

NJ State Industrial Safety Committee

OSHA Update

September 24, 2021

- OSHA has a new initiative to protect workers from hazards of extreme heat. Millions of U.S. workers are exposed to heat in their workplaces. Although illness from exposure to heat is preventable, every year, thousands become sick from occupational heat exposure, and some cases are fatal. Most outdoor fatalities, 50% to 70%, occur in the first few days of working in warm or hot environments because the body needs to build a tolerance to the heat gradually over time.
- On September 9, President Biden announced that OSHA will begin working on a second Emergency Temporary Standard to ensure that as many workers as possible can get vaccinated.
- Starting on September 9, Region 2 began its Inaugural Amputation Safety Stand Down event. During the month of September, employers and workers in New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have participated in the OSHA Region 2 Amputation Stand Down, a month long series of virtual events designed to educate and inform about how to prevent and eliminate occupational amputations.
- September 19-25 is National Farm Safety and Health Week. OSHA has online resources to help protect workers from agricultural hazards such as tractor rollovers, grain engulfment, pesticide exposure, and heat illness.
- During Labor Rights Week (Aug. 30-Sep. 3) OSHA emphasized the rights of all workers in the United States, regardless of their immigration status, to have a safe and healthful workplace and full payment of wages earned. To reach more workers with information about their rights, OSHA's website can be translated into Spanish, and OSHA has publications available in 29 languages online.
- OSHA held an on-line Summer 2021 Healthcare Symposium on August 31. Registration was free and limited to the first 3,000 registrants.
- OSHA awarded 37 nonprofit organizations more than \$6.7 million in grants to fund education and training programs on preventing the spread of infectious diseases in the workplace. Visit the OSHA website to learn more about OSHA training grants.
- Safe + Sound Week was held August 9-15. This is a nationwide event held each August that recognizes the successes of workplace health and safety programs and offers information and ideas on how to keep America's workers safe. Successful safety and health programs can proactively identify and manage workplace hazards before they cause injury or illness, improving sustainability and the bottom line.