

ON THE LEVEL

BALANCING INDUSTRY & ASSOCIATION NEWS

On The Level - November 2016

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Final Rule to Update General Industry Walking-Working Surfaces & Fall Protection Standards

Today, OSHA issued a new final rule that revises the outdated general industry Walking-Working Surfaces and Personal Protective Equipment (Fall Protection Systems) standards on slip, trip and fall hazards, which are a leading cause of worker deaths and lost-workday injuries (29 CFR part 1910, subparts D and I). The rule will be published in the Federal Register on **Friday, November 18, 2016** and becomes effective on **January 17, 2017**. The final rule applies to all general industry workplaces and covers all walking-working surfaces, which include horizontal and vertical surfaces such as floors, stairs, roofs, ladders, ramps, scaffolds, elevated walkways and fall protection systems. OSHA estimates the final rule will prevent 29 worker deaths and 5,842 lost-workday injuries each year.

Major changes and new requirements to the rule include:

- Fall protection flexibility
- Updated scaffold requirements to match OSHA's construction scaffold standards

- Phase-in of ladder safety systems or personal fall arrest systems on fixed ladders
- Phase-out of the "qualified climber" exception in outdoor advertising
- Rope descent systems (RDS) and certification of anchorages
- Personal fall protection system performance and use requirements
- Inspection of walking-working surfaces
- Training and retraining as necessary in a manner the worker understands

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OSHA Recordkeeping - 2017 Update Webinar

Starting in 2017, new recordkeeping requirements will be put in effect. Do they apply to you? Are you prepared to comply? Many employers will now be required to electronically submit their injury and illness records annually to OSHA. Additional changes include informing employees of their right to report an injury, the procedure to report an injury free from retaliation, employee involvement regarding incentive programs and drug testing and much more! Join Marianne McGee, OSHA Compliance Assistant Specialist, as she prepares you for the new changes and answers all of your questions before the changes take effect. This session will take place on **December 13, 2016 at 12:00 PM ET.**

*Space is limited so don't delay [registering!](#)

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Call for Workshop Proposals

Are you a leader in your field? Do you have a passion to teach and share your knowledge? Do you have a story to tell other safety professionals like you? We're looking for workshops from people like you. Share your expertise with fellow VPPPA members and become a workshop presenter at our annual conference, Safety+, An Integrated Safety & Health Management System Symposium. We will start collecting workshop proposals on **December 5, 2016.**

Deadlines and Dates:

Proposal Deadline: February 10, 2017

Proposal Review: February-March, 2017

Speaker Notifications: Middle of March, 2017

Conference Dates: August 29-September 1, 2017

You can read more information [here](#) or email conference@vpppa.org with any questions.

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Thanksgiving Safety Tips

We hope everyone has a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday! Check out these safety tips for your best possible turkey day.

- Wash your hands thoroughly when handling uncooked meat and keep it away from other foods. Turkeys should be completely thawed before cooking and a food thermometer should read a safe minimum temperature of 165 degrees inside before it is served.
- Don't rush when slicing food. More accidents occur when carving and cutting too quickly.
- Avoid injuries by driving carefully. Millions of people will be traveling for Thanksgiving so be aware of traffic, wear a seatbelt and don't text and drive.

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Region III Scholarship

The Region III VPPPA Scholarship Committee is excited to announce a new scholarship opportunity! They will select and award up to two scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$1000

to applicants who are already enrolled in or plan to enroll in a course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school. You can read more about the application and eligibility requirements [here](#).

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