



WisCon Words of Wisdom

Volume 6 | Issue 8 | August 3, 2026

August Awareness Topics

August 2-8: [Stop on Red Week](#)

August 11: [National 811 Safe Digging Day](#)

August 10-16: [Safe + Sound Week](#)

August 31: [International Overdose Awareness Day](#)

August 19 – September 7: [Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over](#)

All Month Long:

[Immunization Awareness](#)

Safe + Sound Week

From August 10-16, join businesses nationwide for OSHA's annual **Safe + Sound Week**—a week dedicated to recognizing and strengthening workplace safety and health programs.

It's the perfect time to engage your crew: lead a safety walkthrough, host a quick toolbox talk, or highlight team members who proactively report hazards. Taking time to focus on proactive hazard management sends a clear message that your team's well-being comes first. Ultimately, investing in safety doesn't just prevent injuries—it boosts morale, lowers costs, and keeps operations running smoothly.

Visit [osha.gov/safeandsoundweek](https://www.osha.gov/safeandsoundweek) to download free tools and claim your company's participation certificate!

We want to hear from you!

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

Beating Late-Summer Burnout: Heat, Fatigue, and Focus

Heat doesn't just affect the body—it can affect the mind. Working in hot environments, especially during physically demanding tasks, increases mental fatigue, slows reaction times, and can impair attention, concentration, and judgment. As fatigue and heat strain build, the risk of mistakes and injuries increases.

Help your team stay focused and safe with a few simple adjustments:

Schedule smart – Plan the most physically demanding or high-risk work for the cooler morning hours whenever possible. Rotate tasks throughout the shift to reduce prolonged heat exposure.

Build in cooling breaks – Regular, short breaks in a shaded or air-conditioned area help reduce heat strain, maintain alertness, and support safe decision-making. Waiting until workers feel exhausted means fatigue has already begun to affect performance.

Watch out for one another – Encourage supervisors and crew members to check in with coworkers throughout the day. If someone appears unusually tired, confused, dizzy, or sluggish, move them to a cooler area right away, provide water if they're alert and able to drink, and monitor them closely. If symptoms are severe, worsen, or don't improve with cooling and rest, seek medical attention immediately.

Staying ahead of heat stress isn't just about preventing illness—it's about protecting focus, reducing errors, and helping everyone get home safely at the end of the day.

Mind the Gap: Dock Door Safety When Airing Out the Facility

Opening dock doors is a quick way to improve airflow during hot weather, but an open dock door with a drop-off of 4 feet or more creates a serious fall hazard.

Under **OSHA 29 CFR 1910.28(b)(1)(i)**, employees exposed to an unprotected edge 4 feet or more above a lower level must be protected from falling.

Stay Safe and Compliant

- Install guardrails or dock safety gates whenever a trailer is not at the dock.
- Remove guarding only when necessary for an active loading or unloading operation, and restore it as soon as the operation is complete.
- Use high-visibility markings and warning signs to supplement—not replace—required fall protection.

Keeping your facility cool shouldn't come at the expense of employee safety.

What is an OSHA Partnership? By: Tyler Evans, Risk Management Intern

I am Tyler Evans, a Risk Management Intern for Miron Construction Co., Inc. I am a junior attending University of Wisconsin – Stout pursuing a degree in construction management with a minor in construction safety and risk control.

Before attending an OSHA Partnership meeting, I was unsure of what to expect. I went into the meeting feeling somewhat tense, thinking it might be where companies were criticized for safety issues or challenged about how they operate. Why would you invite OSHA to your project site? I expected the discussions to focus primarily on compliance and identifying mistakes. However, I quickly realized the purpose of the partnership is not to debate or point fingers, but to have open, professional conversations about safety and how everyone on a project can improve.

What stood out most was the collaborative atmosphere. Representatives from different companies, OSHA, and WisCon worked together to discuss safety concerns, shared experiences, and identified potential hazards from new perspectives. The meeting gave everyone an opportunity to notice issues that might otherwise be overlooked. Because each company brought different experiences and practices, the discussion often led to ideas that could be adapted for other projects. Rather than focusing on mistakes, the conversation centered on practical solutions for creating a safer work environment for everyone on site.

As the meeting went on, my initial concerns disappeared. I found the conversation constructive and valuable, and I gained insights which can help improve safety on future projects. Hearing different viewpoints and learning from others' experiences reinforced the importance of communication and teamwork, reminding me that maintaining a safe workplace is a shared responsibility rather than the job of just one person or company.

Overall, I believe OSHA Partnership meetings are a valuable opportunity to get involved in promoting collaboration, encouraging proactive safety discussions, and strengthening jobsite safety culture. My experience showed me that these meetings support continuous improvement, shared learning, and stronger relationships among contractors, subcontractors, OSHA, and WisCon, all working toward the common goal of keeping every worker safe.



Three men standing side-by-side indoors wearing high-visibility safety vests and safety glasses. From left to right: Chris Goodman (OSHA), Tyler Evans wearing a white hard hat (Miron Construction Co., Inc.), and Dan Trocke (WisCon).

Photo provided by Tyler Evans.

Are you interested in a formal OSHA Partnership for your construction site? In Wisconsin, OSHA Partnerships are initiated with the local area office the site is located in. Visit [OSHA.gov](https://www.osha-slc.gov) to locate your local area office's contact information to discuss potential partnership opportunities.

Wisconsin Safety and Health Consultation Program

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