



Return To Work Benefits Spelled Out

One of the basic foundations of good, solid loss control in an organization has to be a sound "return to work" program (RTW). The program provides the opportunity for injured workers to return to the workplace as soon as it is medically appropriate. It also provides a mechanism for employers to encourage employees to return to work as soon as possible after injury or illness. National statistics indicate that a return to work program is a valuable loss control measure that helps control workers' compensation costs.

Here are some of the more significant benefits summarized:

1. Benefits to the Employer-Direct Savings

- Worker's compensation costs are reduced when temporary income benefits cease.
- Productivity increases and human resources are used to the maximum extent.
- Medical costs are reduced and recovery time is shortened.
- Wage costs for substitute employees are saved.

2. Benefits to the Employer-Indirect Savings

- Recruitment and hiring costs for new or substitute employees can be saved.
- Work delays and business interruptions are eliminated when an experienced employee returns to work.
- Co-workers are not required to perform extra duties to compensate for the absent employee.
- Goodwill and positive image with the public and employees are created, as the employer is perceived as a caring employer.
- Communication and relations between employees and management are enhanced.

3. Benefits to the Employee

- Employees remain active and mobile when returned to the productive workforce, and recovery time is shortened.
- Full or partial wages are earned bringing the injured worker's income closer to pre-injury wages than workers' compensation temporary income benefits alone.
- Self esteem, morale and personal security are maintained or restored through gainful employment and a productive life style.
- Stress, boredom, and depression of the injury/illness and being out of work are reduced or eliminated.
- Physical conditioning through a work life discipline is maintained, and the chances of returning the employee to work permanently are improved.

2006 Dates:

January:

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February:

Child Passenger Safety Week

March:

Poison Prevention Week
Workplace Eye Safety Month
Save Your Vision Month

April:

Sports Eye Safety Month
Intl Building Safety Week
Work Zone Aware. Week
Playground Safety Week

May:

Clean Air Month
Melanoma Awareness Month
Electrical Safety Month
National EMS Week
Poison Prevention Week

June:

National Safety Month

July:

EYE INJURY PREV. MONTH

August:

Prepare Your Winter Safety Training!

September:

Farm Safety /Health Week

October:

Nat. Fire Prevention Week
Drive Safely Work Week
Radon Action Week

November:

Take advantage of the weather and do your classroom training!

December:

"3D Month" - National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month

OSHA Update – Power Press Rule To Be Updated

OSHA has published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on mechanical power press safety. The notice seeks comments on OSHA's project to update the general industry mechanical power press standard. The agency is accepting public comments until August 3, 2007.

"This standard has been around as long as OSHA. It's time for a complete update," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA Edwin G. Foulke Jr. "This effort will allow us to address industry consensus standards, technical and cost issues, and training, as well as reporting and recordkeeping requirements in our continuing effort to help keep this nation's working men and women safer at work."

The existing standard is based primarily upon the 1971 edition of American National Standards Institute (ANSI) B 11.1, the industry consensus standard for mechanical power presses. This ANSI standard has been updated a number of times since OSHA adopted the 1971 version. The most recent edition was issued in 2001.

OSHA conducted a lookback review of the mechanical power press standard in 2002. Based on analyses and information obtained during this review, the agency decided to begin development of a proposal to update all of §1910.217 to be consistent with ANSI B 11.1 2001 or a comparable consensus standard. OSHA determined that an update would address industry concerns that the mechanical power press standard is out of date and could be made safer.



What's a Heely? Children's Sport Shoes Spark Concern

(adapted from MSNBC.com)

Trendy wheeled sneakers that let kids zip down sidewalks, across playgrounds and through mall crowds could also send them rolling into emergency rooms on a stretcher, say doctors who blame a rash of injuries on the international craze. It's called "heeling," named after Heelys, the most popular brand. They're sold in 70 countries and are so hot that their Carrollton, Texas, maker, Heelys Inc., recently landed atop BusinessWeek's annual list of fastest growing companies.

But doctors from Ireland to Singapore have reported treating broken wrists, arms and ankles; dislocated elbows and even cracked skulls in children injured while wearing roller shoes. Over a 10-week period last summer, 67 children were treated for injuries from Heelys or strap-on wheels called Street Gliders at Temple Street Children's University Hospital in Ireland, according to a report in the June edition of Pediatrics.

From September 2005 through December 2006, one death and at least 64 roller-shoe injuries were reported to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, a spokesman said last week. And doctors in Singapore reported last year that 37 children had been treated for similar injuries at a hospital there during a seven-month period in 2004. None were wearing protective gear.

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, based in Rosemont, Ill., this week is issuing new safety advice that recommends helmets, wrist protectors and knee and elbow pads for kids who wear wheeled shoes. "As these shoes are sold in department stores, parents buying them may develop a false sense of security — that they are like any other shoe," said Dr. James Beaty, academy president and a pediatric orthopedic surgeon in Memphis.

Heelys and their knockoffs look like gym shoes, but with wheel sockets in each heel. They can be used for walking, but the wheels pop out when users shift their weight to their heels. Balancing on the wheels can be tricky, especially for novices. In the Irish study, most injuries were in new users and occurred when kids fell backward while trying to transfer their body weight. Dr. Leon Benson of Evanston Northwestern Healthcare in Evanston, Ill., recalled treating a 9-year-old girl who'd had her Heelys for just a week when she fell and broke both wrists.

Nine-year-old Noah Woelfel of Davidsonville, Md., wasn't a novice but still tripped and fell, breaking several fingers and wrist bones in his right hand last year. "All it took was a tiny piece of gravel in the driveway that went up in the wheel and stopped him cold," said his mother, Nancy. "He required surgery and pins, and he was six weeks without using his hand, right at the beginning of school." She threw the removable wheels away and said other parents should know about the risks.

Dr. Dominic Catanese, a foot specialist at Montefiore Medical Center in New York, said balancing on heels can strain feet and Achilles tendons. He has treated several Heelys-related ankle injuries and won't let his 7-year old daughter have the shoes. "She wants them. Not happening. Just like I took away her trampoline" after reading about trampoline injuries. "It went right to Goodwill," Catanese said.

Banned in schools, malls

Heelys in April said a study it commissioned shows that their shoes have a safer injury rate than skateboarding, inline skating and even swimming. The shoes are sold with safety information including a recommendation to wear protective gear. The company says it has shipped more than 10 million pairs since their introduction in 2000. Heelys reported first-quarter income of \$8.5 million, 500% higher than last year.

Still, some walkers find heelers who zip in and out of crowds a nuisance, and many schools and shopping malls have banned them. Kelly Ford, 14, used to cruise down the halls of her Chicago grammar school in Heelys — a practice that led teachers to confiscate some kids' wheels. Now a high-school freshman, Ford has outgrown her Heelys. She said kids who wear them won't pay much attention to safety warnings.

"I don't think any kid is going to want to wear a helmet to school," Ford said. She thinks Heelys are being unfairly targeted. "It's just like, let your kid have fun. I think they're fine," Ford said.

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Safety Resource Center

Did You Know:

There is an entire page on the Cambridge Risk Control Website that contains web links to valuable safety resources.

It's located at:

www.cambridgeriskcontrol.com/safety/links.htm

Jody, is it true how do I?

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