

Craft Brewers Conference 2022 Seminar – Question & Answer
Safety Bootcamp for Brewers

QUESTION	ANSWER
WHAT'S THE PANEL'S BEST ADVICE FOR A PERSON WHO WANTS TO TAKE THE LEAD ON SAFETY AT THEIR BREWERY?	Speak up. Talk to your boss or the owner or whoever would be in charge of approving a safety committee or any safety projects and try to make things happen. Make sure you won't be stretching yourself too thin. Study some project management techniques so you can plan projects out efficiently. Work on getting other coworkers involved so it's not just you having to do it all alone. Lead by example with behavior and PPE. Do a lot of research. Maybe start with an OSHA 30 hr course if you're pretty new to it.
ANY TIPS ON ISOLATING NOISE FROM PUMPS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT?	There might be some mechanical fixes, but chances are the solution will be wear hearing protection. Trying to put up some sort of sound dampening barrier might be somewhat effective as well, but also costly and time consuming, and it still might be at a noise level that requires hearing protection anyway.
HOW WOULD YOU DEAL WITH A BOSS/ MANAGER/ OWNER WHO DOESN'T WANT TO PERSONALLY FOLLOW SAFETY RULES?	Keep trying to have the conversation. Find out what is making them refuse and try to figure out what might motivate them to change their behavior. If the behavior is actively causing harm or has the potential to, that's a much more serious talk. If it's an owner and they don't care about potentially harming their employees leave and potentially report it depending on how serious it is. If you think an unsuspecting person could be hurt you shouldn't leave it up to fate.
HOW DO WE ADDRESS HIGH NOISE LEVELS IN A BAR SETTING. THOSE AREAS ARE OFTEN WELL OVER 85-90 DBA BUT HEARING PROTECTION REALLY ISN'T FEASIBLE.	That is really difficult, because I doubt anyone will go for keeping less people in the taproom. Music volume is definitely something you could control, if that's a factor. There are some ways to dampen sound indoors, but that will only go so far. Worth investigating though! If your staff is complaining about it and think they are getting hearing damage, then you should start getting them hearing tests and actually tracking it and you might need to make hearing protection mandatory, or adjust taproom capacity. No one should have permanent hearing damage from their job, and it would turn into a workers comp situation.
HOW DO YOU HANDLE 3RD PARTIES IN YOUR FACILITIES NOT FOLLOWING SAFETY PROTOCOLS?	Make them follow the rules or kick them out. If it's a vendor, go to their boss. If it's a customer on a tour, the liability of them getting injured is so much worse than a cranky customer or a yelp review.
MUST WE STILL AVOID TOP TWO STEPS OF FOLDING STEPS LADDERS WITH BUILT IN HANDRAILS?	The ladder will tell you what's fine and what isn't. They should all have stickers with warnings saying if those steps aren't steps. It sounds like you're talking about a platform area, which should be designed for someone to stand on.
GRAIN DUST AND EXPLOSION MANAGEMENT FOR A SMALL BREWERY. AT WHAT SCALE DOES THIS BECOME AN ISSUE? I'VE HEARD THAT MALT GRINDING IS DIFFERENT FLOUR MILLING. HUH?	Your insurance company might be able to send someone out or send a kit for you to test exposure and atmosphere levels. That's a good way to figure out if you need an evacuation system, however that's more about exposure to your crew and if respirators are necessary. What I've heard from OSHA (who will 1000% go and check your mill room if they ever visit) is that if they can draw a line in grain dust with their finger, you have too much build up. Best thing you can do is have an extractor fan (rated/guarded for combustible dust) and make sure everyone is cleaning up after each brew day. Keep any potential ignition source far away. Keep your electrical panel doors closed. Do regular maintenance on all your equipment. Flour mills are under much stricter

