

ON THE LEVEL

BALANCING INDUSTRY & ASSOCIATION NEWS

On The Level - December 2017

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

[Membership Renewal](#)
Now

[Register for the OSHA Recordkeeping Webinar](#)
January 17

Safety & Health News Round-Up

[Top 10 Safety Stories of 2017](#)
(Safety News Alert)

[Amtrak Derailment Highlights Delays In Implementing New Safety Measures](#)
(NPR)

[Are American Workers in Danger?](#)
(EHS Today)



In This Issue

December

[Winter Safety Tips](#)

[Protecting Women in Construction](#)

[Wrapping Up 2017](#)

[OSHA Recordkeeping Webinar](#)

[Submit a Safety+ 2018 Workshop Proposal](#)

[Write for VPPPA](#)

The VPPPA wishes everyone a safe & healthy holiday season and a happy New Year!

Winter Safety Tips

Today is officially the first day of winter! For some parts of the world, that means snow, cold temperatures and bundling up every day. Keep these tips in mind this time of year to stay safe through the season.

- **Prepare your vehicle for winter weather.** Keep a tool kit, ice scraper, blankets, nonperishable foods, first aid kit, flashlight and a properly inflated spare tire in the car for emergencies.
- **Shovel snow with caution.** Take it slow and shovel only fresh, powdery snow; it is lighter. You should also push the snow rather than lifting it, but if you must lift it, lift with your legs not your back.
- **Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.** Less than one-third of American homes have a carbon monoxide detector installed - if you do have one, be sure to replace the battery each spring and fall. In addition, do not heat your home with a gas range or oven and never run a car inside an attached garage.

[-Back to Contents-](#)

Protecting Women in Construction

The National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) was formed in 1955 and aims to provide educational and professional development opportunities to thousands of women working in the construction industry. Recently, OSHA and the NAWIC renewed their alliance

to continue promoting safe and healthful working conditions for female construction workers. The five-year alliance will focus on hazards such as personal protective equipment, sanitation and workplace intimidation and violence. Loren Sweatt, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, said, "Women represent a small, but growing segment of the construction workforce... OSHA's renewed alliance with NAWIC will continue to promote innovative solutions to safety and health hazards unique to female construction workers."

You can read more about the alliance and the NAWIC [here](#).

[-Back to Contents-](#)

Wrapping Up 2017: OSHA's Most-Cited Violations

Violations that can ultimately lead to injuries and fatalities are doomed to be repeated if employers and employees do not take the proper steps toward correcting mistakes. Part of fixing these problems includes knowing what issues to look out for on the job. For 2017, these were the top violations cited by OSHA.

1. Fall Protection - General Requirements
2. Hazard Communication
3. Scaffolding
4. Respiratory Protection
5. Lockout/Tagout
6. Ladders
7. Powered Industrial Trucks
8. Machine Guarding
9. Fall Protection - Training Requirements
10. Electrical - Wiring Methods

[-Back to Contents-](#)

OSHA Recordkeeping Webinar

We have a new webinar presentation coming up soon. Be sure to register for the OSHA Recordkeeping Webinar before 9:30 AM on January 17, 2018.

OSHA recordkeeping rules are often difficult to understand and employers can get penalized if they don't interpret them correctly. This presentation reviews OSHA recordkeeping regulations and then will focus on the interpretation letters that the agency has issued in the recent past.

Webinar Details

Date: Wednesday, January 17

Time: 10:30 AM Eastern Time

Presenter: Valerie Struve, OSHA

Price: \$65 Member/ \$85 Nonmember

[-Back to Contents-](#)

Submit a Safety+ 2018 Workshop Proposal

Don't miss the opportunity to share your story - become a workshop presenter at the 2018 Safety+ Symposium! The symposium will take place at the Gaylord Opryland in Nashville, TN, from August 28-31, 2018.

Important Speaker Notes

- Proposals are for 1-hour long workshops.
- Proposals that are sales-focused or promote a commercial product will not be considered.
- Proposals will be reviewed and selected based on several criteria to include topic relevance, practicability, quality of proposal, etc.

Deadlines & Dates

Proposal Deadline: February 16, 2018

Proposal Review: February-March, 2018

Speaker Notifications: March, 2018

If you have any questions regarding the workshop proposals, please call the National Office at (703) 761-1146 or email conference@vpppa.org.

[-Back to Contents-](#)

Write for VPPPA

The VPPPA Blog

We are always looking for fresh content for our blog! Send us an article regarding any safety or health topic, and we can add you to our schedule for 2018.

The Leader Magazine

The Spring 2018 issue will focus on profiles in safety and health. Do you have a safety lesson to teach from a personal experience? Share it with our readers. Articles for the Spring issue will be due on **March 16**.

Membership News

If you have any news or pictures from your site that you would like to share (an award, a VPP approval, a member who went above and beyond, etc.), please send it to VPPPA. We would love to add your updates to the next *On The Level* newsletter or post it on our social media pages.

If you would like to write for a VPPPA publication, or know of someone who is interested, please email communications@vpppa.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

[-Back to Contents-](#)

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VPPPA, Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, promotes advances in worker safety and health excellence through best practices and cooperative efforts among workers, employers, the government and communities.

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