

Topic SM236 – Site Safety Inspection

Introduction

Site Safety Inspection is an assessment with the goal to identify, recognize, eliminate, and mitigate hazards, thereby preventing injuries and fatalities. While the Bureau of Labor Statistics recorded a decrease of nearly 140,000 of recordable injuries and illness between 2014 and 2019, fatalities increased by over 500 in the same period to more than 5,300 deaths in 2019.

Inspection Categories

Site inspections can vary depending on the type of work environment. Employers and employees should refer to OSHA standards for complete and specific standards that may apply to safe work operations. OSHA inspectors look for all types of violations. For example, below are the 10 most frequently cited OSHA standards:

1. Fall Protection (29 CFR 1926.501)
2. Hazard Communication (29 CFR 1910.1200)
3. General Scaffolding Requirements (29 CFR 1926.451)
4. Respiratory Protection (29 CFR 1910.134)
5. Control of Hazardous Energy (lockout/tagout) (29 CFR 1910.147)
6. Ladders (29 CFR 1926.1053)
7. Powered Industrial Trucks (29 CFR 1910.178)
8. Fall Protection Training Requirements (29 CFR 1926.503)
9. Machinery and Machine Guarding (29 CFR 1910.212)
10. Eye and Face Protection (29 CFR 1926.102)



Some other common inspection categories include:

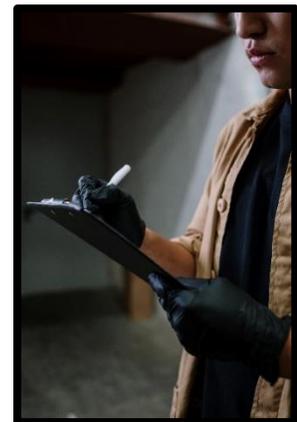
- Administrative Documentation/Injury Logs
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Flammable and Combustible Materials
- Hand and portable Powered Tools
- Confined Spaces
- Electrical
- Walking-Working Surfaces
- General Housekeeping
- Walkways
- Floor and Wall Openings
- Stairs and Stairways
- Elevated Surfaces

Hazard Identification

Use an appropriate checklist for each job site. Checklists help identify and correct hazards in the workplace. Employers and Employees may add or cross out items that do not apply to current operations; however, carefully consider each item before deciding.

Remember the purpose of the inspection is to identify hazards, prevent injuries, and save lives. Examples of common checklist items include:

- **Administrative Documentation/Injury Logs:**
 - MSDS binders, Safety programs and training
 - Up to date and accurate OSHA records
 - Required employer postings:
 - OSHA Rights
 - Labor laws
 - Workers Compensation
 - Work Permits
- **Posted procedures for critical safety operations:**
 - Spill cleanup
 - Evacuation
 - Lockout/Tagout
 - Personal protective equipment
 - Overriding or disabling safety critical equipment
 - Fall Protection equipment when working at heights in excess of five feet
 - Adhere to the Company's Drug and Alcohol Policy at all times



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- **Walking-Working Surfaces:**
 - Items and debris should be kept up off floors and out of walkways
 - Wet surfaces should be covered with non-slip materials
 - Floor surfaces should be clean and free of slip hazards such as:
 - Dirt and granular substances
 - Equipment parts
 - Water and Oil
- **Walkways and Emergency Considerations:**
 - Aisles and walkways need 36" clearance in an office and 44" in a shipping area
 - Electric panels should have 36" clearance in front.
 - Emergency exits should be clearly marked for visibility from any point in the facility
 - Keep exits clear of stacked material and other impediments
 - Label doors that are not exits to avoid confusion
 - Fire doors should not be propped open
 - Fire Alarms and sprinkler systems should be tested annually
 - Fire extinguishers should be checked monthly and recharged annually
 - Inspect first aid kits periodically and replenish or replace supplies when needed
- **Electrical Hazards:**
 - Power cords to equipment should be intact
 - Repair or replace frayed cords
 - Check that extension cords do not cross walkways and are used only temporarily
 - Extension cords should not be used as permanent outlets
 - Power strips should not be "daisy chained"
 - Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets should be installed around wet areas
- **Other Safety Considerations:**
 - Ergonomic Hazards (repetition, lifting, awkward postures, etc.)
 - Stored items should be stacked properly with heavier items on the bottom and lighter items on top shelves
 - Items stored on tops shelves require 18" clearance from fire sprinkler systems
 - Unsecured stacks on floors should not exceed 72" in height
 - Ensure areas under desks and tables are accessible to allow proper ergonomic seating and access in case of an earthquake
 - Biological Hazards (mold, insects/pests, communicable diseases viruses, etc.)
 - Chemical Hazards (cleaning products, pesticides, asbestos, etc.)
 - Physical Hazards (noise, temperature extremes, radiation, etc.)
 - Check that equipment guards and protective coverings are in place
 - Weather Hazards (rain, wind, heat, and cold stress, etc.)
 - Personal protective equipment should be clean and accessible with available areas and materials for decontamination and storage



All hazards, regardless of severity, should be documented and reported to a supervisor for proper abatement.

Conclusion

The purpose of site inspection is to identify hazards, prevent injuries, and save lives. Site safety inspections keep the workplace safe; a hazard left uncorrected can lead to accidents and injuries. **Always follow your company's policies and procedures.**

- ❖ **Any questions about the information in today's meeting?**
- ❖ **Does anyone have comments or feedback?**