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	standards, but based on an atmospheric evaluation OSHA could still decide you have enough fine particles to warrant stricter controls.
IS THERE GENERAL FORKLIFT TRAINING MATERIALS AVAILABLE OR AS A BREWERY DO YOU NEED TO MAKE YOUR OWN CUSTOM TRAINING PROGRAM?	There are lots of good general programs (chances are your forklift provider can hook you up or do the training themselves), but you do need to tailor some of the material to your specific equipment and workplace.
ARE THERE ANY RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO BREWERIES TO HELP WITH THE COST OF ELIMINATING OR CONTROLLING HAZARDS?	Not that I know of, sadly. There are plenty of small business grants and loans out there though, and using them for safety would look great on an application.
WHERE CAN I BUY GOOD SAFETY GLOVES THAT FIT AND ARE NOT SO CUMBERSOME TO USE? I CAN'T FIND ANY SMALL ENOUGH.	That's a lot of trial and error and shopping around. If you use a large supplier, reach out to your rep and ask for some samples until you find something that works for you!
WHEN MILLING GRAIN SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED ABOUT BREATHING IN DUST AND DAMAGING OUR LUNGS?	Yes. Different people have a different apparent tolerance for grain dust, and even if an atmospheric test suggests there aren't enough particles in the air to make a respirator mandatory, it could still severely irritate a person. I've personally had some issues. There are a lot of long term issues that can stem from over exposure, so take it seriously and investigate ways to improve the atmosphere or get fitted for a respirator.
WHAT ABOUT OCTANE FOR IBU	I'm guessing this is about lab tests for IBUs, and yes, follow SDS guidelines and handle safely.
DOES THE BA HAVE RESOURCES/PRINTABLES OF MSDS FROM COMMON CHEMICAL SUPPLIERS IN THE INDUSTRY?	No- your chemical supplier HAS TO supply you with a current SDS for the chemical you're using. Either your direct contact or the company's website should be able to provide it. There are also so many different suppliers around the country, and with slight product variations, that it wouldn't be feasible for anyone to keep the most up-to-date SDS in one place.
IS IT REQUIRED TO REPORT INJURIES? HOW AND WHEN SHOULD YOU REPORT INJURIES?	Any injury requiring more than basic first aid (for example, needing to go and get stitches) needs to be logged. If you have a severe injury requiring a hospital stay or an amputation that needs to be reported to OSHA within 24 hours and any deaths within 8 hours. All logged/reportable injuries go on a 300a summary form that has to be posted from Feb-April and made available if they ask for it for 5 years. You are able to protect privacy on these forms, as it's really about the type and severity of injuries.
BEST PRACTICES FOR PPE ACCESS: SHOULD COMPANY PROVIDE,	Yes- company needs to provide basic PPE that employees need to do their job safely (read SDS to know what these items might be for chemical handling) and at least a stipend to help with the cost of boots is pretty standard these days. Best practice is

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GIVE STIPEND FOR INDIVIDUAL PURCHASE, OR IS INDIVIDUAL COMPLETELY RESPONSIBLE?	assigning PPE to individuals and making it their responsibility to take care of it. If it gets damaged in the normal course of work (ie protecting them or just wearing out over time) the employer should replace it. It helps to give people choices and get samples or sizing guides to make sure that they are getting PPE they like and can use without issue.
HOW IMPORTANT/Common ARE HI-VIZ VESTS ON PRODUCTION FLOORS?	It really depends on your size and set up. I've seen larger breweries enforce them, particularly with guests or with taproom staff, because it's a visual cue to production staff that someone is there who might not be used to hazards like forklift traffic.
WHY IS IT CALLED A MANWAY IF I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO GO IN THERE? RUDE!	Well, someone might have to go in there some time...but hopefully not, and hopefully an outside contractor with appropriate training and rescue gear.
HOW OFTEN SHOULD LIQUID FILLED PRESSURE GAUGES BE REPLACED?	What a great question. I hope someone else has a solid answer. My best answer for anything like that is "when you do a calibration test and its off, and you can't get it to perform correctly again"
WHAT WOULD BE A SAFE PRACTICE TO TEST A PRV IN THE BREWERY?	Build a device that you can hook the PRV up to while you're cleaning tank parts. Most test devices I've seen do a quick blast of CO2 that will trigger the PRV quickly, so you're not wasting CO2 or filling an area with it. Put the tester near your parts sink so you can build testing in to every clean/rebuild.
WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE PPE FOR DILUTE SOLUTIONS OF CAUSTIC AND SANITIZER?	Dilute is a little vague, but your SDS should give guidance. They will do the most damage to your eyes, so throw on goggles or a face shield so there's no way it could splash around glasses. If its very dilute you could not use an apron, but you'd still want to thorough wash your body and clothes if you spilled any chemical on you. Gloves are a must. I'd still wear your long gloves over disposable nitriles, because why not?
IS THERE A WAY TO TEST VACUUM RELIEF ON A SPRING LOADED PRVR?	I know vacuum relief exists, but I don't personally know of a good system for testing. Hoping someone else here does!