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Construction Zone Safety: Beware of West Nile Virus

Construction Zone Safety

By [CD Staff](#)

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), there were more serious cases of West Nile Virus in 2005 than in previous years, and that trend is expected to continue. There were nearly 100 deaths attributed to the disease in each of the last two years.

Generally, about four out of five people who get a West Nile virus infection never show any symptoms. One in five comes down with West Nile fever which can cause flu-like symptoms (fever, fatigue, headache and muscle pain or stiffness). Fewer than 1 percent of all cases evolve into the most serious form that can cause high fevers, disorientation, tremors and even paralysis as it infects the brain and nervous system. None the less, anyone infected runs the risk of being among the unlucky 1 percent.

Last year the West Nile season started in May and kept going through November — coinciding with the many hatches of mosquitoes found throughout the country. The virus is spread, predominantly, by a bite from an infected mosquito. While nearly one-third of the cases reported last year were in California, other focal points included Illinois, Texas and Louisiana. While no state is without risk, CDC information suggests that people living in states with low populations may be at greater risk of getting the virus — South Dakota reports the highest likelihood followed closely by Nebraska and North Dakota.

Recommendations?

Since it's virtually impossible to remove mosquitoes from the landscape, the CDC recommends anyone spending time on outdoor jobsites take the following precautions:

- Do not apply pump or aerosol products directly to the face to avoid contact with eyes and mouth
- Follow label instructions



Pro Tech Noise Canceling Earmuff

- Wear protective clothing when working outdoors where mosquitoes are biting
- Wear long sleeved shirts and long pants
- Spray clothing with repellent — biting mosquitoes can penetrate many thin fabrics
- Do not apply repellent to skin that is covered by tight-fitting clothing

(EDITOR'S NOTE — While West Nile Virus puts your outside sales staff and customers at risk, it also presents opportunities for additional sales in protective outer wear and an assortment of repellents.)

Report says cordless tools decrease accidents, injuries

Using cordless tools reduces slips, trips and falls, helping reduce employers' insurance costs and protecting workers' safety, according to a recent report from the National Council on Compensation Insurance, Inc.

Workers' compensation costs are rising, driven largely by medical care and payments for lost wages when injuries occur. Contractors can control their costs, protect their employees, and keep them at work by reviewing workplace environments for safety concerns. These reviews decrease the likelihood of slips, trips and falls, which account for 20 percent of all workers' compensation claims. According to the report, "cordless tools . . . reduce the incidences of tripping over cords and contribute to decreased frequency of accidents."

"Without a doubt, cordless tools do help reduce trips and falls, entanglements and electrocution injuries," notes Mark W. Kinsey, broker/CRA/consultant for PKG Insurance Associates, Inc., Doylestown, PA, head of NARI's insurance group. "Additionally, we believe it makes sense for the insurance industry to take this under consideration when writing insurance policies."

Throughout the industry, lines of cordless tools are helping contractors and industrial users meet federal guidelines for walking-working surfaces that minimize trip hazards and protect workers. "As the National Council on Compensation Insurance has shown, eliminating power cords and compressor hoses creates a safer working environment," says Jacek Romanski, remodeling market manager for Paslode.

Product Knowledge — Safety Products

Pro Tech Noise Canceling Earmuff

The NoiseBuster provides protection from a range of noise frequencies.



Bilco Roof Hatch



Coleman Cable GFC



E-A-R Arc Protection

- Noise reduction rating of 26 dB when worn over the head; 25 db when worn behind the head
- Particular protection added for dangerous noises in the lower frequency ranges
- Audio input feature allows for use with scanners, music and other devices without resorting to extreme volume levels

INDICATE 121 ON INQUIRY CARD

Bilco Roof Hatch

These roof hatches come ready to take rail systems.

- Meets/exceeds OSHA CFR 1910.23 fall protection standards
- Prepunched for easy installation of hatch rail system
- Fiber-reinforced polymer construction to resist corrosion
- High-visibility yellow
- Self-closing gate

INDICATE 122 ON INQUIRY CARD

Coleman Cable GFCI

There are 17 different GFCI units in this line.

- Heavy-duty models in four categories: compact, duplex, in-line quad and right angle quad
- Right angles for limited space applications; in-line models for multiple tool use; duplex and quad boxes have two or four outlets

INDICATE 124 ON INQUIRY CARD

E-A-R Arc Protection

Arc flash protection includes protecting hearing against the high level of noise that can accompany an electrical arc flash.

- Ear plugs feature hear-through technology
- Yellow side protects against impulse noise; red side protects against constant high-level noise
- Washable and reuseable

INDICATE 125 ON INQUIRY CARD

DBI Sala & Protecta Lifeline

The latest in the Rebel line is this 20-foot self-retracting lifeline.

- Aluminum housing; unit weighs 5.1 pounds
- Thin webbing for compact size
- Stops falls within a few feet

INDICATE 126 ON INQUIRY CARD

Allmand Message Boards



DBI Sala & Protecta Lifeline



Allmand Message Board

Alert passersby to what's ahead and keep workers safe.

- Standard 48" x 96" panels
- Each 19-inch BRICK features 96 pixels with four LEDs per pixel for clear, easy viewing
- Read messages from more than 20 feet away

INDICATE 127 ON INQUIRY CARD

Bilsom Hi-visibility Earmuffs

These "ears" reduce noise while making the user easier to see.

- Fluorescent green with reflective headband
- Advance airflow for added comfort
- NRR 30 hearing protection

INDICATE 128 ON INQUIRY CARD

MSA Noise Protection

These muffs have a tension control for over-the-head comfort.

- Electronic models have listen-only feature
- Cut-off models eliminate noise above 82 dB
- Meet ANSI S3.19-1974 and CSA standards

INDICATE 133 ON INQUIRY CARD

Miller Safety Harness

The Revolution is a full-body harness.

- Features include pivotlink connection, cam buckle and molded back shield
- Integrated accessory system
- Self-contained label pack

INDICATE 132 ON CARD

North Ty-Rite Lanyard

This lanyard is designed to tie back into itself without snap hooks.

- Uses quad-locking carabiner rated for tie back use
- Fully adjustable
- Shock-absorbing

INDICATE 131 ON CARD

Bullard Vented Hard Hat

This vented hat meets or exceeds ANSI Z89.1-2003, Type I, Class C requirements.

- Low-profile shell design
- Built-in air vents for added comfort



Bilsom Hi-visibility Earmuff



MSA Noise Protection

INDICATE 134 ON INQUIRY CARD



Miller Safety Harness



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