

Fame and

A Glance at Safety Successes and

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Supervisors are just as responsible for making sure their workers work safely and smartly as are the workers themselves. Don't make any assumptions about junior people under your charge: You might think they should know everything about the job at hand, but do they?

☛ Take the case where two petty officers first class were supervising a young Sailor who was testing battle lanterns during zone-inspection preparations. When the Sailor removed the front of one battle lantern, battery acid dripped into his eye. He immediately was treated in sick bay and recovered fully, returning to work two days later. His supervisors should have insisted he wear the required PPE—gloves and goggles—while working on the battle lanterns.

☛ In another hazmat incident, a Sailor was preserving a launch-bar and, while stripping old paint from the bar, some stripper splashed onto his shoulders. His protective chemical apron did not cover his shoulders. The Sailor then felt a stinging

itch in his eye but waited until he completed the launch-bar job. Then he removed his PPE and rubbed his face against his shoulder, possibly getting some of the stripper that earlier had splashed onto his shoulder into his right eye. He flushed the eye at his work-center's eye-wash station and went to medical, where he was treated and given eye drops, then told to come back if his eye did not improve. He healed fully and didn't have to go back. Had he given forethought to rubbing his eye on his shoulder where stripper had splashed, he would have avoided what, in this case, was a minor injury. That injury could have been more painful and serious, and even permanent.

☛ Situational awareness is the key factor in avoiding mishaps. Know what and who is around you. That apparently didn't happen when a petty officer first class broke his finger while helping shipmates. The mishap

Pain

Shortcomings Throughout the Fleet

took place in a ship's machine shop. The first class was securing the chuck on a metal lathe when a shipmate started the machine. The chuck key pinned the petty officer's finger against the lathe. He had to be taken to a hospital, where doctors reset his finger with three pins, and the Sailor required 14 days of convalescent leave.

Mishaps are expensive, in both money and lost work. For the first five months of this year alone, 289 mishaps resulted in 2,598 lost workdays (that equates to more than seven years of lost work time). The cost in dollars was \$7.7 million.

☛ Sailors wrongly travelling up and down ladders results in hundreds of lost workdays, not to mention injuries. Read "Ladders: One Step at a Time" in this issue to see how Sailors are not paying attention to these dangers, and the price they're paying.

Speaking of injuries: The switch from the traditional "boondockers" to athletic shoes during boot camp has reduced stress fractures by 90 percent, according to Great Lakes officials.

☛ Sometimes a string of similar mishaps indicates a definite problem, requiring a trend analysis and problem resolution. Trends cannot be analyzed if there is no backup data; hence, all commands are reminded to report mishaps as directed in OpNav Instruction 5100.19D. Through an administrative error, a recent change notice to the instruction was missing some information concerning afloat special mishaps that require being reported. For the information of all hands, following is a list of special-case, afloat mishaps that require a report (the relevant appendix with the required report form is in parentheses at the end of each special case):

- All cases of electrical shock, including the voltage, should be reported. (Appendix A6-I)

- All groundings, collisions and floodings require reports. For collisions involving only U.S. Navy or Military Sealift Command ships, each ship will submit a separate report. In all other collisions (including a ship colliding with a stationary object), the report should include a damage estimate for the other ship, craft or object. (Appendix A6-I)

- All fires are to be reported, except small trash or similar fires having no personnel injuries and where damage is limited to the container where the small fire originated. (Appendix A6-I)

- All cases involving chemical or toxic material exposure, or any personnel coming into contact with any hazardous material and requiring subsequent medical care, must be reported. (Appendix A6-I)

- All mishaps that involve explosives, oxidizers, incendiaries, explosive devices or systems, or chemical-warfare agents require a report. Reportable mishaps include detonation, accidental launch, malfunctions, dangerous defects, improper handling, damage to a launching device, weapon striking off range, or any other unexpected or unusual weapons-related occurrence (explosive or conventional mishap report). (Appendix A6-J)

- All back-injury mishaps requiring medical attention are to be reported. (Appendix A6-I).

We're now in a new fiscal year, and the holiday season will soon be upon us. Keep thinking safety. Don't lose your situational awareness and think about ORM in all your endeavors. Make sure when you go home on leave it's real holiday leave and not convalescent leave because you weren't watching what you were doing. ☹