

Occupational Safety and Health for Federal Employees

Thousands of federal employees are sickened, injured, or killed in work-related incidents each year. In addition to the human toll, workers' compensation claims total billions of dollars annually.

How Agencies Protect Federal Employees

Each Executive Branch federal agency must:

- Provide workplaces free from recognized health and safety hazards.
- Establish procedures for responding to workplace emergencies and reporting unsafe and/or unhealthful working conditions.
- Acquire, maintain, and require the use of approved personal protective equipment.
- Inspect all workplaces annually with employee representatives present.
- Establish procedures to assure that employees are not subject to restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal for exercising their rights.
- Post notices of unsafe or unhealthful working conditions found during inspections.
- Abate hazardous conditions promptly, and notify employees exposed to such conditions.
- Correct imminent danger conditions immediately.
- Keep records of incidents, injuries, illnesses, and their causes, and post annual summaries for the required time. (See [29 CFR Part 1960.66-74](#)).
- Conduct occupational health and safety training for top management, supervisors, safety and health personnel, employees, and employee representatives.
- Comply with all OSHA occupational safety and health standards.
- Develop and implement a site-specific safety and health program consistent with OSHA standards.
- Prominently display the federal agency [Occupational Safety and Health Protection For Employees poster](#).
- Select a Designated Agency Safety and Health Official (DASHO) to lead the agency's occupational safety and health program.

Rights of Federal Workers

Federal employees are entitled to:

- Use official time to participate in their agency's health and safety program and related activities;
- Access their agency's safety and health information, including data on hazardous substances in the workplace;
- Comment on their agency's proposed alternate standard;
- Obtain copies of medical and exposure records;
- Report unsafe or unhealthful working conditions to federal officials, including the Secretary of Labor; and
- Request inspections of worksites.

Worker Protections

Federal employees must comply with agency health and safety policies, procedures, and directives; and use personal protective equipment and other agency-provided safety equipment.

Additional Information

For more information on occupational safety and health, including the full text of OSHA's standards, visit OSHA's [website](#). OSHA's [Office of Federal Agency Programs](#) provides information relevant for federal Executive Branch employees.

How to contact OSHA

OSHA's mission is to assure America's workers have safe and healthful working conditions free from unlawful retaliation. For more information, visit www.osha.gov or call OSHA at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742), TTY 1-877-889-5627.

This is one in a series of informational fact sheets highlighting OSHA programs, policies or standards. It does not impose any new compliance requirements. For a comprehensive list of compliance requirements of OSHA standards or regulations, refer to Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This information will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. The voice phone is (202) 693-1999; teletypewriter (TTY) number: (877) 889-5627.

