OSHA Reveals Top 10 Violations for 2018

Oct 23, 2018

OSHA has announced the preliminary Top 10 most frequently cited workplace safety violations for fiscal year 2018. Patrick Kapust, deputy director of OSHA’s Directorate of Enforcement Programs, presented the list during the 2018 NSC Congress & Expo in Houston, TX.

Year to year, the rankings rarely change, although this year’s No. 10, “Eye and Face Protection” (1926.102) was not on the 2017 list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Violation Description</th>
<th>Cited Entries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fall Protection – General Requirements</td>
<td>7,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hazard Communication</td>
<td>4,552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Scaffolding</td>
<td>3,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Respiratory Protection</td>
<td>3,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lockout/Tagout</td>
<td>2,944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ladders</td>
<td>2,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Powered Industrial Trucks</td>
<td>2,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Fall Protection – Training Requirements</td>
<td>1,982</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Machine Guarding</td>
<td>1,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Eye and Face Protection</td>
<td>1,536</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on data as of Oct. 1, 2018.
Tips for Driving in Blowing Snow and Whiteout Conditions

Blowing snow may create whiteouts where snow completely blocks your view of the road. When blowing snow is forecast, drive only if necessary and with extreme caution.

Before you drive — and during your trip — check weather forecasts and road reports. If there is a weather warning, or reports of poor visibility and driving conditions, delay your trip until conditions improve, if possible. If you get caught driving in blowing snow or a whiteout, follow these safe driving tips:

DO:

- Slow down gradually and drive at a speed that suits the conditions.
- Make sure the full lighting system of your vehicle is turned on.
- Use your low-beam headlights. High beams reflect off the ice particles in the snow, making it harder to see. If you have fog lights on your vehicle, use them, in addition to your low beams.
- Be patient. Avoid passing, changing lanes and crossing traffic.
- Increase your following distance. You will need extra space to brake safely.
- Stay alert. Keep looking as far ahead as possible.
- Reduce the distractions in your vehicle. Your full attention is required.
- Keep your windows and mirrors clean. Use defroster and wipers to maximize your vision.
- Try to get off the road when visibility is near zero. Pull into a safe parking area if possible.

DON'T:

- Stop on the travelled portion of the road. You could become the first link in a chain-reaction collision.
- Attempt to pass a vehicle moving slowly or speed up to get away from a vehicle that is following too closely.

REMEMBER:

- Watch your speed. You may be going faster than you think. If so, reduce speed gradually.
- Leave a safe braking distance between your vehicle and the vehicle you are following.
- Stay alert, remain calm and be patient.
- If visibility is decreasing rapidly, do not stop on the road. Look for an opportunity to pull off the road into a safe parking area and wait for conditions to improve.
- If you become stuck or stranded in severe weather, stay with your vehicle for warmth and safety until help arrives. Open a window slightly for ventilation. Run your motor sparingly. Use your emergency flashers.
- Be prepared and carry a winter driving survival kit that includes items such as warm clothing, non-perishable energy foods, flashlight, shovel and blanket.
- It is important to look ahead and watch for clues that indicate you need to slow down and anticipate slippery road conditions.
Winter Conditions: Defensive Driver/Walker? Tip Sheet

Did you know that the most dangerous part of our workday is when we are on the road? However, when it comes to severe injuries, they can also happen in our parking lots as we exit cars and walk into our workplace during the winter season.

While we cannot avoid winter conditions entirely, all of us can act defensively this winter season to minimize risk and avoid injuries by practicing the following safety guidelines:

Recognize and identify winter hazards
• Recognize icy roads, distracted or careless drivers, construction zones
• Spot icy parking areas BEFORE exiting the vehicle
• Look out for untreated outdoor walking surfaces BEFORE walking on them
• Spot and avoid uneven walking surfaces

Understand your defense: plan for winter hazards
• Proper clothing and shoe selection (Supervisors: monitor and coach employees to help them make safer winter footwear selections)
• Proper vehicle maintenance and emergency planning
• Monitor local weather to stay informed
• Allow enough time for traveling

Act in time to avoid injuries
• Apply defensive driving techniques to arrive to your destination safely
• Driving and walking too fast for conditions are leading causes of incidents: avoid both
• Choose a different parking space if you detect ice before exiting the vehicle
• Use the 3 point of contact rule while exiting your vehicle: maintaining three of your four limbs in contact with the vehicle or the floor at all times while exiting a vehicle.
• Walk slowly keeping your hands free for balance
• Stay on treated sidewalks as much as possible. Walk very slowly and use extreme caution while walking on untreated sidewalks
• Avoid distracted walking
• Decide to stay home if your local weather and road conditions seem extreme

Report hazards to warn others and keep each other safe this season
• Hazardous parking lot conditions
• Water on hard floors, entrances and restrooms
• Rugs and mats not taped down

REMEMBER: When it comes to winter conditions, Recognizing the hazard, Understanding our defense and Acting in time can be the difference between a severe injury, a near miss, or just a hazard report.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

As a reminder, the Black Hawk County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal will be held on Saturday, April 13th from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Waterloo Waste Water Treatment Plant located at 3505 Easton Avenue in Waterloo. Event signs will posted at the intersection of Highway 218 and Mitchell Avenue. For volunteer and drop-off information you may visit the Wastetrac webpage at https://wastetrac.org/spring-drop-off-event/.
Lead Awareness

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 1 in 22 children in America have high levels of lead in their blood. Long term affects include learning disabilities, decreased growth, hyperactivity, impaired hearing, and brain damage. Early detection can limit exposure to lead or by medical treatment. If you are pregnant avoid contact with lead for it can pass through your blood to your baby. The following list is things you can do to protect you and your family:

1. Have your children tested for lead poisoning.
2. Clean floors, window frames and sills and other surfaces weekly.
   - A mop, sponge or paper towel with warm water and general all-purpose cleaner made specifically for lead
3. Make sure your child is not chewing on lead paint.
4. Never remove lead yourself.
5. Don’t bring lead dust to your home from work or a hobby.
6. Have your water tested. Run the water for 15-30 seconds prior to using it if it hasn’t been run in awhile
7. Never use pottery made from lead products for food storage or use.

For more information contact EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD. You may also visit the EPA website at http://www.epa.gov/lead.