

# OSHA QuickTakes

Occupational Safety and Health Administration



A twice monthly newsletter with information about workplace safety and health.

## Top Stories

### OSHA Proposes Rule to Ensure That Crane Operators Are Qualified to Safely Operate Equipment

OSHA has proposed a rule to increase the safety of America's construction sites. The proposal clarifies crane operator certification requirements and reinstates the employer duty to ensure that a crane operator is qualified to safely operate equipment. Comments must be submitted by June 20. For details, read the [news release](#).



### Proposed Rule Clarifies Some Beryllium Standard Compliance Dates

OSHA issued a proposed rule to extend the compliance date for certain ancillary requirements of the general industry beryllium standard to Dec. 12, 2018. OSHA's Proposal would not extend the compliance date for permissible exposure limits, exposure assessment, respiratory protection, medical surveillance, or medical removal protection provisions, or for any provisions for which the standard already establishes compliance dates in 2019 and 2020. This limited extension applies to all processes, operations, or areas where workers may be exposed to materials containing beryllium that fall under the scope of the general industry standard. The public may participate in this rulemaking by submitting comments during the 30-day comment period. Read the [Federal Register notice](#) for information on submitting comments on the proposed rule.



### General Industry and Maritime Silica Standard Effective June 23

General industry and maritime employers must comply with OSHA's [silica standard](#) by June 23, except for phase-in dates for medical surveillance and for engineering controls in the oil and gas industry. Visit the [silica webpage](#) for guidance on complying with the standard, as well as information on silica sampling and analysis, health effects of silica exposure, and answers to frequently asked questions.



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# Enforcement

## Montana Trucking Company Convicted on Criminal Charges Following Explosion that Injured Three Workers



Woody's Trucking, LLC and Donald E. Wood Jr. were convicted on criminal charges including conspiracy, wire fraud, mail fraud, and obstruction of justice stemming from a 2012 explosion at an oil and gas processing facility in Wibaux, Mont., that seriously injured three workers. Criminal charges were upheld against the defendants for making false statements to OSHA inspectors in an effort to conceal that flammable natural gas condensate being transported by truck was deliberately misidentified as a nonhazardous material. Testimony provided by OSHA inspectors and scientists during the trial played an important role in securing convictions on 13 of 14 felony charges. The Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency also participated in the investigation. For more information, read the Department of Justice [news release](#).

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## New York Cosmetics Manufacturer Cited for Safety and Health Hazards Following Fire



OSHA cited Verla International, LTD for failing to protect its employees from dangerous chemicals and other hazards. OSHA investigated the cosmetics manufacturer in November after an employee was fatally injured in a fire. The company was cited for 11 violations, including exposing workers to fall and compressed air hazards, and for failing to ensure proper conditions to prevent flammable vapors from igniting. For more information, read the [news release](#).

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## Contractor and Staffing Agency Cited Following Fatal Trench Collapse at Alabama Work Site



All Power Construction Corp. and staffing agency Labor Finders of Tennessee, Inc. were cited following a fatal injury in a Huntsville, Ala., trench collapse. OSHA [cited](#) the construction company for lack of cave-in protection, and the staffing agency received [citations](#) for failing to properly train employees. Proposed penalties total \$152,618. Read the [news release](#) for more information.

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## South Florida Utility Company Cited After Employee Sustains Fatal Injuries



Utility company Douglas N. Higgins, Inc. was fined \$162,596 after an employee was fatally injured when a steel plate fell on him. OSHA issued citations for multiple trenching violations, failing to perform atmospheric testing, and allowing employees to use defective equipment to hoist a compactor. The company was cited for a similar violation in January after three employees succumbed to toxic gases while working in a manhole. For more information, read the [news release](#).

## **Wisconsin Battery Company Cited for Exposing Employees to Lead, Other Hazards**



C&D Technologies, Inc. was cited for repeated and serious violations for exposing workers to airborne lead at levels 11 times the permissible exposure limit. Violations included failure to; prevent exposure to lead, implement an effective lead management program, monitor ventilation for the presence of lead, provide respiratory protection, and install machine guarding. OSHA proposed penalties totaling \$147,822. Read the [news release](#) for more information.

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## **Iowa Fines Electric Company for Exposing Workers to Asbestos and Lead Hazards**



[Iowa OSHA](#) issued Fink Electric, Inc. in Sioux City [15 citations](#) and \$159,798 in penalties for exposing workers to lead and asbestos hazards while removing asbestos- insulated piping. Inspectors concluded that the company failed to conduct required exposure assessments for asbestos and lead; train workers on respiratory hazards from lead and asbestos; and provide personal protective equipment for exposure to airborne asbestos fibers.



