

# Introduction to OSHA

1-hour Lesson

Directorate of Training and Education OSHA Training Institute

# OSHA'S MISSION



#### Why OSHA Was Created

- OSHA began because, until 1970, there were no national laws for safety and health hazards.
- On average, 15 workers die every day from job injuries
- Over 5,600 Americans die from workplace injuries annually
- Over 4 million non-fatal workplace injuries and illnesses are reported



#### **Lesson Overview**

#### Purpose:

 To provide workers with introductory information about OSHA

#### Topics:

- 1. Why is OSHA important to you?
- 2. What rights do you have under OSHA?
- 3. What responsibilities does your employer have under OSHA?
- 4. What do the OSHA standards say?
- 5. How are OSHA inspections conducted?
- 6. Where can you go for help?



#### **Large Group Discussion Questions**



- Why was OSHA Created?
- What is OSHA's Mission?



#### **OSHA's Mission**

- The mission of OSHA is to save lives, prevent injuries and protect the health of America's workers.
- Some of the things OSHA does to carry out its mission are:
- developing job safety and health standards and enforcing them through worksite inspections,
- maintaining a reporting and recordkeeping system to keep track of job-related injuries and illnesses, and
- providing training programs to increase knowledge about occupational safety and health.



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#### **Small Group Discussion Questions**

- When, during your work experience, did you first hear about OSHA?
- What did you think about OSHA then?
- What do you think OSHA's job is?



#### **OSHA**

Topic 2
OSHA STANDARDS



#### **Understanding Standards**

29 CFR 1910.178 (I) (1)(ii)



#### History of OSHA

 OSHA stands for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Labor



- OSHA's responsibility is worker safety and health protection
- On December 29, 1970, President Nixon signed the OSH Act
- This Act created OSHA, the agency, which formally came into being on April 28, 1971

**OSHA** 

#### What do the OSHA Standards Say?

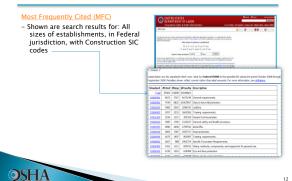
• OSHA standards fall into four categories:

General Industry
Construction
Maritime
Agriculture
1910
1926
1915
1928

 Where there are no specific OSHA standards, employers must comply with The General Duty Clause, <u>Section 5(a)(1)</u>



#### **Most Frequently Cited Standards**



#### Classroom Exercise: OSHA Standards





- What is the Subpart for Personal Protective Equipment? Subpart I
- What is the Subpart for Machinery and Machine Guarding? Subpart O
- What topic does 1910, Subpart H cover?
  Hazardous Materials

**OSHA** 

# Topic 3 EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES

**OSHA** 

#### **Employer Responsibilities**

- Provide a workplace free from recognized hazards and comply with OSHA standards
- Provide training required by OSHA standards
- Provide medical exams when required by OSHA standards and provide workers access to their exposure and medical records
- Not discriminate against workers who exercise their rights under the Act (Section 11(c))
- > Post OSHA citations and abatement verification notices



#### **Employer Responsibilities**

#### **KEEP RECORDS OF INJURIES AND ILLNESSES**

REPORTING AND RECORDING CHECKLIST

#### Employers must:

- ✓ Report work related fatalities 8 Hours
- ✓ Report work related in-patient hospitalization, amputations and losses of an eye - 24 Hours
- ✓ Inform workers how to report an injury or illness to the employer
- ✓ Make records available to workers
- ✓ Allow OSHA access to records

OSHA

#### **Employer Responsibilities**



- Keep records of injuries and illnesses
- Post annual summary of injuries & illnesses

OSHA

#### **Employer Responsibilities**

Does anyone wear personal protective equipment on their job?



- Employers are required to determine if PPE should be used to protect their workers.
- Provide and pay for PPE





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# Topic 4 WORKERS RIGHTS / RESPONSIBILITIES

**OSHA** 

#### Workers Rights & Responsibilities

 The creation of OSHA provided workers the right to a safe and healthful workplace.



Section 5(a)(1) of the OSH Act states: "Each employer shall furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees."

**OSHA** 

#### **Workers Rights & Responsibilities**

 Workers have a right to get training from employers on a variety of health and safety hazards and standards that employers must follow.



Some required training covers topics such as, lockout-tagout, bloodborne pathogens, noise, confined spaces, fall hazards in construction, personal protective equipment, along with a variety of other subjects.

**OSHA** 

#### **Workers Rights & Responsibilities**

SHA Provides Workers the Right to:

A safe and healthful workplace
Know about hazardous Conditions
Information about injuries and illnesses in your workplace
Complain or request hazard correction from employer
Training as Provided in the OSHA Standards
Hazard exposure and medical records
File a complaint with OSHA
Participate in an OSHA inspection
Be free from retaliation for exercising safety and health rights

**OSHA** 

#### **Workers Rights & Responsibilities**

- Workers may bring up safety and health concerns in the workplace to their employers without fear of discharge or discrimination, as long as the complaint is made in good faith.
- OSHA regulations [29CFR 1977.9(c)] protect workers who complain to their employer about unsafe or unhealthful conditions in the workplace.



