

Introduction to OSHA



OSHA Office of Training & Education

1

What is OSHA?

- **O**ccupational **S**afety and **H**Health **A**Administration
- Responsible for worker safety and health protection

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2

Is there a need for OSHA?

Each year...

- Nearly 6,000 workplace fatalities, 5,071 fatalities in 2008
 - 969 fatalities were in Construction in 2008
- 50,000 deaths from workplace-related illnesses
- 5.7 million non-fatal workplace injuries
- Injuries alone cost U.S. businesses over \$125 billion

Source - OSHA Publication 2056
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3

Has OSHA Made a Difference?

YES!

Since 1970 OSHA has:

- Helped cut the work-related fatality rate in half
- Worked with employers and employees to reduce workplace injuries and illnesses by 40%
- Virtually eliminated brown lung disease in the textile industry, and
- Reduced trenching and excavation fatalities by 35%

What does OSHA do?

- Encourages employers and employees to reduce workplace hazards and implement new or improve existing safety and health programs
- Develops and enforces mandatory job safety and health standards
- Maintains a reporting and recordkeeping system to monitor job-related injuries and illnesses
- Provides assistance, training and other support programs to help employers and workers

Who is covered by the OSH Act?

- Most private sector employees
- Coverage is provided directly by federal OSHA or through an OSHA-approved state program
- Does not cover the self-employed persons
- Does not cover farms that employ family members only
- Federal OSHA does not cover public sector employees; State OSHA does cover them

OSHA Standards

- OSHA develops and enforces standards that employers must follow.
- Where OSHA does not have standards, employers are responsible for following the OSH Act's General Duty Clause (section 5(a)(1))
- States with OSHA-approved programs must set standards *at least as effective* as federal standards.

What does OSHA Require?

- Determine which standards apply to your workplace
- Follow the OSHA standards and requirements

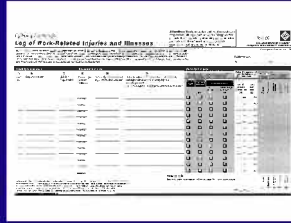
Recordkeeping and Reporting

- Employers of 11 or more employees must maintain records of occupational injuries and illnesses
- All employers must display the OSHA poster, and report to OSHA within 8 hours any accident that results in a fatality or in-patient hospitalization of 3 or more employees



Recordkeeping Forms

- Maintained on a calendar year basis
- Summary of records for the previous year must be posted from February through April



What are workers' responsibilities?

- Read the OSHA poster
- Follow the employer's safety and health rules and wear or use all required gear and equipment
- Follow safe work practices for your job, as directed by your employer
- Report hazardous conditions to a supervisor or safety committee
- Report hazardous conditions to OSHA, if employers do not fix them
- Cooperate with OSHA inspectors
(see OSHA Workers' web page for more information)

What are workers' rights?

- Identify and correct problems in their workplaces, working with their employers whenever possible
- Complain to OSHA about workplace conditions threatening their health or safety in person, by telephone, by fax, by mail or electronically through OSHA's web site
- Section 11(c) of the OSH Act gives workers the right to seek safe and healthful conditions on the job without being disciplined or fired
(see OSHA Workers' web page for more information)

Workplace Inspections

- Establishments covered by the OSH Act are subject to inspection by OSHA compliance safety and health officers (CSHO's)
- Most inspections are conducted without advance notice

What Types of Hazards are Addressed in Standards?

- Electrical
- Cranes
- Falls
- Excavation
- Scaffolding
- Machines
- Stairways & Ladders
- Chemical

Employer may Qualify for "Focused Inspection"

- Has to meet certain conditions
- Inspector will "focus" on these four hazard areas:
 - Falls
 - Struck by
 - Caught in/between
 - Electrical

Inspection Process

- CSHO displays official credentials
- Opening conference
- Walk-around inspection
- Closing conference



Conducting the Walkaround Inspection

- CSHO and accompanying representatives (employer and employee) inspect the establishment for potentially hazardous working conditions
- CSHO discusses possible corrective actions with the employer
- CSHO may consult, at times privately, with employees

What Happens After an OSHA Inspection?

- OSHA may or may not issue citations and monetary penalties
- Citations inform employer and employees of the regulations and standards allegedly violated and of the proposed time for abatement
- Employer must post a copy of each citation at or near place where violation occurred, for 3 days or until violation is corrected, whichever is longer

Sources of Assistance

- OSHA web site (www.osha.gov)
- Consultation assistance
- Federal and State area offices
 - Speakers, publications, A/V aids, technical advice
- Training and education
 - OSHA Training Institute (OTI) and the OTI Education Centers
 - OSHA Outreach Training Program
- OSHA Office of State Programs
- Voluntary Protection Programs

OSHA Web Site (www.osha.gov)

- About OSHA (events, what's new . . .)
- Compliance Assistance (regulations, directives, consultation, eTools, training . . .)
- Cooperative Programs (VPP, partnerships . . .)
- News Room (publications, news releases . . .)
- Safety / Health Topics (technical links to various topics)
- Statistics (Inspection data, BLS survey link . . .)

Where to Get OSHA Standards

- Federal Register in public libraries or at GPO web site
- CD-ROM subscription through U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO)
- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) in public libraries and through GPO
- OSHA web site - OSHA standards, interpretations, directives (www.osha.gov)



Consultation Assistance

- Provided at no cost
- Developed for smaller employers with more hazardous operations
- Delivered by state government agencies or universities employing professional safety and health consultants
- No penalties are proposed or citations issued
- Possible violations of OSHA standards are not reported to OSHA enforcement staff unless employer fails to eliminate or control any serious hazard or imminent danger



OSHA Emergency Hot-Line 1-800-321-OSHA

- Report workplace safety or health fatalities or the hospitalization of 3 or more employees
- Report a workplace hazard
- File a complaint about a workplace hazard
- Request information on OSHA
- Request an OSHA publication

Summary

- OSHA helps save lives and prevent injuries
- OSHA balances a cooperative approach with traditional enforcement
- OSHA standards are the enforceable requirements for worker safety and health
- Inspections are OSHA's way to ensure compliance
- OSHA offers various means of assistance