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## **Nevada Cites Linen Company for Amputation and Other Machinery Hazards**

[Nevada OSHA](#) issued [three citations](#) and \$84,000 in penalties to Brady Linen Services, LLC in North Las Vegas for exposing workers to amputation and struck-by hazards from moving machinery. Inspectors discovered that the company had disabled safety switches on automatic towel folding machines. The company also failed to provide machine guarding on conveyor belts, exposing workers to caught-in and amputation hazards.

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## **Whistleblower Protection**

### **Florida Flight Training Company Ordered to Reinstate Instructor Terminated After Raising Safety Concerns**

OSHA ordered Orlando-based SIMCOM Training Centers to reinstate a flight instructor who was terminated for repeatedly raising safety concerns. In addition to reinstating the employee and clearing the personnel file, OSHA ordered the company to pay at least \$301,882 in back wages, compensatory damages, and attorney fees, and to refrain from retaliating against the employee. For more information, read the [news release](#).



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## **Safety and Health Outreach**

## **OSHA's National Focus on Preventing Trenching Fatalities Includes Workshop and Safety Stand-Down**

As a result of a rise in preventable trench-related fatalities, such as the [tragic incident in Alabama](#) described in this issue, OSHA has made trench safety an agency priority. Outreach efforts include [Alliances with industry groups](#) and other activities:

- OSHA is joining the National Utility Contractor Association in a [Trench Safety Stand-Down](#) June 18-23. The week-long event will focus on trench and excavation hazards and reinforce the importance of using trench protective systems to keep workers safe.
- OSHA also recently partnered with the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, Allied Construction Industries, and Turner Construction to host a [trench safety workshop](#) in Cincinnati. The workshop followed a recent fatal trench injury in Ohio, and aimed to help prevent future fatalities, particularly in smaller residential construction operations.



For more on protecting workers in trenches, see OSHA's [Trenching and Excavation webpage](#).

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## **June 12 is National Forklift Safety Day**

National Forklift Safety Day, sponsored by the [Industrial Truck Association](#) (ITA), will be recognized on June 12 in Washington, D.C., and workplaces nationwide. Throughout the day, forklift manufacturers will highlight the safe use of forklifts, the importance of operator training, and the need for daily equipment checks. ITA works with OSHA through an Alliance to provide training seminars for OSHA inspectors, and develop safety materials. For these and other resources to share on National Forklift Safety Day, visit OSHA's [forklift webpage](#).



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## **Safe + Sound Campaign: Register + Participate**

Safe + Sound Week 2018, a nationwide event to raise awareness and understanding of the value of workplace safety and health programs, will be held August 13-19. It is an opportunity for employers to show commitment to health and safety by launching or renewing efforts to identify and manage hazards before they cause injuries or illnesses.

- Visit the [Safe + Sound Week webpage](#) to register your organization as a participant and get ideas on how to recognize the week in your workplace.
- Join the [June 26 webinar](#) to learn more about Safe + Sound Week, the tools and resources available, and how to participate.

## SAVE THE DATE



August 13-19, 2018

SHOW YOUR COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

## OSHA Participates in National Committee to Improve Safety Culture in Healthcare

OSHA was one of 24 organizations to participate in the [Institute for Healthcare Improvement](#)'s efforts to develop a national strategy for reducing hazards for healthcare workers. The agency joined the [National Steering Committee for Patient Safety](#), which includes members from the healthcare, policy, regulatory, and advocacy communities. See OSHA's [healthcare page](#) for resources on keeping workers safe.



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## Cooperative Programs

### Alliance Program Forum Shares Ideas on Resources That Help Protect Workers



Representatives from more than 20 national [alliances](#) met at the May 3 [Alliance Program Forum](#) in Washington, D.C., to share resources that help employers protect workers. Deputy Assistant Secretary Loren Sweatt (seated, center) participated in the event and commended participants for helping OSHA reach nearly six million people on the agency's enforcement, regulatory, and outreach initiatives.

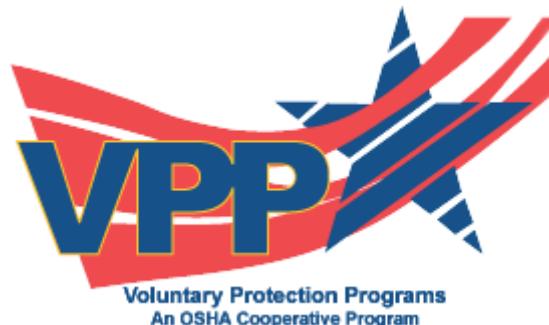
## New York Beverage Company Reduces Injuries and Costs with Help from OSHA's On-Site Consultation Program

A beverage distributor in Mechanicville, N.Y., contacted OSHA's free [On-Site Consultation Program](#) after experiencing high injury rates. DeCrescente Distributing Company immediately corrected hazards pointed out by the consultants, and instituted an inspection process for employees to regularly check equipment and report defects for prompt corrections. Employees were authorized to shut down operations to prevent exposure to serious hazards. These and other improvements in the company's safety culture led to DeCrescente's acceptance into OSHA's [Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program](#). Since then, the company has lowered its recordable injury rate to half the industry average, which in turn lowered its workers' compensation costs. For more information, read DeCrescente's [success story](#).



