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OSHA News Release - Region 5

U.S. Department of Labor

May 18, 2018

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MILWAUKEE, WI – The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cited C & D Technologies Inc. for exposing employees to lead and failing to implement an effective lead management program. The Milwaukee battery manufacturer faces proposed penalties of \$147,822 for two repeated and six serious violations.

OSHA inspected the facility, and determined that 14 employees were exposed to airborne lead at levels 11 times the permissible exposure limit. The company failed to implement sufficient controls to prevent exposure; monitor ventilation for the presence of lead; post warning signs in work areas that exceeded the permissible exposure limit; provide respiratory protection; install machine guarding; and guard floor holes. OSHA cited the company for similar violations in 2010.

“Employers are required to continually evaluate their facilities for hazards, and use the proper safety controls and equipment to keep their worksites safe and healthful,” said Chris Zortman, OSHA Milwaukee Area Director. “This company failed to protect their employees from the serious risks of lead exposure.”

C & D Technologies has 15 business days from receipt of its [citations](#) (<http://www.dol.gov/sites/default/files/newsroom/newsreleases/OPA-Final-18-843-CHI-OSHA-Tech.pdf>) and penalties to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA’s area director, or contest the findings before the independent [Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission](#) (<https://www.oshrc.gov/>).

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA’s role is to ensure these conditions for America’s working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education, and assistance. For more information, visit <https://www.osha.gov/>.

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Release Number: 18-843-CHI