

Worksite: _____ Instructor: _____ Date/Time: _____

Topic C222: OSHA Top Ten Violations

Introduction: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is the government entity that monitors and regulates workplace safety. The Government has determined that every worker in the United States is entitled, without exception, to a safe workplace. Some 23 States have their own approved OSHA which, at a minimum, must conform and comply with Federal OSHA standards. The mission of these agencies is to compel all employers to provide a safe, healthful workplace and the employee training to recognize and resolve unsafe conditions and practices in the workplace. Even with all the regulation, each year there are hundreds of thousands of injuries and thousands of fatalities.

Statistics published by the Department of Labor report that there are presently around 93 million workers in more than 6 million workplaces in America. During a typical workday in the United States, more than 17 thousand are hurt at work, there are more than a dozen on-the-job fatalities, and many dozens die from work related illnesses. Aside from all of this human suffering, workplace injuries cost the U. S. economy billions each year.

Following are the 10 most frequently cited OSHA violations for 2012:

1. **Fall Protection (7,250 violations)** Failures to implement fall protection systems for workers who are working from heights or in areas where the hazard of falls to a lower level is present.
2. **Hazard Communication (4,696 violations)** Often involving a proper training and education program, labeling, and poor MSDSs (or lack of them altogether).
3. **Scaffolding (3,814 violations)** Improper scaffolding construction, lack of protection systems for falls of workers of equipment to lower levels, and inaccessible or obstructed surfaces. Also using scaffolding as a ladder.
4. **Respiratory Protection (2,371 violations)** Poor processes involving selecting the right respirator, lack of written usage program, and poor use and testing procedures.
5. **Ladders (2,310 violations)** Improper use of the top step, failure to select the appropriate ladder for a given task, damaged equipment, and loads exceeding weight capacities.
6. **Machine Guarding (2,097 violations)** Missing or damaged guards, improper anchoring, and exposure to moving parts at points of operation.
7. **Powered Industrial Trucks (1,993 violations)** Common citations involved inadequate inspection and maintenance programs, and improper employee training.
8. **Electrical – Wiring (1,744 violations)** Using temporary wiring systems as permanent fixtures, improper use of extension cords, and unsuitable wiring equipment (cords/boxes/cables).
9. **Lockout/Tagout (1,572 violations)** Inadequate training programs on lockout/tagout procedures, poor methods of controlling energy sources, and improper labeling/signage.
10. **Electrical – General (1,332 violations)** Failures to properly guard shock and electrocution hazards from exposure.

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Conclusion: Compliance with OSHA Standards is the law; however, compliance with these standards alone will not prevent all injuries and illnesses. In fact, OSHA standards provide minimum acceptable levels of protection. In order to prevent injuries and illnesses in the workplace, it is the employer's responsibility to provide the necessary training so that employees know what the safety requirements are and how to recognize and avoid hazards. It is then also the employee's responsibility to learn the safety requirements and put this training to use on a daily basis. Keep this information in mind and do your part to keep your workplace safe.

Employee Attendance: (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.