

OSHA Alliance Program Forum September 21, 2023

OSHA – DCSP Updates, DOC, DEP & DWPP Updates

Alliance Messages

- OSHA requested that Alliances work to speak up about OSHA & Industry events, efforts, etc. such as Safety & Sound week throughout their industries and especially to their members.
- Reminder to alliances to stay active in Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM).
- There will be a construction Round Table in 2024.
- The Field Operation Manual (FOM) is about to get a construction section.
- New Walkaround Rule: Labor (ie – Unions) now have the right to appoint representatives to participate in the OSHA Walkaround which was previously exclusive to the employer representative(s).
- Alliances are being added and some have been promoted to Ambassador status
- Be aware of the updated ITA 300A electronic data submission requirements

Trends & Initiatives

- 60% of fatalities in construction are Focus Four Injuries.
- There have been 10 trenching deaths in 2023, so the current pace is down (39 total in 2022)
- CSHOs are required to stop and look if they see open trenching.
- Reminder about the Infrastructure Web Page
- NEP Reminders: Silica, Noise, Falls & Heat
 - Silica NEP has initiated 558 inspections with a goal of 676 for 2023. Top citations are 1926.11.c.1 – Table 1 compliance; 1926.1153.d.2.i – Exposure Assessment; 1910.134.3.1 – Medical Evaluations for Respirators; 1926.1153.g.1 – Exposure Control Plan; 1910.1200.e.1 – Haz Com Program
 - Noise – Most hearing loss occurs years after the exposure issues. Chemicals cause hearing loss more than people realize.
 - Falls – While there are targeted industries, the goal is to enforce in all industries. Simple message: **NO MORE**
 - Heat – Received constant references throughout the day

Helmets vs. Hard Hats

- OSHA's CSHOs Officially moving to helmets instead of hard hats
- Reminder that a key problem with hard hats is that they fall / pop off in a fall.
- Average claim value is \$93,942 for central nervous system injuries, which helmets help to prevent.
- Hard hats are designed to protect against object strikes, whereas helmets focus on protecting the head in any event.

Mental Health & Suicide Prevention

- The key message in our Alliances should be: we can achieve something important just by being human.
- Numbers are still trending in the wrong direction
- We are not asking people to be therapists, simply to take *some* action

Whistleblower Protection Program

- U&T Visa Certifications
- Rulemaking Taxpayer First Act (TFA) & Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act (CAARA) reviews
- Whistleblower Investigations Manual (WIM) Update includes clarity and easier compliance
- Materials: Videos, Posters, Wallet Cards (multi-lingual), Updated Fact Sheets
- Events: National Whistleblower Day; Two Stakeholder Meetings a year; Roundtables with vulnerable workers

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NIOSH

Overview

- Not an enforcement agency
- Outreach such as Stand Down for Fall Protection & Sphere of Safety (struck by)
- Program Structure: Sector, Cross-Sector & Specialty
- Working on substance abuse & suicide prevention
- Emergency Response: get responders & those exposed to determine what they were exposed to and what effects that will have on their health
- Strategic Foresight Initiative: Predicting based on various future scenarios
 - Continuation
 - Collapse
 - New Equilibrium
 - Transformation

Resources

- Worker health charts: <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/niosh-whc/>
- Risk Communication Collections: <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/>
- Aps & Tools: <https://www.aiha.org/public-resources/consumer-resources/apps-and-tools-resource-center/apps-and-digital-tools-from-niosh>

Address by the OSHA Office of the Assistant Secretary

- Substance Abuse Measures are Key in Suicide Prevention
- It is in **EVERYONE'S** best interest to push Mental Health as a top priority
- Need to build better environment to build bridges with workers
 - Workers fear retaliations
 - Employers' intentions are meaningless in comparison to the true environment when it comes to protection against retaliations, etc.
 - Must **REWARD** workers who communicate issues
- Equality Messaging
 - Still disproportionate injury rates with racial minorities and other vulnerable worker groups
- Establishing Safety & Health as a Core Value
 - Collaboration
 - Hollistic Approach
 - Getting to Entire Workforce
- OSHA working to get VPP concepts & principles scaled down to increase effects to smaller employeers