The Annual Nebraska and Iowa Golf Outings Are Almost Here!
We hope that you will join us for a wonderful day on the links with your fellow NLA Members. The golfing will begin at noon. Dinner, drinks, and team and individual prizes will follow. All skill levels are welcome and there will be fun chances to win prizes on some of the holes. The Nebraska Golf outing is scheduled for Tuesday, June 19th at the Crooked Creek Golf Club in Lincoln.
Click HERE for the registration information.

Iowa’s Golf Outing will follow on Thursday, June 21st. This year’s golfing will be at the Terrace Hills Golf Course in Altoona. For registration information please click HERE.

If you have any questions or are interested in sponsoring these events, please call the NLA office. We hope to see you out on the courses!

Learn From Your Fellow Dealers - Join an NLA Roundtable Group
NLA’s roundtable groups for owners/managers provide non-competing retail dealers the opportunity to have in-depth conversations on operations, financial strategies, best practices and future plans for their businesses. Set aside two or three days a year to concentrate on your business without the distractions of emails, phone calls, customers or employees.

For more information or to join a group, contact Cody Nuernberg at (763) 595-4052 or cnuernberg@nlassn.org.

Show Off Your Company
Do you have a private meeting room that can seat 10-15 people or more? NLA is offering Associate members the opportunity to host an NLA professional development program this fall/winter.

Hosting an NLA Professional Development program is a great way to support retail dealers and allows you the opportunity to show off your business by providing a facility tour or a brief presentation on the products and services your company has to offer. Hosts typically take care of room set-up and provide coffee, water and soda throughout the day. If you are interested in hosting a class this fall/winter, please contact NLA Director of Professional Development, Connie Johnson at (763) 595-4045 or cjohnson@nlassn.org.

NLA Congratulates ProSales 100 Members
Northwestern Lumber Association extends its congratulations to the following member organizations on being named to the 2018 ProSales 100 List:

#6 US LBM
*US LBM is the parent company of Lamperts, Lyman Lumber Co., H & H Lumber Co., Wisconsin Building Supply and Lumber Specialties

#29 Mead Lumber Columbus, NE

*Mead Lumber is the parent company of Knecht Home Center in Rapid City, SD, as well as recently acquired H.L. Munn Lumber Co. in Ames, IA.

#35 Drexel Building Supply Campbellsport, WI
#41 Gilcrest/Jewett Lumber Waukee, IA
#43 Scherer Bros. Lumber Minneapolis, MN
#48 Consolidated Lumber Stillwater, MN
#56 Spahn & Rose Lumber Dubuque, IA
#69 Christensen Lumber Fremont, NE
#90 Zuern Building Products Allenton, WI

The ProSales 100 is comprised of lumber and building material dealers and suppliers nationwide and is tabulated annually by ProSales Magazine. Companies are ranked based upon their total sales to Pro Customers.

2018 San Francisco Mill Tour – Sold Out!
We knew they’d go fast, but we didn’t think they’d be gone this fast! Yes, that’s right, we’re talking about spots on the 2018 San Francisco Mill Tour taking place this October! Within a record-breaking 48 hours, all spots for the Mill Tour SOLD OUT from the previously established interest list*. We’re looking forward to a fun, informational trip to the Bay area with all of our registrants this fall!

*Feeling like you missed out? If you’re interested in future Mill Tours, make sure to get on the interest list when these trips begin to be advertised. This will ensure your best chance of securing a spot in the future!

Spring Cleaning?
Have you been trying to clear the clutter since the snow melted? Not sure how to go about it? NLA is here to help! Whether you have old equipment, a new job or anything else related to your business that you want to list, we’ve got you covered. For $25 per month, we will post your 25-word classified in 3 places; the Scene, the Connection AND on our website! Our last satisfied customer had this to say:

"Guess what?? We sold our truck by having it on your website!!! Thank you so much and I am so glad it worked out so quick. Literally we put it on and a day later the guy called us and said he just happened to look on your site and there it was."

A small price to pay to get the job done!

Classified ads can be emailed to mhultman@nlassn.org or click HERE for more details.

Celebrate National Safety Month with These Free Materials
Get ready for National Safety Month! Sign up now, and get free access to a poster, tip sheets and more to help spread safety messages on the following topics with your co-workers, family and friends:

- Week 1: Emergency Preparedness
- Week 2: Wellness
- Week 3: Falls
- Week 4: Driving

Click HERE for details on how to sign up!

Is Your Workplace Prepared For a Tornado?
Experts offer tips on keeping employees safe
Spring is considered tornado season for much of the United States, but tornadoes can occur any time of the year. About 1,200 strike in the United States each year, and, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, tornadoes have resulted in an annual average of 70 fatalities from 1987 to 2016 (the most recent data available). Twisters also have been recorded in all 50 states.