## New Hampshire Worksite Recognized for Excellence in Safety and Health

OSHA has re-approved the Aclara worksite in Somersworth, N.H., for the agency's [Voluntary Protection Programs](#) at the Star level. The facility, which manufactures commercial and residential smart meters that measure electricity usage, has demonstrated management commitment to reducing injuries and illnesses from musculoskeletal hazards.



## Strategic Partnership Will Promote Safety During Kansas City Demolition Project

OSHA and Brandenburg Industrial Service Company entered a [partnership agreement](#) to protect workers during the demolition of a former federal complex in Kansas City, Mo. The partnership will identify common construction hazards such as falls, struck-by, caught-in, and electrocution; and encourage worker participation in [safety and health programs](#).



## OSHA Alliance Partners Commit to Improving Worker Safety and Health

The OSHA [Alliance Program](#) fosters collaborative relationships with groups committed to worker safety and health. Alliance partners help OSHA reach targeted audiences, such as employers and workers in high-hazard industries, and give them better access to workplace safety and health tools and information.



- The [Trenching and Excavation Alliance of North Dakota](#) signed a [two-year agreement](#) to reduce the number of occupational exposures to physical and chemical hazards. Read the [news release](#) for more information.

- The [Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court and Consulate of Mexico in Omaha, Nebraska](#) renewed a [two-year agreement](#) to provide workers in Nebraska and Iowa with information and training resources to help them understand [worker protections](#) under the Occupational Safety and Health Act.
- The [Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association Kansas City Chapter](#) has signed a [two-year agreement](#) to protect workers from industry-specific hazards, including exposure to falls, electrocutions, amputations, and lacerations. For more information, read the [news release](#).

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## Social Media

### Follow Us on Twitter and Visit Us on Facebook

Follow [@OSHA\\_DOL](#) on Twitter (and thanks for retweeting!) and visit the [DOL Facebook page](#) for OSHA information and resources. OSHA also provides news and commentary on workplace safety and health from its senior leadership, staff, and guest contributors on the [DOL blog](#).

#### Featured Posts

**facebook**

U.S. Department of Labor  
May 14 at 9:59am ·

Communication is the key to engaging workers in your safety and health efforts. Learn more with two free webinars hosted by these #SafeAndSound2018 participants:

- May 16: The National Safety Council will host a webinar on Employee Perception Surveys. Register at <http://eventcallregistration.com/reg/Index.jsp?cid=7664&t11>
- On-demand through May 31: Access the American Industrial Hygiene Association webinar on Selling Safety to the Front Line Employee at [https://online-ams.aiha.org/.../ecssashop.show\\_product\\_detail...](https://online-ams.aiha.org/.../ecssashop.show_product_detail...)

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#YoungWorkers beginning summer jobs: Know your workplace rights.

11:08 AM – 18 May 2018

23 Retweets 31 Likes

## U.S. Department of Labor Blog

### OSHA Leads National Stand-Down to Prevent Falls

Filed in Safety and Health By Loren Swartz on May 16, 2013



More than 650 construction workers attended a National Safety Stand-Down event at the new D.C. United stadium.

Over one-third of construction fatalities occurred due to falls from elevation in 2010. Every worker in America should return home from work safe and sound at the end of the day.

Falls are preventable.

That's why the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) holds an annual "National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls" each May. Across the nation and around the world, employers and employees voluntarily stop working to focus on safety concerns surrounding falls from elevation, which in construction is a height of six feet or higher.

This effort provides an opportunity to raise awareness of this serious danger, and a platform for employers and employees to discuss specific safety measures that can mitigate the risk of falls. Stand-down activities may include a discussion of job hazards, an assessment of potential risks, and the development of safety policies and goals.

This year, OSHA kicked off National Safety Stand-Down Week at the newly-constructed D.C. United Audi Field stadium in Washington, D.C. Department of Labor Deputy Secretary Patrick Pizzella and I joined safety experts and over 650 construction workers to discuss the importance of fall prevention, and encourage workers to participate in safety training.

Preventing falls is everyone's responsibility. This stand-down campaign is a great reminder that we must be vigilant.

To share your story with OSHA on your Safety Stand-Down...Fall Prevention Program, please email us at [osha.standdown@dol.gov](mailto:osha.standdown@dol.gov).

Loren Swartz is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Occupational Safety and Health.

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U.S. Department of Labor

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Employers: Want to improve the safety of your workplace? Click to learn about OSHA's free consultation services for small businesses:



### On-Site Consultation

[osha.gov](http://osha.gov)

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