

EFO Safety and Health News

November 4, 2016



In 1970, before OSHA,
38 workers died on
the job every day;
today it's 13.

NIOSH Announces Recommended Exposure Limits for Diacetyl and 2,3-Pentanedione

Washington, D.C. –The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has released formal recommendations for controlling workplace exposures to diacetyl and 2,3-pentanedione, widely-used food flavoring compounds that have been associated with decreased lung function in exposed workers. The recommended exposure limits (RELs) were published today in the document, [*Criteria for a Recommended Standard: Occupational Exposure to Diacetyl and 2,3-Pentanedione*](#).

Drop In Workplace Injuries

Recently released [occupational injury and illness data](#) compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed a significant drop in the rate of recordable workplace injuries and illnesses in 2015. Private sector employers reported about 2.9 million nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses in 2015, a decline of about 48,000 from 2014, despite an increase in total hours worked. The rate of cases recorded was 3.0 cases per 100 full-time workers – down from 3.2 in 2014. This rate has declined for all but one of the last 13 years.

Recent Enforcement Action

Below is a summary of the cases discussed in OSHA QuickTakes. See the news releases noted for additional information.

Manufacturer Type	Penalty	Hazard Type	Hyperlink
• Vehicle parts manufacturer	\$536K	Machine hazards	news release
• Framing contractor	\$360K	Fall/other hazards	news brief
• Tree trimming service	\$134K	Electrocution	news release
• Furniture manufacturer	\$102K	Hvy machine fatality	news brief
• Tire manufacturer	\$232K	LOTO	Iowa OSHA
• Cutting band saw guarding	\$77K	Finger amputation	NC OSHD

Pennsylvania masonry company to pay \$135K to plant manager illegally terminated for reporting hazards

York Building Products terminated a plant manager after the employee repeatedly reported air quality and other safety and health hazards to upper management at the company's Middletown, Pa., plant in 2014. In a settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor, following OSHA's whistleblower investigation, the company will pay the terminated employee \$135,000 in back wages and compensatory damages. For details, read the [news release](#).

Winners selected in Noise Safety Challenge

The results are in for the first [Noise Safety Challenge](#). The judges awarded first place to Nick Laperle and Jeremie Voix for a custom-fitted earpiece designed to provide a worker with protection, communication, and monitoring. Second place went to Brendon Dever and his company Heads Up Display Inc. for wearable sensor technology that detects noise levels and provides warnings via color-coded lights. Third place was awarded to Madeline Bennett, whose company, Otogear, created an interchangeable decorative attachment that attaches to silicone earplugs. The other selected ideas included hearing protection devices, hardware/software.

New research demonstrates how occupational safety and health can play a key role in business sustainability strategies

Although "sustainability" has been traditionally associated with environmental activities, there is a growing movement to expand the definition. The Campbell Institute at the National Safety Council recently released a white paper, [Profiles in Sustainability: Business, Community, and Environment](#), describing how member companies are integrating worker safety and health into their overall sustainability planning. Safety and health professionals can use the information to define, drive, measure and report their own sustainability efforts.

Article

[Top 10 OSHA Citations of 2016: A Starting Point for Workplace Safety](#) by Thomas Galassi, director of enforcement programs for OSHA.

Ontario utility continues to benefit years after joining participatory ergonomics study

In 2005, when Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro Inc. was invited to join five other utilities to take part in a research project on preventing musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs), George Minow didn't have to think too long about his answer. It was simple to say yes, says Minow,

Manager of Health, Safety and Wellness at Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro, a utility that today employs about 180 people and serves 91,000 homes and businesses in southwestern Ontario. At that time, soft-tissue injuries were regularly the number-one or number-two cause of injury, says Minow. But in an industry where falls, burns and shocks are also common hazards, soft-tissue concerns often took a back seat, he added. Today, nearly 10 years after the project concluded, it has continued to have a lasting effect: participatory ergonomics is still going strong at Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro. We have sustained a 30-per-cent reduction in soft-tissue injuries, even with an increase of staff," says Minow. "And the severity of MSDs has decreased, as staff report symptoms earlier and so are helped faster. For more information, see [Ontario Utility & Ergo Study & 10 Years Later.](#)

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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