

EFO Safety and Health Committee News

April 22, 2016

Oklahoma Workers Memorial Day – A Day of Remembrance

Oklahoma will remember the more than 4600 women and men who die as a result of work-related accidents and diseases in the United States. Please join the ODOL as these workers are remembered on **Thursday, April 28, 2016** from 7:00 to 8:00 pm at the Oklahoma State Capitol on the 2nd floor. See [Oklahoma Workers Memorial Day](#) for more information.

National Safety Stand-Down May 2-6, 2016 – Fall Protection

The [U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) and other federal safety agencies announced that they have designated May 2-6, 2016, for the third annual National Safety Stand-Down. The event is a nationwide effort to remind and educate employers and workers in the construction industry of the **serious dangers of falls** - the cause of the highest number of industry deaths in the construction industry. To guide their efforts, OSHA has developed the official [National Safety Stand-Down web site](#) with information on conducting a successful stand-down. After their events, employers are encouraged to provide feedback and will receive a personalized certificate of participation. See the website for a poster for use at your workplace.

OSHA Extends Public Comment Period on Determining Potential Health Hazards of Chemicals

On March 9, 2016, OSHA extended the comment period on the Guidance on Data Evaluation for Weight of Evidence Determination to **May 2, 2016**. This document was published on February 16, 2016. The agency received stakeholder requests to extend the comment period to allow more time to review this highly technical guidance and respond constructively. For more information, see [OSHA Weight of Evidence](#).

OSHA Updates Eye and Face Standards Based on National Consensus Standards

On March 25, 2016, OSHA updated the national consensus for eye and face protection. The final rule becomes final on April 25, 2016. The final rule updates the references in OSHA's standards to reflect the most recent edition of the ANSI/ISEA standards. For more information, see www.osha.gov in the What's New section.

OSHA's Rules to Protect Workers from Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica

OSHA issued two (2) rules on March 25, 2016. Both rules are effective on **June 23, 2016**.

Compliance for the **General Industry and Maritime** rules is required on **June 23, 2018** for all parts of the standard except for the following:

- 1) Medical surveillance must be offered free to employees who **will be exposed above the PEL** for 30 or more days a year starting **June 23, 2018**.
- 2) Medical surveillance must be offered free to employees who **will be exposed at or above the Action Level** for 30 or more days a year starting on **June 23, 2020**.
- 3) The **hydraulic fracturing industry** has two years to comply (**June 23, 2018**) with an additional three years to meet the engineering control requirements (**June 23, 2021**).

The **Construction** rule requires employers to limit worker exposures to respirable crystalline silica and to take other steps to protect workers. The standard provides flexible alternatives, especially use for small employers. Table 1 matches common construction tasks with dust control methods. Employers who follow Table 1 correctly are not required to measure workers' exposure to silica and

are not subject to the PEL. Construction employers must comply with all requirements of the standard by **June 23, 2017**, except for the requirements for laboratory evaluation of exposure samples, which begin on **June 23, 2018**.

A variety of resources to help employers comply with the standards, including fact sheets, frequently asked questions, and a video are available. For more information, please see the [OSHA Silica Final Rule web page](#).

Oklahoma Safety Resources

- **OSHA:** Sign up for Quick Takes at [OSHA Quick Takes](#)
- **Oklahoma Safety Council** - Monthly luncheon meetings held in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Sign up to receive their newsletters at [OK Safety Council](#).
- **Oklahoma AIHA:** Meetings held periodically with Spring and Fall one day conferences. See [OK AIHA](#) for more information.

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