

# OSHA QuickTakes

Occupational Safety and Health Administration



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

## Top Stories

### **OSHA Issues Direct Final Rule Revising Beryllium Standard for General Industry; Delays Enforcement of Certain Provisions**

On May 4, OSHA issued a [direct final rule](#) clarifying aspects of the beryllium standard for general industry as it applies to processes, operations, and areas where workers may be exposed to materials containing less than 0.1% beryllium by weight. The direct final rule will go into effect on July 4 unless OSHA receives significant adverse comments by June 4. For details, see the [news release](#).



OSHA also [announced](#) that it will begin enforcing certain requirements of the beryllium final rule, including the permissible exposure limits in the general industry, construction, and shipyard standards; and the exposure assessment, respiratory protection, medical surveillance, and medical removal provisions in the general industry standard.

The agency will delay enforcement of other ancillary provisions for general industry until June 25, 2018. The Agency plans to issue a proposal to further extend this compliance date for the ancillary provisions to Dec. 12, 2018.

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### **National Safety Stand-Down Reaches Thousands with Fall Prevention Message**

The fifth annual [National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction](#) held events across the country and internationally from May 7 to 11. Deputy Secretary of Labor Patrick Pizzella kicked-off the week in Washington, D.C. at the newly constructed DC United soccer stadium.



**Construction workers stand-down to learn about fall prevention at a May 7 kick-off event held in the new DC United soccer stadium.**

Thousands of employers held stand-downs during this weeklong event, emphasizing to hundreds of thousands of workers the importance of preventing dangerous on-the-job falls every day.

Employers who participated in this year's stand-down are encouraged to get their [certificate of participation](#) and continue to promote [fall prevention](#) safety throughout the year.

### **OSHA Schedules June 12 Meeting to Request Comments on Whistleblower Issues in the Railroad and Trucking Industries**

OSHA will hold a meeting June 12 in Washington, D.C., to solicit comments and suggestions from stakeholders in the railroad and trucking industries on whistleblower issues under the agency's jurisdiction. The meeting is the first in a series requesting public input on OSHA's whistleblower program. Individuals interested in participating or attending the meeting, either in-person or via telephone, [must register by May 29](#). For more information, read the [news release](#).

## **THE WHISTLEBLOWER Protection Programs**



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## **Enforcement**

### **New York U-Haul Facility Cited for Exposing Employees to Asbestos and Silica**



U-Haul Moving & Storage at Larkin District was cited for exposing workers to silica and asbestos hazards by failing to provide training, respiratory protection, protective clothing, properly dispose of asbestos-containing materials, and have a competent person oversee renovation work. OSHA

proposed penalties totaling \$108,095. Read the [news release](#) for more information.



### **Georgia Manufacturer Cited for 36 Safety and Health Violations**

Oldcastle Lawn & Garden Inc. was cited for exposing workers to amputation, struck-by, caught-in, electrical, fall, fire, and noise hazards. OSHA proposed penalties of \$251,108. For more information, read the [news release](#).

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### **Companies Cited for Exposing Employees to Workplace Violence at Florida Health Facility**



Premier Behavioral Health Solutions of Florida Inc. and UHS of Delaware Inc. were cited for failing to protect employees at their Bradenton, Fla., facility from workplace violence. In 2016, OSHA cited another UHS subsidiary for having a deficient workplace violence prevention program. OSHA proposed penalties of \$71,137. Read the [news release](#) for more information.

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### **Framing Contractor Cited for Exposing Employees to Dangerous Falls at Florida Worksite**

OSHA cited Desouza Framing Inc. for exposing employees to dangerous falls at two northwest Florida worksites. In October 2017, inspectors observed without [fall protection](#). Two months later inspectors saw employees at another jobsite without fall protection, resulting in two [willful citations](#). The Jacksonville-based residential framing contractor faces penalties of \$199,178. For details, see the [news release](#).

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### **Tennessee Cites Company for Violations That Led to Amputation**



[Tennessee OSHA](#) issued [12 citations](#) and \$57,750 in penalties to Vorteq Coil Finishers LLC in Jackson after an unguarded pinch point resulted in the amputation of a worker's fingers. Inspectors found that the employer failed to provide machine guarding, train workers on the control of hazardous energy and confined space hazards, and inspect cranes.



