



Spring 2020

Recording Workplace Exposures to COVID-19

OSHA recordkeeping [requirements](#) mandate covered employers record certain work-related injuries and illnesses on their OSHA 300 log.

COVID-19 can be a recordable illness if a worker is infected as a result of performing their work-related duties. However, employers are only responsible for recording cases of COVID-19 if all of the following are met:

1. The case is a confirmed case of COVID-19 (see [CDC information](#) on persons under investigation and presumptive positive and laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19);

2. The case is work-related, as defined by [29 CFR 1904.5](#); and

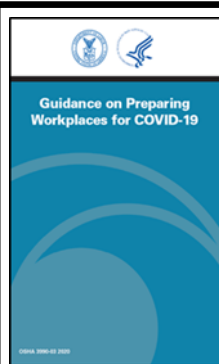
3. The case involves one or more of the general recording criteria set forth in [29 CFR 1904.7](#) (e.g. medical treatment beyond first-aid, days away from work).

Visit OSHA's [Injury and Illness Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements page](#) for more information.

National News

Volume 5, Issue 1

CORONAVIRUS



The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration published "[Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)" to help companies respond in the event of coronavirus in the workplace. The guidance was developed in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). The document provides practical guidance for preventing the spread of COVID-19, also known as novel coronavirus, and contains information on safe work practices and appropriate personal protective equipment based on the risk level of exposure. In addition to the guidance, OSHA recently launched a [COVID-19 webpage](#).

Temporary Enforcement Guidance - Healthcare Respiratory Protection Annual Fit-Testing for N95 Filtering Facepieces During the COVID-19 Outbreak

OSHA has issued [new temporary guidance](#) regarding the enforcement of OSHA's [Respiratory Protection standard](#). This guidance is aimed at ensuring healthcare workers have full access to needed N95 respiratory protection in light of anticipated shortages. The temporary enforcement guidance is in effect beginning March 14, 2020, and will remain in effect until further notice.

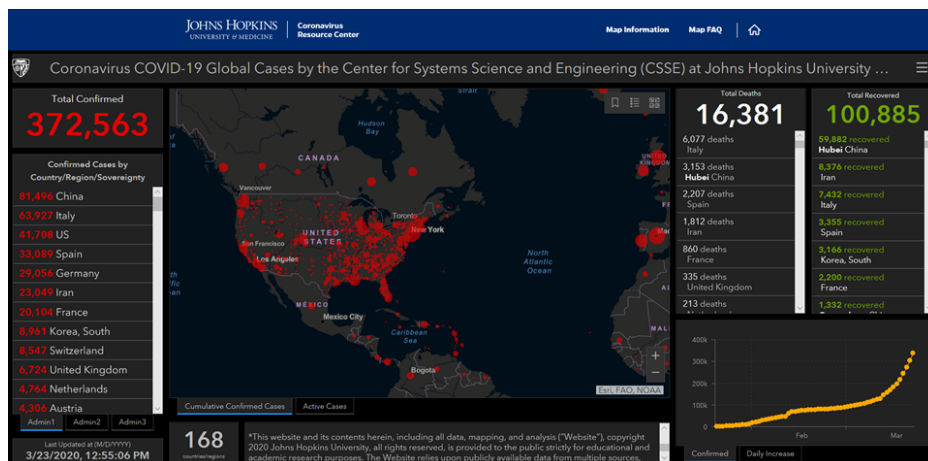


For further information about Coronavirus, including [Strategy of Optimizing the Supply of N-95](#) and [Release of Stockpiled N-95 Beyond Shelf Life](#), please visit the HHS Centers for Disease Control and Prevention webpage on [COVID-19](#).

[How to Protect Yourself](#)

[If You Think You Are Sick](#)

Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Tracker



Workers' Memorial Day Ceremony Cancelled

The Workers Memorial Day Ceremony to be held on April 28, 2020 has been cancelled due to ongoing concerns about the spread of the coronavirus. A special issue of the newsletter will be issued in April to honor the workers we lost in 2019.