#### **Workers Rights & Responsibilities**

- ▶ 1910.1020: right to examine & copy records
- Examples of toxic substances and harmful physical agents are:
  - Metals and dusts, such as, lead, cadmium, and silica.
- Biological agents, such as bacteria, viruses, and fungi.
- Physical stress, such as noise, heat, cold, vibration, repetitive motion, and ionizing and non-ionizing radiation.

OSHA

#### Workers Rights & Responsibilities

- Workers may file a complaint with OSHA if they believe a violation of a safety or health standard, or an imminent danger situation, exists in the workplace.
- Workers may request that their name not be revealed to the employer.
- If a worker files a complaint, they have the right to find out OSHA's action on the complaint and request a review if an inspection is not made.

#### **OSHA**

#### **Workers Rights & Responsibilities**

- Employee representative can accompany OSHA inspector
- Workers can talk to the inspector privately.
- Workers may point out hazards, describe injuries, illnesses or near misses that resulted from those hazards and describe any concern you have about a safety or health issue.
- Workers can find out about inspection results, abatement measures and may object to dates set for violation to be corrected.



#### **Workers Rights & Responsibilities**

- Workers have the right to be free from retaliation for exercising safety and health rights.
- Workers have a right to seek safety and health on the job without fear of punishment.
- This right is spelled out in Section 11(c) of the OSH Act.
- Workers have 30 days to contact OSHA if they feel they have been punished for exercising their safety and health rights.



#### **Small Group Activity**



Injuries Training
Inspection Correction
Retaliation OSHA
Exposure
Hazardous Healthful





#### **Enforcing Standards**

- The OSH Act authorizes OSHA compliance safety and health officers (CSHOs) to conduct workplace inspections at reasonable times.
- OSHA conducts inspections without advance notice, except in rare circumstances
- In fact, anyone who tells an employer about an OSHA inspection in advance can receive fines and a jail term.



Section 5

#### **ENFORCING STANDARDS**

**OSHA** 

#### INTRODUCTION TO OSHA PRESENTATION

#### **Enforcing Standards**

Priority	Category of Inspection
1st	Imminent Danger: Reasonable certainty an immediate danger exists
2nd	Fatality/Catastrophe: Reported to OSHA; inspected ASAP
3rd	Complaints/Referrals: Worker or worker representative can file a complaint about a safety or health hazard
4th	Programmed Inspections:  Cover industries and employers with high injury and illness rates, specific hazards, or other exposures.

#### **Enforcing Standards**

VIOLATION TYPE	PENALTY
WILLFUL A violation that the employer intentionally and knowingly commits or a violation that the employer commits with plain indifference to the law.	OSHA may propose penalties of up t \$70,000 \$129,336 for each willful violation, with a minimum penalty of \$5,000 for each willful violation.
SERIOUS  A violation where there is substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result and that the employer onew, or should have known, of the hazard.	There is a mandatory penalty for serious violations which may be up to \$7,000 \$12,934.
OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS A violation that has a direct relationship to safety and health, but probably would not cause death or serious physical harm.	OSHA may propose a penalty of up t \$7,000 \$12,934 for each other-than- serious violation.
REPEATED  A violation that is the same or similar to a previous violation.	OSHA may propose penalties of up t \$70,000 \$129,336 for each repeated violation.



# Large Group Discussion



- Give an example of a reason why OSHA would conduct an inspection at your workplace.
- What are the types of OSHA violations?



**OSHA** 

### **REPORTING SAFETY HAZARDS**





#### **Reporting Safety Hazards**

Contact	Contact your team leader, supervisor, manager, safety committee, etc.
Phone	Call the Regional or local office or 1-800-321-OSHA. [Provide your local office number.]
Fax or Mail	Obtain the complaint form online at <a href="https://www.osha.gov">www.osha.gov</a> or from the local OSHA office.
In Person	Visit the local OSHA Office. [A current list is of OSHA offices is at www.osha.gov]
Online	File complaints online at the OSHA website at www.osha.gov



#### **Reporting Safety Hazards**

How OSHA Responds to a Complaint			
If the Complaint is	Then OSHA will		
Filed over the phone, is not signed, or is not a serious hazard	Contact the employer by phone, fax, or email		
About a serious hazard	Conduct an inspection at the worksite		
Written, signed and submitted to the OSHA area or State Plan office	Most likely, conduct an onsite inspection		
Submitted online	Handle most complaints using the OSHA phone/fax system, which means they may even be resolved by phone		



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#### **Whistleblower Protection**

If you have been punished or discriminated against for using your rights, you must file a complaint with OSHA within 30 days of the alleged reprisal for most complaints.





# Section 7 WORKER RESOURCES



#### **Worker Resources**

- Employer or supervisor, co-workers and union representatives
- Safety Data Sheet (SDS)
- ▶ Labels and warning signs
- Employee orientation manuals or other training materials
- Work tasks and procedures instruction



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#### **Worker Resources**

- OSHA website: <a href="http://www.osha.gov">http://www.osha.gov</a> and OSHA offices (you can call or write)
- Compliance Assistance Specialists in the area offices
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) - OSHA's sister agency
- OSHA Training Institute Education Centers
- Doctors, nurses, other health care providers
- Public libraries
- Other local, community-based resources



