

At West Texas AGC, it is our goal to keep our member's workers safe. It is our mission for all our employees and member's employees to think safety and always put worker's safety first.

The top 10 list along with implementation and active management of a safety program will create a safer workplace ... as we offer specific recommendations to keep your workers safe.

If we look at the trend of injuries in the workplace, worker injuries and deaths are down dramatically over the past four decades. There were 38 deaths a day on the job in 1970. That number was closer to 15 deaths a day in 2020 as reported by BLS in the United States of America.

Better training and better safety products (PPE) are two of the biggest reasons for the positive change. Organizations like Occupational Health & Safety Administration (OSHA) have shed light on worker safety and paved the way for positive safety improvements in the workplace. Many organizations have embraced a culture of safety and have improved communications to help workers prepare and improve safety practices.

Training, diligence and proper safety equipment are instrumental elements to reducing workplace accidents and injuries, but when it comes to bringing workers home safe, it is not always enough. ***Education and PPE combined with commitment take workplace safety to the next level. See for yourself how our commitment to worker safety will have a positive impact on not only keeping your workers safe and helping your company be more productive, but also saving you money on costly injuries and downtime.***

As you plan ahead and educate your workers on workplace safety, consider the **top 10 most frequently cited workplace violations** by Federal OSHA in fiscal year 2021. Focus on these as you plan training and weekly safety meetings.

Fall Protection – General Requirements once again tops the list with 5,295 violations and remains OSHA's most frequently cited standard for the eleventh year in a row. A newer addition to the Top 10 is Personal Protective and Life Saving Equipment - Eye and Face Protection, with 1,452 citations.

Safety Priority #1 in 2022

10 Workplace Safety Recommendations

1. **Involve your employees in safety planning.** Empower your workers to “own” safety by involving them in safety planning. The more an employee understands and takes ownership of the safety plan, the more he/she will take action;
2. **Provide clear work instructions.** Make sure that all safety instructions are clear and understood. Review and confirm that your workers know what they are being asked to do;
3. **Focus your safety efforts on the most likely issues.** Yes, plan for major safety concerns, but eliminate the small safety violations that contribute the most frequent injuries;
4. **Create a safe work area.** Prevent injuries and ensure an efficient job and workplace by creating a safe work area – eliminate potential safety issues;
5. **Maintain a clean work area.** Remove the clutter and potential safety issues and you will help your workers to be more productive
6. **Encourage your employees to have a voice in safety.** When workers bring safety deficiencies and new ideas to management’s attention, they are contributing to the culture of safety in your workplace;
7. **Focus on how each employee performs his/her job.** Watch for employees who are taking shortcuts that could reduce safety, but also look for employees who perform tasks in an improved manner that could be adopted by the other staff;
8. **Maintain all machinery in good working order.** It is the employer’s responsibility to ensure that all machinery is in good working order and that a routine maintenance program is in place;
9. **Avoid and remove unnecessary hazards.** Do a routine inspection of your workplace frequently to identify any unnecessary hazards;
10. **Revisit your safety guidelines every year.** Start off each year with an inspection of your workplace and a thorough review of your safety program.

The Top 10 most frequently cited workplace safety standards for 2021

- 1. Fall Protection in Construction - General Requirements (1926.501): 5,295 violations**
- 2. Hazard Communication - (1910.1200): 1,947**
- 3. Scaffolding in Construction - (1926.451): 1,948**
- 4. Respiratory Protection - (1910.134): 2,527**
- 5. Lockout/Tagout - (1910.147): 1,698**
- 6. Ladders - (1926.1053): 2,026**
- 7. Powered Industrial Trucks - (1910.178): 1,420**
- 8. Fall Protection – Training Requirements - (1926.503): 1,666**
- 9. Machine Guarding - (1910.212): 1,113**
- 10. Personal Protective/Life Saving Equipment – Eye and Face Protection - (1926.102): 1,452**

If you would like specific Tool Box Talks or training on a specific topic, reach out to us at West Texas AGC, chughes@wtagc.org or call 325.676.7447.