The Denver Federal Safety and Health Council offered a free OSHA 30-hour general industry course to federal employees in March as part of their on-going quarterly safety and health training series. The course was hosted by USAG Fort Carson Safety and instruction was provided by William "Whit" Whitman.



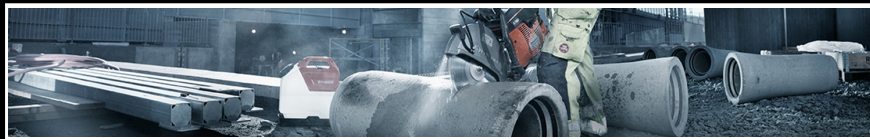
SAVE THE DATE



RECOGNIZE YOUR SAFETY SUCCESSES

OSHA Region VIII

National Emphasis Program for Respirable Crystalline Silica



On February 5, 2020, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced a revised [National Emphasis Program \(NEP\) for Respirable Crystalline Silica](#) to identify and reduce or eliminate the dangerous health effects from occupational exposure to respirable crystalline silica. Through this Silica NEP, OSHA will target workplaces with occupational exposures to respirable crystalline silica that are causing (or are capable of causing) occupational illnesses. Inspections under this program are set to begin on May 5, 2020 after a 90 day period of outreach.

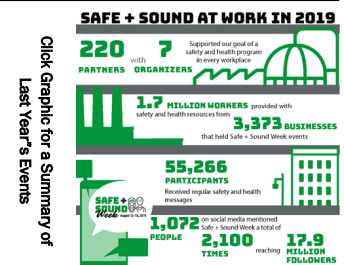
Inhalation of elevated levels of [respirable crystalline silica](#) is a health hazard that can cause diseases including silicosis, an incurable lung disease, and lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and kidney disease. Crystalline silica is a common mineral found in many naturally occurring materials and industrial products and can be generated by operations like cutting, sawing, grinding, drilling and crushing stone, rock, concrete, brick, block, and mortar and when abrasive blasting with sand. Exposure can also occur during manufacture of products such as glass, pottery, ceramics, bricks, concrete, countertops and artificial stone and as a result of foundry and hydraulic fracking operations.

The Silica NEP combines enforcement and outreach efforts to raise awareness among employers, workers, and safety and health professionals of the serious health effects associated with occupational exposure to crystalline silica. Resources including a letter from OSHA to facility managers, a [copy of the NEP](#), and a silica information resource list may be requested at olaechea.john@dol.gov.

Please be aware that employers in these industries are eligible for assistance from one of the listed On-Site [OSHA Consultation Programs](#) by clicking on the map. These programs are operated separately from OSHA's enforcement program. The service is free and confidential, and there are no citations or penalties.

If you are interested in additional silica outreach such as a presentation or Q&A session with your staff or membership, or have any questions about OSHA's NEP for Respirable Crystalline Silica, please contact [John Olaechea](#) at 720-264-6586.

SAFE + SOUND WEEK: From August 10-16, 2020, the U.S. Department of Labor will join with workers and job creators across the country for [Safe + Sound Week](#), a nationwide event that recognizes the successes of workplace safety and health programs and offers information and ideas on how to keep America's workers safe.





Small Changes, Big Impact

April 13-17, 2020

The National Stand Up for Grain Safety Week sponsored by the Alliance, a collaboration of agricultural industry groups, provides a collective industry focus on, and commitment to safety.

Small Changes, Big Impact! Every year hundreds of employees are injured or die from preventable hazards while working in grain storage and handling. Safety doesn't need to be big to be effective. This year commit to safety by making small changes in the workplace or how tasks are performed to make a positive safety impact. See the [resource](#) page for ideas.



Click video for an explanation of how to participate

SPECIAL NOTE: Due to COVID-19 concerns, employers are encouraged to comply with [current CDC guidelines](#) and participate in ways that minimize large gatherings and emphasize social distancing. Social media events, virtual campaigns, and other electronic and remote tools should be utilized.



Join the
National Safety
Stand-Down
To Prevent Falls in Construction
MAY 4-8, 2020



Click to register for a **FREE OSHA-ASSP fall protection webinar** on May 6, 2020. Provides CEUs in compliance with social distancing.

