



Employee safety and health in the microbrewery industry



Microbrewery operations can be a daily challenge, especially when it comes to preventing employee injuries. It is in the best interest of the business to prevent employee injuries. The employees' work productivity is an important asset to the business, so their health and dependable work attendance are critical. It takes valuable resources to train and replace employees. So, protect this investment by paying attention to the following information:

Statistics show there have been few employee fatalities in the industry, however, there have been asphyxiation deaths due to confined spaces. The definition of a confined space is a space that:

- has limited or restricted means of entry or exit.
- is large enough for a person to enter to perform tasks.
- is not designed or configured for continuous occupancy.
- has the potential to be a significant hazard.

The brewery operation may have a *confined space* like a beer vat or tank.

Employee injuries can have a significant impact on revenue. Money spent on doctor bills, is money straight off the business' bottom line.

Look at improving employee safety and preventing injuries as a controllable expense, just like the cost of food or labor. The best way to prevent and control this expense is through proactive actions such as safety meetings and written safety policies that are shared with employees. From the first day an employee is hired, start developing a "safety culture" with that employee. This can be accomplished by using video or one-on-one training with the employee: reviewing the safety policies and pointing out the hazards associated with the business.

An effective way to help control employee injury costs is through the use of checklists. It is recommended that managers use the checklist on a daily basis. It should be second nature to use a daily checklist. Experts contend that for every one dollar spent on safety, the business will recognize a gain of three dollars. This is possible, because by training new employees on health and safety guidelines, monetary resources can be saved and morale improved.

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SAFETY CHECK



Risk Control at United Fire Group | riskcontrol@unitedfiregroup.com | 800-828-2705

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SAFETY CHECKLIST	YES	NO
Do employees wear slip-resistant footwear on wet surface areas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are safety shields used around rotating or moving process equipment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there good ventilation in fermenting rooms to prevent buildup of gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there dust collection for grain milling?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are enclosed areas not being used for grain milling?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there guards on augers, mixers and rotating parts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are employees properly trained to operate equipment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are tanks free of man-sized entryways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there hand trucks available for employee use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there fixed railings on platforms and stairways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the floor free of tripping hazards, i.e. hoses and cables?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the boiler inspection current?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do wet surfaces have floor mats?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are wet floor signs available?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is all overhead lighting working?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the floor in high-travel areas free of miscellaneous products?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do stairs have slip-resistant landings and steps?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are stoves, grills and ovens in good working order?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a current inspection tag on fire suppression equipment in the kitchen or building?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all chemical bottles properly labeled and stored?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are electrical circuits on all GFCI circuit breakers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are safety glasses available in eye hazard areas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does moving equipment such as conveyors have warning signs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are circuit breaker panels labeled and free from open circuit breaker slots?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is hot piping insulated or labeled?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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