

Second Quarter



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## Occupational Safety & Health News

### OSHA's Safe + Sound Week is Approaching

This year, join OSHA and many employers around the country in Safe + Sound Week activities. Much like OSHA's stand-downs for fall protection and excavations, Safe + Sound Week is, according to OSHA's website, "a nationwide event to raise awareness and understanding of the value of safety and health programs that include management leadership, worker participation, and a systematic approach to finding and fixing hazards." This year, the event will take place August 13-19.

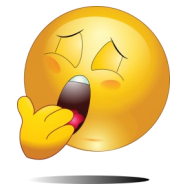
Companies can participate in a variety of ways from top management publicly stating their commitment to safety and becoming more visible in the field, to recognizing workers or groups of workers within the company for their safety performance. OSHA also encourages the formalizing of hazard recognition, possibly even turning the process into some type of challenge or contest during this week. OSHA's website provides ideas as well as resources to help you plan and promote your activities. Once complete, you can download a certificate of participation from OSHA as well as a web badge to ensure your company is recognized.

Also, on the website you can find out who is doing what, state by state. Check it out, [HERE](#).

Here is your opportunity to promote your existing program, start a new one, or breathe a little life into one that is currently struggling. It's easy to keep putting off what needs to get done, but the incentive of participating in a nationwide program could be that final push you need.

As OSHA states, "Safe workplaces are sound businesses. Successful safety and health programs can proactively identify and manage workplace hazards before they cause injury or illness, improving sustainability and the bottom line." Keeping your workers safe is the right thing to do and having a formal program drastically increases your chance of being successful.

So, go visit the website, participate, and be Safe + Sound!



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#### IMPORTANT DATES:

July 25

Free Heat Illness Webinar from the National Association of Landscapers. Visit [landscapeprofessionals.org](http://landscapeprofessionals.org)

August 13-19

OSHA Safe + Sound Week

Check out the American Safety Council's article on Sleep Deprivation Hazards. Click [HERE](#)

**Site Inspections?**

**Full Time Site Safety Managers?**

**Written Programs?**

**Silica Sampling?**

**Contracted Corporate Safety Director Services?**

**Training?**

- **OSHA 10 and 30 Hr (Construction and General Industry)**
- **HAZWOPER (8 Hr, 24 Hr, or 40 Hr)**
- **First Aid/CPR/AED**
- **NFPA 70E**
- **Aerial Lift Safety**
- **Forklift**
- **Fall Protection, Confined Space, Excavations, Lockout/Tagout, Electrical Safety, and all OSHA Compliance Topics**

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**CALL NOW**

## Employee Spotlight: Michael Oprishko, CSHM

This Spring, Signature Safety, LLC welcomed Michael Oprishko to the team as partner to John Braun and Chief Operating Officer. Michael comes to us by way of Structure Tone, where he spent the last 13 years as a safety director.

Michael's EHS background includes a BS in Safety and Environmental Management from Slippery Rock University and 21 years in the construction safety field. He holds a CSHM (Certified Safety and Health Manager) from the Institute for Safety and Health Management.

Michael has jumped right into his role, developing new client relationships, nurturing existing ones, and interacting with Signature's field personnel.



**Michael and Laurie Oprishko**

On a more personal note, Michael spends his down time hunting, bowling, playing golf, and being husband (to his wife Laurie, pictured) and father to 4 girls.

He's also a big sports fan, including being an avid Washington Redskins fan, but we do our best not to hold that against him.

We hope you'll all join us in welcoming Michael to the team. It's been a great couple of months so far. We are very excited to have him aboard and look forward to continued success and growth!

# The Importance of Worker Training

If you've ever had the pleasure of reading through the OSHA regulations, you'll notice that just about every subpart has a section on training. There's a reason for this: no safety program can be successful without the workers knowing what it is they need to know.

Yet, we still see many companies out there who think they'll be safe by accident—that workers will just know what to do. And, while you could possibly be safe by accident, compliance will certainly not happen accidentally. "It's common sense," is not an acceptable safety program.

The fact of the matter is that common sense, as they say, isn't all that common. In fact, what we call common sense is actually learned behavior based on our experiences. A person who learns that it is okay to walk a roof with no fall protection and never sees it go wrong will probably believe that common sense says that it is safe to work that way.

But, if we really stop to think about it, even if common sense was a real, viable thing, there are so many things that go beyond what common sense could possibly tell us. Does common sense tell us what the maxi-

mum force placed on the body during a fall should be? Does it tell us what the angle of repose is for a certain soil? Does common sense know the routes of entry for each workplace chemical? Is it capable of determining the level of PPE needed for arc flash protection in any given situation?

No, of course not. People need to be taught these things. Yet, companies are still handing harnesses to workers and saying, "Get to work," or throwing workers in machines and saying, "Start digging."



The results of such actions are inevitable. Unless you are incredibly lucky, the outcome is injury or death. At the very least you're more than likely going to have a disgruntled employee calling OSHA on you. All that time and money you saved by not doing what was right will now be gone as you're battling lawsuits,

paying increased worker's compensation premiums, and fighting OSHA fines.

Training your workers so they know the safe way to perform their work is, ultimately, much cheaper than the alternative. And, while some courses may require authorized instructors and specialized classes, some things are as simple as holding a brief company meeting and demonstrating something for your employees, or running through the requirements. Just ensure that no matter how you do it, that you document it.

Train your workers properly and you'll quickly see that there is a general uptick in safety awareness. Workers will be looking for the things they've learned and questioning other things they believe to be dangerous, even if they're not sure why. This is a good thing. Encourage it and embrace it!

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**@SafetyHealthMag**

More than 130 groups and 90 individuals petition #OSHA to issue heat stress standard;

@RepJudyChu to sponsor bill. [Click Here](#)

**@SignatureSafety**

19 year old dies because no excavation protection was in place. Tragic.

Avoidable. - [Read it HERE](#)