

16.0 MIA Safety Services

Executive Summary

Accidents happen in a split second, even to the most experienced slab handlers. Any slab handling has the potential for disaster, including serious injury or death. You can always replace a broken slab. You can never replace a life.

This toolbox talk is designed to help everyone realize the dangers when consumers are present; identify the special safety procedures needed when consumers are present; and understand there is no place for complacency in the stone business.

Two toolbox talks are enclosed. The first one reviews the accident that galvanized the stone industry to install special safety procedures when consumers are present in our businesses. The second talk presents an overview of OSHA's Industrial Housekeeping standard. Also provided are a relevant safety checklist, standard employee meeting sign-in sheet, and a safety related "Product of the Month" feature.

This issue of MIA Safety Talks contains following resources:

- 16.1 **TOOLBOX TALK - ACCIDENT SUMMARY**
Overview
Description of Accident
Prevention Recommendations
Recap and Review

- 16.2 **SAFETY TOOL BOX TALK**
Overview
Housekeeping
Hazards - Aisles and Passageways
Control Measures
Discussion Questions
Recap and Review

- 16.3 **SAFETY CHECKLIST**

- 16.4 **SAFETY MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET**

- 16.5 **SAFETY PRODUCT OF THE MONTH**

This Safety Service Talk contains general guidelines. The Marble Institute of America and its member companies have neither liability nor can they be responsible to any person or entity for any misunderstanding, misuses, or misapplication that would cause loss or damage of any kind, including loss of rights, material, or personal injury, or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the information contained in this document.

16.1 MIA Safety Services - Accident Summary

Refer to sign-in sheet for attendees (note: a separate meeting should be held with all absent employees).

Brief Description of Accident

Several years ago in Tallahassee, FL, Richard and Cheryl Moeller and their 7-year old son, Brandon, an only child, visited a stone shop in Tallahassee to view samples of stone for their kitchen.



During the visit, the shop owner left the family alone in the show room while he went outside to get a battery for a forklift truck so he could show the Moeller's additional slabs. In a matter of seconds, a series of wooden A-frames, held together by glue and overloaded, collapsed in a domino effect, seriously injuring the father and killing the young child. It was the most horrific example of what can happen in a natural stone show area.

Results of the Accident

Not only did it cost the Moeller's their only child's life, the shop owner and A-frame cabinet maker had to pay \$2.5 million in a court settlement.

Conclusions

This incident remains a serious wake-up call to any stone company that welcomes customers to their place of business. Be very aware of what can happen to customers in your indoor or outdoor slab showroom or fabrication facility. With stone accidents, you never get a second chance.

Recap and Review

1. What are the special dangers when consumers are present?
2. What special safety procedures are needed when consumers are present?
3. Understand that there is no place for complacency in the stone business

Reminder: Safety is the responsibility of both management and employees!

The next safety meeting is scheduled for _____ and the topic will be_____.

NOTE: This case was selected as being representative of injuries caused by improper work practices. No special emphasis or priority is implied nor is the case necessarily a recent occurrence. The legal aspects of the incident have been resolved, and the case is now closed.

16.2 MIA Safety Services - Industrial Housekeeping

Refer to sign-in sheet for attendees (note: a separate meeting should be held with all absent employees).
For more information, see: OSHA [29 CFR 1910.22] at www.osha.gov

Agenda

1. **Overview:** Industrial Housekeeping is a broad term that refers to the routine maintenance and upkeep of a workplace. Housekeeping should be a fundamental part of every company's loss control program. Good housekeeping reduces injuries and accidents, improves morale, reduces fire potential, and can even make operations more efficient. OSHA refers to housekeeping in numerous standards such as General Requirements, Sanitation, and Bloodborne Pathogens. OSHA's General Requirements for housekeeping (1910.22) are as follows:



2. **Housekeeping**

- All places of employment including passageways, storerooms, and service rooms must be kept clean and orderly and in a sanitary condition.
- The floor of every workroom must be maintained in a clean and, as much as possible, dry condition. Where wet processes are used, drainage must be maintained and false floors, platforms, mats, or other dry standing places should be provided where practicable.
- To facilitate cleaning, every floor, working place, and passageway must be kept free from protruding nails, splinters, holes, or loose boards.
- Accumulations of flammable and combustible waste materials and residues will be controlled so that they do not contribute to a fire emergency. These housekeeping measures must be included in the written fire prevention plan.

3. **Hazards - Aisles and passageways**

- Where mechanical handling equipment is used, safe clearances must be allowed for aisles, loading docks, through doorways and wherever turns or passage must be made.
- Aisles and passageways must be kept clear and in good repairs, with no obstruction across or in aisles that could create a hazard.
- Permanent aisles and passageways must be appropriately marked.

