



QuickTakes



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

Top Stories

September is National Preparedness Month: Keep Workers Safe from Natural Disasters

Hurricane season peaks in September, and wildfires are still burning throughout the Pacific Northwest and from California to Colorado. OSHA urges employers to be prepared to keep their workers safe during extreme weather events. The agency's [Emergency Preparedness and Response webpage](#) provides

information on protecting workers before and after [hurricanes](#), [wildfires](#), [tornadoes](#), [floods](#), and other natural disasters strike.



OSHA to Hold Second Stakeholder Meeting on Whistleblower Issues

A meeting will be held Oct. 16 in Washington, D.C., to solicit public comments and suggestions from stakeholders on whistleblower issues in the finance industry within OSHA's jurisdiction. OSHA is seeking input on improving whistleblower customer service, and enhancing understanding of the whistleblower laws it enforces. The meeting will be held at the Department of Labor's national headquarters. Those interested must register by Sept. 30. More information will be available in the news section on the [Whistleblower Protection Programs webpage](#).



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Enforcement

Virginia Cites Contractor for Exposing Workers to Silica Hazards



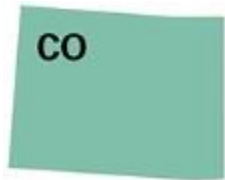
[Virginia Occupational Safety and Health](#) issued [five citations](#) and \$304,130 in penalties to Lanford Brothers Company for exposing workers to respirable crystalline silica hazards while using jackhammers to remove concrete from bridge piers. Inspectors determined that the company did not provide adequate eye and respiratory protection, failed to assess each worker for [exposure to respirable crystalline silica](#), and permitted workers to use jackhammers and concrete saws without proper control methods.

Ohio Tool Manufacturer Cited After Employee Suffers Amputation



ArtiFlex Manufacturing was cited for exposing workers to amputation hazards after an employee's finger was partially amputated. Inspectors determined that the company failed to guard pinch points on a conveyor belt, a violation the company was also cited for in 2016. ArtiFlex faces penalties of \$213,411, and has been placed in OSHA's [Severe Violator Enforcement Program](#). Read the [news release](#) for more information.

Two Colorado Construction Companies Cited After Worker's Fatal Fall



OSHA cited Hammers Construction, Inc., and Montes Construction, LLC, after a worker fell while installing metal roofing panels. Inspectors determined the companies failed to use adequate fall protection and restrict workers from standing on the mid-rails of scissor lifts. Montes Construction was previously cited for failing to provide fall protection, and now faces a willful citation. OSHA proposed penalties totaling \$177,893. Read the [news release](#) for more information.

Hawaii Company Cited for Fall Protection and Energy Control Violations



[Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health](#) issued [four citations](#) and \$47,080 in penalties to ABM Industry Groups, LLC, for exposing working to falls and hazardous energy. Inspectors concluded that the company failed to provide guard railing on an elevated open-sided platform, train workers on the control of hazardous energy, and conduct periodic inspections of hazardous energy control procedures.

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Safety and Health Outreach

NIOSH and Partners Devote Day to Respiratory Protection

N95 respirators are the most widely used respiratory protection in the workplace. Because they are so commonly used to eliminate exposure to hazardous airborne particles, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health designated Sept. 5 as N95 Day to share resources that promote proper use of NIOSH-certified respirators. Visit the [N95 Day webpage](#) for more information.



Arkansas Kicks Off Month-Long Amputation Stand-Down

The Arkansas Amputation Prevention Stand-Down, Sept. 5-Oct. 5, invites employers and workers to pause during their workday and focus on best practices to avoid amputation hazards. A [kick-off event](#) in Fayetteville, which can be viewed online, will include testimonials from workers who have suffered amputations. A [website](#) is available for employers and workers to register for the stand-down, access posters and other resources, record their data, and print a certificate of participation.



Free Webinar on Protecting Temporary Workers from Noise Exposure

Through its [alliance](#) with OSHA, the American Staffing Association will host a free webinar on Sep. 12 at 3 p.m. ET on protecting temporary workers from workplace noise exposure. This webinar will review OSHA's new temporary worker bulletin on [Noise Exposure and Hearing Conservation](#), summarize the elements of a hearing conservation program, and outline staffing firm and host employer responsibilities. For more information and to register, visit the [webinar website](#).



