



WisCon Words of Wisdom

Volume 4 | Issue 1 | January 3, 2024

January 22-26, 2024 is Radon Awareness Week

Radon is a naturally occurring, colorless, odorless, tasteless, radioactive gas. Sponsored by the CDC, the theme for this year's Radon Awareness Week is "What's Your Radon Story?" Each day of the week they'll offer facts about radon and share a different radon story. To learn more, visit [Radon Awareness Week 2024](#).

While this awareness week focuses its attention on radon exposures at home and within our communities, it's also a good time for us to think about the workers that may go into these areas.

Where radon concentrations are confined, enclosed or restricted within a space, the containment can increase the concentration level. This includes areas such as buildings, mines, caves, and tunnels. To determine whether a given radon level may result in hazardous exposures to radiation, OSHA's standards for ionizing radiation, [29 CFR 1926.53](#) and [29 CFR 1910.1096](#), apply.

We want to hear from you!

What content would you like to see in an upcoming newsletter? Let us know [here](#).

OSHA To Propose Rulemaking to update the Fire Brigades Standard

Late last month, the Department of Labor released that OSHA would be publishing a proposal sometime within this month to modernize the Fire Brigades standard, [29 CFR 1910.156](#). The agency understands the current standard, first published in 1980, is outdated as it provides regulations for a narrow set of industrial and private firefighters.

An unofficial version of the new Emergency Response proposed rule is [available for viewing](#) until the official version is published in the Federal Register. This proposed rule will update and expand safety and health protections for emergency responders, including firefighters, emergency medical service providers and technical search and rescue workers, making legal protections in line with national consensus standards for workers exposed to hazards that arise during and after fires and other emergencies.

More information regarding the rulemaking is available on OSHA's [Emergency Preparedness and Response > Emergency Response Rulemaking](#) webpage. Once the official version of the proposed rule is published in the Federal Register, OSHA will encourage and welcome public comments.

OSHA's Top 10 Cited Standards for Fiscal Year 2023

At the National Safety Council's Safety Congress & Expo, OSHA released its **preliminary** top most frequently cited standards.

The top 10 cited standards include:

1. Fall Protection – General Requirements (1926.501)
2. Hazard Communication (1910.1200)
3. Ladders (1926.1053)
4. Scaffolding (1926.451)
5. Powered Industrial Trucks (1910.178)
6. The Control of Hazardous Energy (Lockout/Tagout - 1910.147)
7. Respiratory Protection (1910.134)
8. Fall Protection – Training Requirements (1926.503)
9. Personal Protective and Life Saving Equipment – Eye and Face Protection (1926.102)
10. Machine Guarding (1910.212)

Final Rule To Improve Tracking via the Injury Tracking Application Is Now Effective

In July, OSHA announced that they would be expanding submission requirements for injury and illness data provided by employers in high-hazard industries. The final rule became effective on January 1, 2024.

The new requirements include:

- Certain establishments must electronically submit detailed information about each recordable injury and illness entered on their previous calendar year's OSHA 300 Log and 301 Incident Report forms.
 - Establishments that had a peak employment of 100 employees during the previous calendar year meet the size criteria.
- Only establishments with 100 or more employees in [designated industries](#) are required to submit case-specific information from the 300 Log and Form 301 Incident Report.
- The data must be electronically submitted through the [Injury Tracking Application](#) (ITA).

Covered establishments must submit their OSHA injury and illness data by March 2nd of the year following the covered year of the data. If you're unsure if your establishment is required to report this data, OSHA has developed a tool called the [ITA Coverage Application](#) to help you. The application has 5 questions about your establishment.

Reminders for all:

- If you have more than 10 employees, company-wide, at any time throughout the year, you are required to keep a log of workplace injuries and illnesses; unless you are in a [low risk industry](#).
- A paper copy of the Form 300A – Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses must be displayed where employees can readily see it from February 1st – April 30th each year.
- Injury and illness records must be maintained for 5 years.

More information on Injury and Illness Recordingkeeping can be found at [osha.gov/recordkeeping](https://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping).

Winter Weather Terminology

Whether you work outdoors all day or are only outside for the time it takes to get from an indoor location to your vehicle and back, knowing the following winter weather terms can help you decide if it's safe to get out this winter.

Blizzard Warning: Issued for sustained or gusty winds of 35 mph or more, and falling or blowing snow creating visibilities at or below 1/4 mile; these conditions should persist for at least 3 hours.

Wind Chill Advisory: Issued when wind chill temperatures are expected to be a significant inconvenience to life with prolonged exposure, and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to hazardous exposure.

Wind Chill Warning: Issued when wind chill temperatures are expected to be hazardous to life within several minutes

of exposure.

Winter Storm Warning: Issued when hazardous winter weather in the form of heavy snow, blizzard conditions, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet is imminent or occurring. Winter Storm Warnings are usually issued 12 to 24 hours before the event is expected to begin.

Winter Storm Watch: Alerts the public to the possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet. Winter Storm watches are usually issued 12 to 48 hours before the beginning of a Winter Storm.

Winter Weather Advisories: Issued for accumulations of snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and sleet which will cause significant inconveniences and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to life threatening situations.

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