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### **California Cites Company after Worker Suffers Amputation**

[California OSHA](#) issued [11 citations](#) and \$86,615 in penalties to UMC Acquisition Corp. in Downey after unguarded moving belts and pulleys resulted in the amputation of a worker's fingers. Inspectors concluded that the company failed to assess the workplace for hazards, ensure that proper lockout/tagout procedures were implemented, and install guards on moving machinery.

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## Whistleblower Protection

### Roofing Contractor Settles Whistleblower Lawsuit

Georgia-based Jasper Contractors Inc. agreed to pay \$48,000 in back wages and compensatory damages to a former safety director who had cooperated with an OSHA compliance investigation. Under the settlement, the company is forbidden from future retaliation and will expunge the disciplinary actions from the employee's personnel file. OSHA will train the company's employees on [whistleblower protections](#) under the OSH Act. For more information, read the [news release](#).



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## Cooperative Programs

### Oregon Company Reduces Injuries with Help from State On-Site Consultation Program

Suterra LLC, a provider of pest control products contacted [Oregon OSHA's On-Site Consultation Program](#) to help improve its safety and health program. Consultants advised the company on chemical exposure monitoring, safe pesticide application practices, and all-terrain vehicle safety. As a result, the company lowered its rate of serious injuries to nearly 60 percent below the industry average, and gained acceptance into the [Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program](#). For more information, read Suterra's [success story](#).



### OSHA Establishes Partnerships to Ensure Worker Safety at Construction Sites in Georgia and Texas

OSHA's [Strategic Partnership Program](#) provides opportunities for OSHA to partner with employers, workers, professional or trade associations, labor organizations, and other interested stakeholders. Strategic Partnerships are designed to eliminate serious hazards and enhance workplace safety and health practices in major corporations, government agencies, private sector industries, and at large construction projects.



- OSHA, Brasfield & Gorrie, the Associated General Contractors of Georgia, and Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation Institute are working together to protect 6,000 workers during a hospital construction project in Atlanta. The [three-year partnership](#) will focus on preventing work-related fatalities, controlling or eliminating serious workplace hazards, and establishing an effective safety and health program.

- OSHA, the Beck Group and 24 sub-contractors have formed a similar [partnership](#) to prevent fatalities, eliminate hazards, and develop a safety and health program that will protect 800 workers during construction of an arena in Ft. Worth.

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## Safety and Health Resources

### Safe + Sound Campaign: Communication is Key

OSHA offers several resources to help employers increase worker participation in their safety and health efforts:

- Use [Better Safety Conversations](#), a new product from the Safe + Sound Campaign, to improve the safety dialogue with workers in your organization.
- Implement [Recommended Practices for Anti-Retaliation Programs](#) to help workers communicate their safety and health concerns.

For more information, visit the [Safe + Sound Campaign webpage](#).



### Resources Available to Help Protect Workers in the Maritime Industry

Shipyards have traditionally had an injury rate more than twice that of construction and general industry. OSHA has many [resources](#) that address hazards within the maritime industry, including an online [Shipyards Employment tool](#) and a [series of 16 videos](#) that examines shipyard fatalities and shows how similar incidents can be prevented.



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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 Facebook Post**

**Featured Tweet**



Employers: Get the most out of safety dialogues with your workers. Get tips from Better Safety Conversations, a new Safe + Sound Campaign product: [https://www.osha.gov/.../SHP\\_Better-Safety-Conversations.pdf](https://www.osha.gov/.../SHP_Better-Safety-Conversations.pdf). Learn more about OSHA's Safe + Sound Campaign at <https://www.osha.gov/safeandsound/>



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

OSHA.GOV

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Participating in the @OSHA\_DOL #StandDown4Safety? Share this video when talking to your workers about fall prevention. #StandDown4Safety



0:42 5,308 views

5 Ways to Prevent Workplace Falls

Workplace falls are preventable. Here are five ways to help keep workers safe.

11:51 AM - 4 May 2018

46 Retweets 51 Likes

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