How can employers ensure their workers are prepared?

Have a Plan
As with any emergency, having a thorough plan in place can help mitigate injuries, fatalities and damage to property in the event of a tornado.
OSHA requires nearly all employers with at least 11 employees to have a written, comprehensive emergency action plan. Employers with 10 or fewer employees are permitted to communicate their plans orally, the agency states.

Charlotte Hyams Porter is acting director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Individual and Community Preparedness Division. Hyams Porter said employers should:

- Pay attention to local weather via media reports, notifications from weather apps or emergency apps such as the FEMA app, and/or a NOAA weather radio.
- Keep employees informed about weather conditions. Methods include text messages, emails or announcements over an intercom or loudspeaker. "A community’s outdoor warning sirens should never be your primary warning method," said Rick Smith, warning coordination meteorologist at the National Weather Service’s Norman (OK) Forecast Office. "Don't rely on just one source for warnings."
- Develop a backup communication system in case the primary one fails, and test both systems regularly.
- Make sure employees know where to seek shelter and assemble after a tornado passes. "That way, there can be people to take a head count and make sure everyone is accounted for," Hyams Porter said.
- Conduct regularly scheduled tornado drills. "It's something that should be done on a routine basis. It's not just a one-time-of-year type of drill," Hyams Porter said.

Look and Listen

The appearance of a funnel cloud in the sky is the most obvious sign of a tornado, but be on the lookout for other signs as well, according to Roger Edwards, a lead forecaster at NOAA's Storm Prediction Center.

They include:

- Dark and often greenish clouds or sky
- Appearance of wall clouds (also known as pedestal clouds)
- Persistent and strong rotation in the cloud base
- Hail and/or heavy rain, followed by a fast and intense wind shift or "dead calm"
- A roaring sound that doesn't fade after a few seconds
- Whirling dust and debris near the ground and under the clouds

Seek Shelter

When a tornado warning is issued, do your employees know where to go? In general, workers should find an enclosed, windowless area on the lowest floor, Edwards said. That area should be as close to the center of the facility as possible and away from glass windows. He also recommends workers crouch down as low as possible, with their faces down and hands covering their heads.

"The goal of tornado safety is to put as many barriers between you and the outside as you can to minimize the chances of you being hit by flying or falling debris," Smith said, adding that restrooms, closets or even walk-in coolers that meet the aforementioned criteria can provide shelter. "In many cases, you're looking for the area that seems safest in relation to other parts of the building."

To determine if their buildings can withstand a tornado, employers should consult a professional who is knowledgeable in wind-resistant design and can analyze each structure. Employers should also make sure employees know where to seek shelter and assemble after a tornado.

If workers are outdoors or traveling, Smith suggests they monitor the weather and look for shelter options well in advance of approaching storms. If possible, postpone travel that might include severe weather along the route, he added.

If a tornado is nearby, quickly move to a sturdy building if one is available. If that's not an option, lie down in an area lower than the elevation of the road and cover your head with your hands. Never stay in a vehicle during a tornado or try to outrun it, experts caution - tornadoes often move in unpredictable paths.

In addition, workers should know that bridges and overpasses are not good shelters. They can become wind tunnels for debris, Kiesling said. Traffic congestion is another issue, Smith pointed out - too many cars crowded under a bridge or overpass can block traffic, including emergency vehicles.

After the Storm

Once the tornado passes, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises the following:

- Check workers for injuries. Don't move anyone who is seriously injured unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Instead, seek medical assistance right away. Begin CPR (if trained) on anyone who has stopped breathing.
- Check apps and other sources for additional emergency weather information.
- Proceed with caution through damaged areas, and watch out for hazards. Wear proper personal protective equipment when handling debris.
- Cooperate with emergency personnel.

Part of an organization's emergency plan should include how an employer plans to communicate with its employees after a tornado, Hyams Porter said.

"The better prepared the businesses are, the better prepared the employees are, and the higher their chances of surviving," she said.

Free Resources

A number of resources are available for download on fema.gov to help employers create a tornado emergency plan, including FEMA's Severe Wind Tornado Toolkit and Prepare Your Organization for a Tornado Playbook.

OSHA offers a Tornado Preparedness and Response section on its website.

Cell Phones At Work

We receive a fair number of calls from clients complaining about their employees using their cell phones during work. They wonder if they can legally demand that employees keep their phones in their locker or car.

Here's our response. Employees don't have the legal right to carry cell phones at work. You can certainly require them to place the phones and other electronic devices - like music players and cameras - in their lockers. While this may seem draconian to some employees, personal digital devices can be very distracting and even dangerous, especially if employees are driving. You also don't want employees photographing sensitive company materials or recording conversations.

Source: BPRA Knowledge Central, May News
Classifieds

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