



Spring 2020

National News

Volume 5, Issue 4

[Additional COVID-19 Guidance and Resources from OSHA](#)



Free COVID-19 Training from the North Dakota Safety Council



Receive guidance to assist you in safely navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. During this free instructor-led distance learning [course](#), NDSC consultants will walk you through some of the most commonly asked questions and misconceptions regarding OSHA compliance, PPE and more.

April 16



## CORONAVIRUS

OSHA Issues 3 Brand New COVID-19 Guidance Documents This Week

April 16

Enforcement Discretion During the COVID-19 Pandemic



The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has issued a [Memorandum on Discretion in Enforcement when Considering an Employer's Good Faith Efforts During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#), which will take effect immediately and remain in effect until further notice. In light of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, OSHA understands that some employers may face difficulties complying with OSHA standards due to the ongoing health emergency. Widespread business closures, restrictions on travel, limitations on group sizes, facility visitor prohibitions, and stay-at-home or shelter-in-place requirements may limit the availability of employees, consultants, or contractors who normally provide training, auditing, equipment inspections, testing, and other essential safety and industrial hygiene services. During the course of an inspection, OSHA Area Offices will assess an employer's efforts to comply with standards that require annual or recurring audits, reviews, training, or assessments, and evaluate whether the employer has made good faith efforts to comply with applicable OSHA standards and, in situations where compliance was not possible, to ensure that employees were not exposed to hazards from tasks, processes, or equipment for which they were not prepared or trained. This guidance is intended to be time-limited to the current public health crisis.

April 13

OSHA Issues Guidance on Handling COVID-19 Related Complaints, Illnesses, and Fatalities

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) today announced an interim [enforcement response plan](#) for the coronavirus pandemic. The response plan provides instructions and guidance to OSHA Area Offices and compliance safety and health officers (CSHOs) for handling coronavirus-related complaints, referrals, and severe illness reports. Fatalities and imminent danger exposures related to the coronavirus will be prioritized for on-site inspections. Workers requesting inspections, complaining of coronavirus exposure, or reporting illnesses may be protected under one or more whistleblower statutes and will be informed of their protections from retaliation. This guidance is intended to be time-limited to the current public health crisis.

OSHA recently issued a [Guidance for the Manufacturing Industry Workforce](#) in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) to help reduce the risk of exposure to the coronavirus. This is one in a series of alerts pertaining to various sectors of industry. Prior alerts have included workers in [retail](#) and [package delivery](#).

## FREE TRAINING

### Free Remote Trenching and Excavation Course



The Rocky Mountain Education Center will

present Digging Deeper into Construction Trenching and Excavation Hazards to help employers educate employees about excavation hazards. The course currently has three open sessions in April but spots are going quickly.

[Register here.](#)

### Free Heat Illness Prevention Webinar

OSHA Region VI and OSHA Education Centers in Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas, are offering a free online presentation on Heat Illness Prevention on May 19, 2020. The webinar focuses on the hazards of working in the heat, and the best practices for addressing those hazards.



[Register here.](#)

## New Compliance Assistance Resources

# New Safety and Health Resources

Directorate of Cooperative and State Programs



On April 17, 2020, OSHA released the [Quarterly Update on Compliance Assistance Resources](#) for the second quarter of fiscal year 2020. In addition to coronavirus related guidance documents, this collection also includes brand new safety and health resources from OSHA, NIOSH, alliance program partners and Susan Harwood Grantees. This quarter's new offerings include information on grease traps, grain handling, indoor environmental quality in construction, ladders, landscaping, and tree care.

### GREASE TRAP BULLETIN FROM OSHA



### LADDER VIDEO FROM CPWR



### FATALITY ASSESSMENT AND CONTROL EVALUATION (FACE) PROGRAM

REPORTS AND PRODUCTS



### SUSAN HARWOOD GRANT TREE CARE MATERIALS

Chipper Hazards/Chain Saw Hazards				
Title	Language	Length	Format	File Size
<b>Chipper Hazards</b>				
Chipper Operator - Spanish	Spanish	153 Slides	PPTX	11.42 MB
Chipper Pre-training Assessment	Spanish	1 Page	PDF	202.74 KB
Chipper Post-training Assessment	Spanish	1 Page	PDF	38.45 KB
<b>Chain Saw Hazards</b>				
Chain Saw - Spanish	Spanish	61 Slides	PPTX	5.05 MB
Chain Saw Pre-training Assessment	Spanish	1 Page	PDF	151.46 KB
Chain Saw Post-training Assessment	Spanish	1 Page	PDF	39.42 KB

### INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IN CONSTRUCTION FROM NIOSH



## Whistleblower Stakeholder Meeting

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is announcing a public meeting to solicit comments and suggestions from stakeholders on issues facing the agency in the administration of the whistleblower laws it enforces. On March 13, 2020, OSHA [published a notice](#) announcing a stakeholder meeting on May 12, 2020. On April 15, 2020, OSHA [published a notice](#) announcing that the meeting will now be held only via telephone. There will be no in-person participation option, and participants must pre-register for this meeting. If you wish to attend the public meeting, you must register using this link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/whistleblower-stakeholdermeetingtickets-92898902117> by close of business on May 5, 2020. A call-in number will be sent to you upon registration.