following the accident.

"America expects pipeline operators to use highly skilled and qualified

people to construct, maintain, and operate its energy pipeline networks," LaHood said. "The goal is not to punish operators, but to hold them accountable for protecting the health, welfare, and safety of American communities."

Source:

<http://ohsonline.com/articles/2009/11/02/dot-proposes-466200-fine-following-kansas-pipeline-failure-investigation.aspx>

### **Who comes to mind with this description?**

*His hair is white as is his beard.....  
His cheeks are a rosy red..... He has a little round belly that shakes when he laughs like a bowl full of jelly.....*

Wrong.....it's NOT Saint Nick! It is actually G.T. Bunch. Although his hair hasn't always been as white, (*you can ask the guys in the landing gear mill shop about that one*), and as for the beard, it's just a goatee. For those of you who may have experienced him in action, his cheeks were usually only rosy when he was on a mission or quite possibly standing toe to toe and "*in your face*". That little round belly, well.....we're better off not going there! He doesn't ride in a sleigh guided by reindeer either, but he does drive a truck and throughout deer season he'll be found in a tree stand somewhere out in the wild.

Most of us at the Tulsa Maintenance Base, have said *good-bye* to many of our friends and co-workers over the past few years as they have retired and moved into another chapter of their life. For those of us who are left behind, we will reminisce about the "good old days" for years to come as we remember certain individuals with whom we've worked closely, one of those being,

### **A Tribute to Good Times**

*G. T.* If you were to ask him what the initials "G.T." really stands for he would invariably smile, and tell you, "*Good Times*".

Beginning his career with American on March 13, 1989, he worked in the landing gear mill shop 258-1C as a machinist. During this time he represented his co-workers of 258-1C as their shop steward for 2 years, and in 2001 G. T. was overwhelmingly elected as an Executive Board member for TWU Local 514. He has served the membership in that capacity for the last 8 years and 3 months. As an E-board officer, G.T. was appointed by the past and current Local 514 Presidents as the RO Committee Base Chairman, wherein, he has been passionately committed. He served as the counterpart with Sheryl St George, Director of MRO Support, over the Business Development Group for 4 years representing the TWU members' involvement in that group and their efforts to in-source parts to secure members jobs. For the past 2 years, G. T. has also worked along side Lela French with the Employee Assistance Program representing TWU employees.

You've often heard the old saying, "*Stick your hand into a bucket of water and when you pull it out, the*

*hole that is left is how much you will be missed*". Speaking for most of our Local 514 brothers and sisters, G.T. is one that this old adage *will not* fit. Your problems became his problems, and he was never afraid to take a stand for us or for what he felt was right. Sticking his feet in the ground, his jaw clenched tight, like a bull dog ready for the fight, he wouldn't let go until a resolution was in site. For this, among many other things, he will be missed.

Wherever you may be assigned, as we busily go about our daily routines and walk down those aisles where we so often saw G.T., in the TEO building, the Administration offices, hangars, CAM, CRC, APU Center, Wheel & Brake, cafeteria, the RO/BDG office, Local 514 Union Hall or the parking lot, one thing is for certain, we are all going to miss the one union officer who never failed to speak, almost always answered his phone...day or night, and had the members he served best interest at heart. He was a friend to all.

On behalf of all our TWU Local 514 members, we wish G.T. the very best in his retirement. May chapter one of his new life have a great beginning as well as many "Good Times".