



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY TIP

OSHA INSPECTIONS AND VIOLATIONS

MISSION. OSHA's mission is to ensure safe and healthful working conditions for workers.

OSHA INSPECTION KEY POINTS. Remember these key points about OSHA inspections:

1. **Commitment:** OSHA is committed to strong, fair, and effective enforcement of safety and health requirements in the workplace.
2. **Jurisdiction:** All establishments covered by OSHA are subject to inspection.
3. **Goal:** The goal of OSHA inspectors is to assure compliance with OSHA requirements and help employers and workers reduce on-the-job hazards and prevent injuries, illnesses, and deaths.

INSPECTION PRIORITIES: OSHA inspections are based upon an established set of priorities in the following order of importance: 1. Imminent danger situations; 2. Severe injuries and illnesses; 3. Worker complaints; 4. Referrals; 5. Targeted inspections; and lastly 6. Follow-up inspections.

PLANNING AND PREPARATION: OSHA inspections may be announced or unannounced. Regardless, planning for an OSHA visit and adhering to pre-established protocols will improve communication, cooperation and compliance.

Preparation Key Points:

1. **Credentials** - Check all visiting individuals
2. **Leadership** – Notify all appropriate personnel
3. **Conferences** – Both pre-inspection and closing conferences
4. **Documentation** – Take detailed notes, ask questions and raise issues
5. **Property** – During a site walk-around, take photographs as appropriate
6. **Safety Training** – Have safety logs and training records available
7. **Cooperation** – Provide requested information but do not “overshare”

VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES: OSHA may issue citations and related penalties when inspectors discover serious hazards or OSHA standard violations. 29 CFR §1903.15 outlines six different OSHA violation types and the associated penalties as listed below:

- Other-than-Serious, Serious and Posting Requirements: \$14,502/violation
- Repeated and Willful: \$145,027 per violation
- Failure to Abate: \$14,502 per day beyond abatement date