

CINTAR Connection

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Can reducing the number of violations reduce the number of fatalities?

Not all violations are issued because of a fatality. Not all fatalities result in a violation.

Top 10 Most-Cited Violations

- 1) Fall Protection
6,072 Violations
- 2) Hazard Communication
4,176 Violations
- 3) Scaffolding
3,288 Violations
- 4) Respiratory Protection
3,097 Violations
- 5) Lockout/Tagout
2,877 Violations
- 6) Ladders
2,241 Violations
- 7) Powered Industrial Trucks
2,162 Violations
- 8) Machine Guarding
1,933 Violations
- 9) Fall Protection —
Training Requirements
1,523 Violations
- 10) Electrical Wiring Methods
1,405 Violations

The preliminary numbers are in. OSHA's Top 10 Most-Cited Standards list for FY2017 was revealed at the National Safety Congress & Expo on Sept. 26, and the list has not changed much from previous years.

Fall protection still yields the largest number of violations. But new to 2017, coming in at number nine, is violations to 1926.503 Fall Protection – Training Requirements. Four of the Top Ten involve fall exposures.

At Cintar, safety is our number one priority. During the engineering and design process, we are attentive to safety concerns and address them as early in the process as possible. We design to avoid hazards and to reduce worker risks.

Any Cintar personnel who enter the field are trained in OSHA and/or MSHA standards. Training can vary based upon specific jobsite requirements and exposure to hazards, but certain topics are

beneficial for all jobsite employees and visitors.

Over the next three issues of *Cintar Connection*, we will review several important areas of worker safety. We will take a look at some of the Top 10 Most-Cited Violations. For Part One in our Safety Series, we will focus on PPE and Fall Protection.

PPE

Many of the measures taken to safeguard people from injuries include Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The employer is required to provide most protection including head, eye and face protection. It should meet current American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards and be inspected prior to each use. PPE requirements can vary from site to site. PPE and equipment must be inspected by a competent person, inspected daily by the user, and no older than five years old.

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Falls are the leading cause of death in construction

PPE can only help protect you when it is used, and used properly. Ball cap under your hard hat? Chip in your safety glasses? Maybe no one will notice that you forgot your steel-toe boots at home? All of these “little things” have rules for them for a reason and not following them can result in serious consequences. Cintar employees arrive at all sites with all required, functional and inspected PPE that meets the client’s requirements.

Fall Protection and Its Training Requirements

Four of the Top 10 Most-Cited Violations involve fall exposures, including the Number One top violation. Over 6,000 OSHA citations were issued for Fall Protection violations. Over 1,500 citations were issued for Fall Protection- Training Requirements violations.

The leading cause of worker death in the construction industry? Falls. Almost 40% of construction industry deaths were the result of a fall-related accident. As a comparison, the second-most cause of a fatality on the list is “Struck by Object” accidents, and these account for less than 10% of fatalities. Proper training and fall protection measures can help reduce these numbers.

According to OSHA, many of the Fall Protection citations exist because fall protection measures

do not exist. When a hazard assessment is completed and the need for fall protection is established, Passive and Active Fall Protection Systems can solve the need and keep the workers safe.

In the hierarchy of Fall Protection Systems, if the hazard cannot be eliminated, Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) approved Engineering Controls are preferred. These are the passive systems such as guardrails or netting systems. Passive systems are non-dynamic, stationary, and do not move, adapt or change when in or out of use.

If the use of a guardrail is not reasonably practicable, workers must use a Fall Restraint System. And if fall restraint is not practicable, a Fall Arrest System must be used. Fall restraint and fall arrest share the common feature of securing the worker wearing a full body harness to an anchorage point with some type of connection system. These must meet the OH&S requirements including proper inspections.

According to OSHA many of the Fall Protection - Training Requirements citations are for missing or undocumented training programs. Fall Protection Training, one aspect of a Fall Protection Program, is more than learning how to use and inspect personal fall protection systems, guardrail systems, designated areas, control



Full body harnesses are commonly used for fall protection when Passive Systems are not feasible.

zones, etc. Training also covers what is a hazard, how to recognize and evaluate a hazard, and what to do if a safety system is not in place. Training is meant to educate the worker, empowering him/her to understand the risk at hand and to protect oneself and coworkers.

During the design and engineering process, Cintar can assist its clients with safety initiatives such as engineering anchorage points, incorporating guardrail systems and toe boards, creating access areas to accommodate work-at-height equipment and designing structures to avoid underground and overhead power lines. Design packages are always compliant with the latest regulations, and our field employees are OSHA certified, educated and aware of jobsite hazards.

In the next issue of Cintar Connection, Part Two in the Safety Series, we will discuss Electrical Safety and Lockout/Tagout.



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