



SAFETY BRIEF: COMMON CAUSES FOR ACCIDENTS

In this month's safety brief, we review common OSHA citations and tie that to what we can do to work safely at our job sites.

In 2015, the Top Ten Violations cited by OSHA were:

1. Fall Protection (1926.501) – 6,721
2. Hazard Communication (1910.1200) – 5,192
3. Scaffolding (1926.451) – 4,295
4. Respiratory Protection (1910.134) – 3,305
5. Lockout/Tagout (1910.147) – 3,002
6. Powered Industrial Trucks (1910.178) – 2,760
7. Ladders (1926.1053) – 2,489
8. Electrical – Wiring Methods (1910.305) – 2,404
9. Machine Guarding (1910.212) – 2,295
10. Electrical – General Requirements (1910.303) – 1,973
(Data From EHS Today Publication)

In 2018, the Top Ten Violations cited by OSHA were:

1. Fall Protection (1926.501) – 7,270
2. Hazard Communication (1910.1200) – 4,176
3. Scaffolding (1926.451) – 3,288
4. Respiratory Protection (1910.134) – 3,097
5. Lockout/Tagout (1910.147) – 2,877
6. Ladders (1926.1053) - 2,812
7. Powered Industrial Trucks (1910.178) – 2,294
8. Fall Protection (1926.503) – 1,982
9. Machine Guarding (1910.212) – 1,972
10. Personal Protective Equipment (1926.95) – 1,526
(Data From EHS Today Publication)

This topic list never seems to change year to year too much. The top five categories are the same. So, what is going on? It is said that unsafe acts cause more injuries and illnesses than unsafe environments do. So, pay extra attention to the actions you take on the job and always ask yourself, is this the safest way to accomplish the task at hand?

Some examples of common unsafe acts are:

- **Being improperly trained:** Here you can either have no training or not have the proper training that targets that specific job task. Do your part and ensure you understand the safety requirements for each job you are involved with. As we say from initial orientation on, if you feel you don't have the proper training or have any safety concerns, let your Project Manager know immediately.
- **Not using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or using the inappropriate PPE:** Not wearing PPE that is required is an unsafe act that can be easily remedied; it is one of the simplest ways to protect yourself from injury. Always make sure you have and where the appropriate PPE for the task.



- **Unaware of your surroundings:** Not realizing what is occurring in adjacent work areas is a simple example of not thoroughly inspecting your worksite before beginning to work. Knowing the layout and hazards before beginning work is a great advantage to you and your co-workers. Take the time to look around! Especially as consultants, we are frequently in unfamiliar surroundings.
- **Safety devices or methods not used:** Always use the safety devices and methods that you have been trained on to make your day safe! Make sure your respirators and other PPE are in tip top shape! If you are using direct reading equipment to evaluate an atmosphere, make sure it is properly calibrated and you are familiar with its operation and evaluation of the data. Let your Project Manager know of any concerns you have.

Take time to familiarize yourself at client work locations, especially industrial locations. Ensure you understand their safety requirements and evacuation procedures. Make sure you have good open communication with client staff so they understand the job you are performing in their facility. This can greatly reduce the frequency and severity of many of these common accidents.



COMMON CAUSES FOR ACCIDENTS QUIZ

- 1) In 2015, the most violations cited by OSHA involve which category?
 - a. Fall Protection
 - b. Powered Industrial Trucks
 - c. Scaffolding
 - d. Machine Guarding

- 2) In 2018, the most violations cited by OSHA involve which category?
 - a. Fall Protection
 - b. Powered Industrial Trucks
 - c. Scaffolding
 - d. Machine Guarding

- 3) Unsafe acts cause more injuries and illnesses than unsafe environments do.
 True
 False

- 4) Which of the following are examples of unsafe acts? Select all that may apply.
 - a. Being improperly trained
 - b. Wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - c. Being unaware of your surroundings
 - d. Utilizing safety devices properly

- 5) Wearing appropriate PPE will always protect you from injury.
 True
 False

Instructor(s) – John Feller, CIH, CSP

SCORE: PASS / FAIL

Employee Signature



Supervisor Signature

Date