

## Non-Trivial Training Trivia

Did you know that George Washington was not the first president of United States?\* And what was dear old auntie Em's last name in the Wizard of Oz?\*\*


I love trivia; the more obscure the better. But what about obscure training trivia; say, from OSHA? Sure, you've seen the paper or PDF of the OSHA "Blue Book", but that really barely scratches the surface. Among many examples one can find (EPA and NRC, too!):

Employees must be trained initially and annually about their access to their own Employee Exposure Records and Employee Medical Records.

Employees protected by machine guarding - and Maintenance staff that may adjust guards - need initial and annual training. OSHA does not mandate this, but says on OSHA's Machine Guarding eTool website: *"Even the most elaborate safeguarding system cannot offer effective protection unless the worker knows how to use it and why. Specific and **detailed training is therefore a crucial part of any effort to provide safeguarding against machine-related hazards.**"*

Besides basic forklift training, operators of any powered load-moving device need training; in 1910.178(l); OSHA defines the applicable devices to include the following - *"fork trucks, tractors, platform lift trucks, motorized hand trucks, and other specialized industrial trucks..."*

If you do any spot welding (resistance), train employees operating the resistance welding equipment as required in 1910.255(a)(3). Note that OSHA has made allowances for a person's experience to count as "on the job training" but it's really case-by-case.

There's a lot more, and a custom review of your training needs can be done easily. 

\* John Hanson was the first President of the US under the Articles of Confederation in 1781

\*\* Gail - it's on the mailbox

## Horton Sees a Ceiling Tile

The eponymous *Whos* of *Whoville* need the combined voices of everyone, so others besides Horton hear them, preventing their genocide in beezlenut oil. Such is it - sort of - with ceiling tiles, related to property loss.

Say you have sprinklers, generator, pump, water tank, and full heat/smoke detection. One missing tile can render this moot.

Ceiling tiles do more than look nice. They function as a barrier to the spread of smoke and fire. If missing or damaged, hot gases / smoke can accumulate above smoke detectors and sprinklers, leading to disaster.

If smoke fails to accumulate, a detector may not alarm in time, or wiring may melt, preventing an alarm from ever sounding.

Sprinklers - contrary to Hollywood - do not activate at a hint of flame. It takes a lot of heat; and missing tiles provide a conduit for heat to be channeled away from the heads.

What do regulations say about ceiling tiles? There is no direct rule or code from OSHA, NFPA or International Fire Codes.

OSHA 1910.37(a)(4) *"Safeguards designed to protect employees during an emergency... must be in proper working order at all times."* Missing tiles mean sprinkler and alarm systems can't be in working order.

OSHA 1910.165(b)(1) *"The employee alarm system shall provide warning for... reaction time for safe escape of employees from the workplace or the immediate work area, or both."* Missing tiles delay activation of alarms, decreasing time for safe evacuation.

NFPA 101 8.5.1 *"smoke barriers shall be provided to subdivide building spaces for the purpose of restricting the movement of smoke."* International Fire Code 901.6 says *"Nonrequired fire protection systems and equipment shall be inspected, tested and maintained or removed."* Both of these codes infer that ceiling tiles remain in place. 