A safety stand-down is a voluntary event for employers to talk directly to employees about safety. Companies can conduct a [Fall Safety Stand-Down](#) by taking a break to have a toolbox talk or another safety activity such as conducting fall safety equipment inspections, developing rescue plans, or discussing job specific hazards. Managers are encouraged to plan a stand-down that works best for their jobsite anytime between May 4-8, 2020. [Suggestions to prepare for a successful stand-down](#) and [highlights from past stand-downs](#) are available on the [website](#). OSHA also hosts an [events page](#) with events that are free and open to the public to help employers and employees find events in your area. Employers will be able to provide feedback about their stand-down and download a certificate of participation following the stand-down. To participate, please see the [website](#) or contact [John Olacoea](#).

SPECIAL NOTE: Due to COVID-19 concerns, employers are encouraged to comply with [current CDC guidelines](#) and participate in ways that minimize large gatherings and emphasize social distancing. Social media events, virtual campaigns, and other electronic and remote tools should be utilized. Check the [resources](#) tab of the OSHA website for resource packages that can be shared.



Social Media Graphics



IBEW Local 111 Receives Ambassador Status in the Alliance Program

On March 18, 2020, IBEW became the first alliance partner within Region VIII of OSHA to receive ambassador status. The goal of the OSHA/IBEW ambassador relationship is to continue the longstanding relationship between the organizations through ongoing engagement, information sharing, and dissemination.

OSHA and IBEW signed a regional Alliance in 2013 to promote the safety of workers in the electrical generation, transmission and distribution field. Over the course of the alliance, IBEW has helped OSHA to disseminate information to its members and stakeholders and helped encourage participation by employers in events like Safe + Sound Week. IBEW has twice offered, in 2017 and 2019, full-day electrical generation, transmission and distribution training to OSHA compliance officers and On-Site Consultation staff at their apprentice training facility. IBEW has also provided their facility for Workers' Memorial Day ceremonies and continues to lend support at the regional event each year. Additionally, in 2019, IBEW presented a talk at a National Safety Council national conference on the work they've done with OSHA and the value of the [alliance program](#).



In observance of the current CDC recommendations for social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, Rita Lucero, Acting Regional Administrator for OSHA Region VIII, and Rich Meisinger, Business Manager for IBEW Local 111, signed the ambassador agreement from their remote work locations.

MEET THE COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Fred Peterson is a safety specialist and compliance officer who has been with OSHA for over 10 years, serving in the Englewood Area Office of Colorado since 2013. Fred retired from the US Air Force in 2003 after 21 years of active duty. He had responsibilities for ground, missile and nuclear safety with a specialty in ground-based missiles including an associates degree in applied missile technologies. After retiring from the Air Force, Fred was a workers' compensation investigator for a few years but his safety experience and drive to be more proactive in the prevention of injuries made OSHA a perfect fit.

Fred throws darts with some of his free time and is tough to beat. He also likes to challenge himself physically and has accomplished things like riding his bicycle from Estes Park up the gravel Old Fall River Road to the visitor center and back on the highway in less than 5 hours, as well as climbing to the top of Devil's Tower in northeast Wyoming.

Fred is a newlywed, having just tied the knot in August of 2019 to Karen or "KK". Fred has two sons and a daughter, and together they have seven grown children. He and KK enjoy their faith and attending church. They also love growing a garden and canning the results. As his grandpa used to say, "we eat what we can and we can what we can't." Fred and KK have a year-and-a-half old miniature dachshund named Bette who loves chasing rabbits and hanging with Coal, their cat. But their newest hobby is driving around in a 2019 all-wheel drive Plum Crazy (official color) Dodge Challenger. They plan on many summer road trips exploring more of Colorado and practicing Fred's favorite motto: "Take kindness with you everywhere. Show it always, share it often."



This newsletter is distributed quarterly. Call John Olachea (720-264-6586) or send an e-mail to olachea.john@dol.gov to subscribe or to submit comments, questions or suggestions.