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Cooperative Programs

OSHA's On-Site Consultation Program Recognizes Pennsylvania Company for Safety Achievements

Voestalpine RFC contacted OSHA's [On-Site Consultation Program](#) to help improve its safety and health program at its metal roll-forming facility in Ferrell, Pa. As a result, the company's rate of recordable injuries dropped to 30 percent below the national industry average, with no injuries resulting in lost work days. The company was accepted into OSHA's [Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program](#), reduced workers' compensation costs by five percent, and improved worker morale, hiring, and retention. For more information, see the [success story](#).



Strategic Partnerships Focus on Safety During Construction Projects

The [Strategic Partnership Program](#) provides opportunities for OSHA to partner with stakeholders to create safe and healthful work environments. OSHA recently entered partnerships with the following companies and organizations:



- Harvey Cleary Builders established a [strategic partnership](#) to promote workplace safety and educate workers on hazards during construction of an office building and underground garage in Washington, D.C.
- Gilbane Building Company and the Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council signed a [one-year partnership](#) to address common construction hazards such as falls, electrical, silica, noise, and carbon monoxide exposure during the construction of a hotel in Milwaukee, Wis.
- Miron Construction Co., Inc., entered a [one-year partnership](#) to prevent common causes of workplace injuries and illnesses during construction of a university residence hall in Eau Claire, Wis. Hazards to be addressed include falls, electrical, struck-by, caught-in/between, silica, asbestos, lead, carbon monoxide, heat stress, cranes, and noise.
- Choate Construction Co., and Associated General Contractors of Georgia, Inc., have joined a [strategic partnership](#) to provide weekly training on falls, noise, rigging, heat, and silica, as well as the proper use of respirators and personal protection, during the construction of a senior living development project in Woodstock, Ga.

OSHA Alliance Partners Commit to Improving Worker Safety and Health

The OSHA [Alliance Program](#) fosters collaboration 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.



- [Associated Builders and Contractors of Connecticut](#) renewed a [five-year agreement](#) to address safety and health hazards in construction.
- [Fehr's Metal Building and Construction](#) renewed a [three-year agreement](#) to train construction workers about industry-related hazards, including falls, electrocution, struck-by, caught-in or between, and heat illness.
- [New Hampshire Motor Transportation Association](#) signed a [two-year agreement](#) to reduce and prevent worker exposure to falls, struck-by, caught-in or between, and electrical hazards.
- [Employbridge](#) signed a [two-year agreement](#) to protect temporary workers by reducing and preventing exposure to hazards, including falls, electrical exposures, amputations, confined spaces, forklift use, and chemical exposures.

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Safety and Health Resources

[New Webpage Provides Updates on Protecting Workers from Legionnaire's Disease](#)

OSHA recently revised the [Legionellosis Safety and Health Topics page](#) to provide the latest information on preventing, identifying, and controlling *Legionella* bacteria hazards in workplaces. The new page updates Chapter 7 of the OSHA Technical Manual, as well as OSHA's *Legionella* eTool. Employers, healthcare providers, and health and safety professionals can use the new resource to protect workers and collaborate during worksite investigations of Legionellosis (Legionnaire's Disease and the milder Pontiac Fever). Approximately 6,000 cases are reported each year in the United States.



Photo Credit: CDC/Janice Haney Carr

Legionella pneumophila bacteria

While the Week Is Over, the Safe + Sound Campaign Continues

With more than 2,000 events held across the U.S. and abroad, Safe + Sound Week 2018 helped organizations of all sizes and industries show their commitment to safety. Even though the week is over, [Safe + Sound Campaign's resources](#) are available



throughout the year to help improve your workplace safety and health programs. The American Industrial Hygiene Association is also offering an [on-demand webinar](#), free of charge during September that explains how to improve workplace incident investigations and injury prevention strategies.

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Hazard Alert

Flashlight Recalled for Potential Explosion Hazard

On Aug. 14, the Consumer Product Safety Commission issued a recall for Koehler-Bright Star flashlights because there is a risk that it can ignite hazardous atmospheres when used in confined spaces. The Koehler-Bright Star WorkSafe Model 2224 LED 3-D cell flashlight, marketed as safe for hazardous environments, was sold by Koehler-Bright distributors, Grainger retail stores, and on Amazon. For more information, see the [recall notice](#).



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Social Media

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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



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