

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM 88-X-75

TO: All OSH Directors, Supervisors and Field Personnel

FROM: William M. Lybrand, Director of OSH

SUBJECT: Citing for Steam Cleaners/Pressure Washers

DATE: February 1, 1988

Purpose:

The purpose of this information memorandum is to clarify the citing of steam cleaners/pressure washers.

Background:

Several employees in South Carolina have been electrocuted while using steam cleaners/pressure washers. A hazard exists when (1) the motor of the steam cleaner/pressure washer is not grounded, or (2) the equipment being cleaned becomes energized, or (3) both of the above conditions exist.

Interpretation:

The hazards associated with the use of steam cleaners/pressure washers will be cited as serious violations in accordance with the following:

a. When cleaning of equipment, walls, or floors occurs at regular (planned) intervals, the following shall apply:

1. The on/off switch on the equipment to be cleaned and all electrical equipment, cabinets, cut-out boxes in the direct line of spray shall be approved for damp/wet locations. (In all instances, boxes and covers for electrical devices and equipment shall prevent entry or accumulation of water to avoid possible harmful electrical shock and/or electrocution. All fixtures that are approved will be marked "suitable for wet locations".) The applicable standards for citing are:

1910.305(b)(2)	1910.305(j)(1)(iv)
1910.305(e)(1)	1910.305(j)(2)(ii)
1910.305(e)(2)	

2. All equipment, receptacles subject to cleaning and overspray shall be de-energized and locked-out. The applicable standard for citing is: 1910.303(b)(1)(vii).

3. Electrically operated steam cleaning equipment shall be grounded. The applicable standard for citing is: 1910.304(f)(5)(v)(c)(5).

b. When cleaning occurs on a one-time or unplanned basis, the following shall apply:

1. All equipment, receptacles, etc., subject to cleaning and overspray shall be de-energized and locked-out. Equipment shall be allowed to thoroughly dry; be inspected for water damage and accumulation of water in electrical boxes and equipment by a competent person; before being re-energized. The applicable standard for citing is: 1910.303(b)(1)(vii).

2. Electrically operated steam cleaning equipment shall be properly grounded. The applicable standard for citing is: 1910.304(f)(5)(v)(c)(5).

Documentation:

Documentation of the hazard must include the following:

1. Description of cleaning equipment used,
2. Frequency of use,
3. Description of equipment being cleaned, and
4. Type and condition of the floor.

Effective Date:

This memorandum is effective upon receipt and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded.