

Pre-Operational Inspection, Child In Truck Wheel Well

For some in our midst there is no way they can understand

CIRCLE OF SAFETY



A young child in the wheel well of the company truck! A Electric Utility crew working for another Utility found this child while conducting a **CIRCLE OF SAFETY** of the company truck the crew members were driving.

I don't want to think about what would have happened if the employee had gotten in the truck and drove off without doing a walk around. Please share this eye opening, bone chilling photo and experience with your work groups. This crew has also reported children climbing into the back (bed of utility trucks) of company vehicles.

Remember young children are often too young to be treated as a trespasser or a vandal – which sometimes can be a defense for claims. We have to treat much of the public exposures we have as them not understanding the risk, without decent protections (for younger ones) and notices (for older ones), we can be exposed to large claims.

Keep in mind children will be out of school on summer break soon so be sure to watch out for them!!

Rear bumpers on many vehicles have been modified to have a steep slanted plate metal cap, that prevents anyone standing on the top of the usually flat horizontal surface. Check out the next ice cream truck you see for an example. This is in response to claims and judgments that children find 'surfing' on these surfaces an attractive nuisance, or they 'just stepped up on there to get the driver's attention through the back window.... Etc. etc.)

The circle of safety concept is to walk the long way around your vehicle to get to the drivers door, when approaching from the front, looking for obstructions, dangers, and things that may have come into that zone (like children) while you weren't looking. It also helps to prevent the types of property damage, (way common!) such as when a driver pulls in next to a short bollard post, and then cuts the wheel while leaving, forgetting it was there.

It is a good reminder to use the circle of safety walk, AND to keep all jobsite attractions off limits to children. One job of a client I had was going to save several thousand dollars in rental fencing, since it was a close bid – even though the apartment complex he was building was near other apartment complexes and obviously a source of lots of little interested people. The next morning after a late evening pouring the first level garage walls, the superintendent found tiny foot prints in the top of the wall pour, making a game of follow the leader all the way around the top of the walls, **20 feet in the air!** He ordered the fence that morning before doing anything else

Information provided by ~

Barry Cole

President and CEO
C | 303.886.6106



Preferred Safety Products

P | 800.301.3188
F | 303.225.0510

www.preferredsafety.com



Cole-Preferred Safety Consulting

P | 303.477.0535
F | 303.225.0510

www.cole-preferred.com