(continued next page)

16.2 MIA Safety Services - Industrial Housekeeping

Refer to sign-in sheet for attendees (note: a separate meeting should be held with all absent employees).
For more information, see: OSHA [29 CFR 1910.22] at www.osha.gov

(Continued from previous page)

4. Control Measures

- Housekeeping should be included in all processes, operations, and tasks you perform in the workplace.
- Everyone shares the responsibilities of keeping their work station and/or areas free from the accumulation of materials. Additional responsibilities may be assigned to custodial or specific departmental employees.
- Housekeeping levels are most easily maintained if they are completed throughout the day as needed. At the end of the shift all areas should be thoroughly cleaned in preparation for the next day or the following shift.

5. Discussion:

- How does housekeeping reduce injuries and accidents?
- Explain how it might improve morale.
- Do you feel better when everything is in its place when you come to work? When you go home?

6. RECAP/REVIEW:

- Review your housekeeping procedures.
- When do you clean your work area?

7. Reminder: Safety is the responsibility of management and employees!

8. Next Safety Meeting is scheduled for _____ and the topic will be _____.

16.3 MIA Safety Services - Checklist

(Source: Safety in the Stone Business Technical Module, 2011, MIA)

Check List

Identifying the special safety procedures needed when consumers are present; think about it: a stone shop, showroom, warehouse or yard is hazardous for trained employees, imagine the hazard to unsuspecting customers!

Here is a primary **check list** for establishing safety precautions to protect consumers:

- Make sure all racks are designed for weights they will be holding and follow industry standards for bracing materials on A-frames and other storage racks.
- Never overload an A-frame or rack.
- If high winds are a possibility, all outside slab storage should be secured accordingly.
- Slabs should not be stored in a showroom if they pose a danger to customers. Showroom samples should be small enough so they are not dangerous.
- Many shops do not allow customers into the production area. If your company does, make sure customers are outfitted with hard hats and safety glasses.
- Keep customers a safe distance from overhead lifting equipment.
- Never allow customers to be in your shop or outdoor storage area without a designated escort at all times. That means customers should never be left alone.
- Children should be closely supervised and not allowed to run around. Some companies have play rooms to help amuse children while their parents are inspecting stone slabs.
- Only designated employees with specific training in slab handling should handle materials when customers are present.
- Warn customers to stay a good distance from forklift trucks.

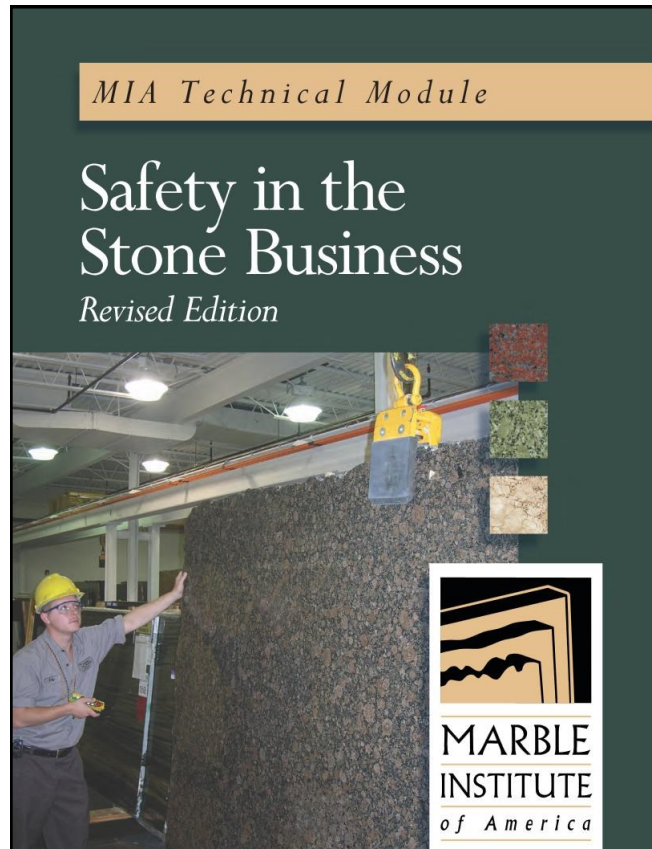


If you follow these and other overall safety precautions in your place of business, the kind of tragedy that struck the Moeller family in Florida can be avoided.

16.5 MIA Safety Product of the Month

MARBLE
INSTITUTE
of America

STONE INDUSTRY SAFETY SERVICES



Safety in the Stone Business

This technical guide is an important source of guidelines on safety procedures for personal protective equipment, respiratory protection, hazard communication, equipment operations, slab handling, OSHA compliance, and much more.

This technical guide incorporates the content of the various MIA's safety videos. It is the perfect handout for use by natural stone fabricators and distributors for employee safety meetings and employee orientation. English and Spanish version available as downloads.

Item #10701: English/Spanish; From MIA, 2012/technical module

Member Price:

\$12 US per copy (1-4 copies);
\$10 US per copy (5-20 copies); \$8.50 US per copy (21+)

Retail Price:

\$17 US per copy (1-4 copies);
\$15 US per copy (5-20 copies); \$13.50 US per copy (21+)

Order from the MIA Bookstore:
<http://www.marble-institute.com/store/>