

EFO Safety and Health Committee News

January 8, 2016

OSHA Provides Assistance

1. *Tornado Assistance*

In the tornadoes recently in Oklahoma and Texas, OSHA has been sending out their compliance officers to assist private and public of actions they can take to remain safe during the clean-up activities after an event. The most recent event was in Texas, which caused at least 11 deaths and extensive destruction of property. The Dallas office dispatched 3 teams to the most easily damaged areas.

2. *Farm Vehicle Fact Sheet*

OSHA has developed a new fact sheet that identifies the key causes of backover incidents on farms. The fact sheet outlines safety measures to [prevent farmworkers from being struck by vehicles*](#) including worker training, driving alternate routes and using hand signals or spotters when noise or distance is a factor.

Three Major OSHA Rules Expected in Early 2016

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released its Fall Unified Agenda and Regulatory Plan on November 19. According to the agenda, OSHA plans to release final rules on the following regulations. For more information, see www.reginfo.gov.

- Crystalline Silica – General Industry & Construction **Proposed Issue Date: February 2016**

Rule will have one for General Industry and one for Construction to allow employers to tailor their solutions to the conditions of their workplace

- Workplace Injuries and Illnesses **Proposed Issue Date: March 2016**

Employers with 250 or more employees will be required to submit their injury and illness records on a quarterly basis. Employers with 20 or more to submit their annual summaries to OSHA.

- Walking-Working Surfaces **Proposed Issue Date: April 2016**

Update rules to reflect new technology. 2nd proposed rule was published May 24, 2010

OSHA Unveils Simplified Injury Reporting Now Available Online

To help employers comply with new requirements to report severe worker injuries, OSHA has created a streamlined [reporting webpage](#) and now offers the option of reporting incidents online. The expanded requirements took effect in January 2015. **Now, in addition to reporting any worker fatality within 8 hours, employers must report within 24 hours any severe injury – defined as an amputation, hospitalization or loss of an eye.** In the first year of the new requirement, OSHA received about 12,000 reports. The agency plans to release complete numbers and a full analysis of the Year One reports soon.

Comments on Draft Guidelines for Whistleblower

Interested parties have until **Jan. 19** to comment on a [draft document*](#) written to help employers protect employees from retaliation when they raise concerns about workplace conditions or activities. Based on recommendations of the Whistleblower Protection Advisory Committee, the document contains sections on how to ensure leadership commitment, foster an anti-retaliation culture, respond to reports of retaliation, conduct anti-retaliation training, and monitor progress. For more information, a list of questions to consider, and a link to post comments at regulations.gov, please visit the [whistleblower guidelines webpage](#).

Safety and Health Management Program Comment Period Open Another Month

Public comments on OSHA's updated [Safety and Health Program Management Guidelines*](#) will be accepted until **Feb. 15, 2016**. This revision of the voluntary guidelines first published in 1989 includes key principles such as finding and fixing hazards before they cause injury or illness, and making sure that workers have a voice in safety and health. New material should be particularly helpful to small- and medium-sized businesses and address ways in which multiple employers at the same worksite can coordinate efforts to make sure all workers are protected equally. To learn more and post comments, please visit the Safety and health Program Management [guidelines webpage](#).

Oklahoma Safety Resources

- **OSHA:** Sign up for Quick Takes at <https://www.osha.gov/as/opa/quicktakes/index.html>
- **Safety Council** - Monthly luncheon meetings held in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Sign up to receive their newsletters at <http://www.oksafety.org/>.

Contact Jody Reinhart at jody.reinhart@kochind.com with questions or to sign up for the EFO Safety and Health Committee.

US Labor Department @USDOOL Following

Spread facts, NOT germs. See how to keep workers healthy this #FluSeason
ow.ly/VCznk #OSHA #Flu

SPREAD FACTS, NOT GERMS
this Flu Season

Employers should:

- ✓ promote vaccination
- ✓ encourage sick workers to stay home
- ✓ promote hand hygiene and cough etiquette
- ✓ keep the workplace clean
- ✓ address worker travel concerns

CAUTION FLU SEASON

www.OSHA.gov

RETWEETS: 19 LIKES: 0

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