

---

# SAFETY LINE

---

## OSHA's Top Ten

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 regulations, each year there are hundreds and thousands of injuries and thousands of fatalities.

Statistic published by the Department of Labor report that there are currently around 93 million workers in more than 6 million workplaces in America. During a typical workday in the United States, more than seventeen 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 construction contractors:

1. **General Requirements for all types of Scaffolding** – Regulations require that ‘scaffolds shall be designed by a qualified person and shall be constructed and loaded in accordance with that design.’
2. **Fall Protection: Scope/Applications/Definitions** – Regulations require that “employers must provide appropriate fall protection systems when an employee may fall more than 6 feet to a lower level”. Conventional systems include personal fall arrest systems, guardrail systems, and safety net systems.
3. **Ladders** – Regulations require that “ladders be inspected by a competent person for visible defects on a periodic basis and after any occurrence that could affect their safe use. Portable ladders with structural defects, such as, but not limited to, broken or missing rungs, cleats, or steps, broke or split rails. Corroded components, or other faulty or defective components, shall either be immediately marked in a manner that I.D.’s them as defective, or be tagged with “Do Not Use” or similar language, and shall be withdrawn from service until repaired.”
4. **Head Protection** – Regulations require that “employees working in areas where there is a possible danger of head injury from impact or from falling or flying object, or from electrical shock and burns, shall be protected by protective helmets.”
5. **Hazard Communications** – Regulations require that “employers must provide employees with training and information on hazardous chemicals in their work areas at the time of initial assignment or whenever a new hazard is introduced.”
6. **Electrical: Working Design and Protection** – Regulations require that “employer shall use either ground fault circuit interrupter equipment or an assured equipment grounding conductor program as specified...”
7. **Excavations: General Requirements** – Regulations require that “a competent person shall make daily inspections of excavations, adjacent areas, and protective systems for evidence of a situation that could result in possible cave-in, indications of failure of protective systems, hazardous atmospheres, or other hazardous conditions.”

# SAFETY LINE

## OSHA's Top Ten

Continued from Page 1

8. **Electrical Wiring Methods, Components and Equipment, General Use** – Regulations require that “for temporary wiring over 600V, nominal, fencing barriers or their effective means shall be provided to prevent access of other than authorized or qualified personnel. Electrical feed shall originate in a distribution center, branch circuits shall originate in a panel board or power outlet. Receptacles shall be of the grounded type and flexible cords shall be protected.”
9. **Fall Protection Training** – Regulations require that “employers shall provide a training program for each employee who might be exposed to fall hazards...”
10. **Manually Propelled Mobil Ladder Stands and Scaffolds** – Regulations require that “lift controls shall be tested each day prior to use to determine that such controls are in safe working condition. Only authorized persons shall operate an aerial lift. A body belt shall be worn with a lanyard attached to the boom or basket when working from an aerial lift.

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's 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 while in the workplace. Keep this information in mind and do your part to keep your workplace safe.

(Source: Tailgate/Toolbox Safety Meetings)