



SAFETY VISIONS



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This issue contains essential safety articles to help you comply with Ohio's workers' compensation regulations to effectively manage your small business this winter.



Safety Resolutions for the New Year

Let's resolve to make 2025 a safe and accident-free year for us all. Here are suggestions for workplace safety resolutions that can help protect everyone.

Take the time to resolve to:

- Take advantage of safety training to learn what is needed to protect myself from workplace hazards and prevent accidents.
- Pay attention while working and avoid distractions.
- Wear assigned Personal Protective Equipment every time it is required—no exceptions, or excuses.
- Keep alert for hazards and correct or report safety or health hazards that are seen or if there is a safety-related question or concern.
- Encourage co-workers to work safely.
- Report accidents, near misses, or other incidents to supervisor(s) right away.
- Take care of my health so I come to work well rested and ready to work every shift.
- Practice the safety precautions I learn at work at home, too.
- Return home to my loved ones the same way I came to work.
- Other: _____

2025 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo is Coming!

The annual [Ohio Safety Congress & Expo](#) will be held at the **Greater Columbus Convention Center in downtown Columbus, Ohio, April 16th-18th**. This is the largest regional safety exhibition in the United States.

The 2025 Ohio Safety Congress and Expo will include:

- General sessions lead by top-notch, keynote speakers.
- More than 75 educational sessions that allow you to dive into the future with seven educational tracks, each filled with expert-led sessions that will keep you at the forefront of workplace safety.
- Live-streaming options: Select sessions will also be available for live-streaming, so you can join the Congress from anywhere.
- Hybrid flexibility: Enjoy the best of both worlds with the option to attend in person one day and join via live stream the next so you can tailor your experience to fit your schedule.
- An Expo Marketplace, where participants can view and discuss the latest in safety services, industrial supplies, safety equipment and gear with 300+ exhibitors from across the United States.



[Learn more about this event.](#)

Education credits may be earned by employers who participate in a group rating or group retrospective rating program and are required to attend two hours of safety training.



Driving Safely in Fog

With the temperatures starting to get lower and lower, morning fog can become a hazard to drivers. Those driving in the early morning should pay extra caution to fog, as foggy conditions greatly limit driving visibility and perception. Here are some tips for driving safely in fog:

SLOW DOWN

- Reduce your speed and increase your braking distance to give yourself more time to react.
- Do not use cruise control and be prepared to brake quickly.
- Be sure to check your speedometer regularly. Fog can create the optical illusion of driving slowly. This causes many drivers to speed up.
- Don't rely on your eyesight, but check the speedometer instead. Keep in mind, that the statistics indicate that nearly three in four fog-related traffic collisions are connected to motorists driving too fast. These collisions also result in the highest fatality rates.

USE LOW BEAMS

- Turn on your low-beam lights to alert other drivers that you're approaching. High beams can reflect off the fog and blind other drivers.
- Never drive with only the parking lights or fog lights on.

LISTEN FOR TRAFFIC

Use extra caution when crossing traffic or busy intersections, especially in dense fog. Roll down your window and listen for traffic you can't see.

USE WINDSHIELD WIPERS & DEFROSTER

Fog can create a fine mist on your windshield, reducing visibility. Use your windshield wipers and defroster to help.

PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR SURROUNDINGS & USE ROAD LINES AS A GUIDE

Limit distractions by turning down the radio, putting away your phone, and letting a passenger navigate the GPS. Pay attention to the white line on the right side of the road to make sure you're in the correct lane.

PULL OVER IF VISIBILITY IS LOW

Fog can get thicker without warning. If visibility gets too low, be sure to pull off the road. Find a parking space or driveway where you can safely pull over. If necessary, drive far off the shoulder of the road or onto a grassy area. Move a reasonable distance away from the main roadway. Keep your hazard lights on but turn off headlights as this allows other drivers to see you but avoids looking like you're still moving. Try to find shelter away from your car. If you must remain in your vehicle, keep your seatbelt on. Wait for conditions to improve.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Email [Jim Saulters](mailto:Jim.Saulters@ohio.gov) or call (866) 780-NFIB (6342), option 6.

Safety Hygiene

The mission of the [Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation's Division of Safety and Hygiene](#) (DS&H) is to maintain a healthy, productive, and competitive workforce in Ohio. A portion of employer premiums are used to fund the DS&H, which offers a variety of safety resources, including:

- Safety programs offering rebates on workers' compensation premiums.
- Safety courses.
- The Ohio Safety Congress & Expo, the largest safety event in the Midwest.
- Safety consultation services, including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) On-Site Consultation Program.
- Ergonomics and industrial hygiene consultation services.
- Safety grants, providing assistance to improve safety conditions.
- Library services, such as: books, magazines, research materials, and safety videos.

[View more information and resources](#)



Daily Inspection Record Requirements for Forklifts

Before the start of each shift, it's important that forklift operators conduct pre-shift inspections to ensure the safety and efficiency of the equipment. Although the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) states inspections do not need to be documented, it is highly recommended to do so and keep them for at least a year.

According to OSHA guidelines, these inspections are mandatory and should cover a comprehensive checklist that includes, but is not limited to:

- Examining the condition of tires, forks, brakes, steering, controls, warning devices, and the mast;
- Verifying that all safety labels and decals are intact and legible.
- Checking for any signs of leaks, cracks, or other potential hazards is crucial. If any issues are identified, they must be reported immediately, and the forklift should not be used until it has been inspected and repaired by a qualified professional.
- Checking to make sure the forklift's load capacity, operation manuals, and other essential documents are readily available to the operator, as required by OSHA;

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Daily Inspection Record Requirements for Forklifts

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- Checking of the forklift's fluid levels, including hydraulic fluid, engine oil, and coolant, to ensure they are within the recommended specifications; and,
- Inspecting the battery or fuel source any signs of deterioration or leaks.

Operators are also expected to perform a functional test of the forklift, which includes testing the brakes, lights, horn, and lifting mechanisms before using the equipment.

For more information: Email [Kory Bakenhaster](mailto:kory.bakenhaster@osha-slc.gov) or call (614) 932-1516.

Dangers of Uneven Surfaces

Uneven surfaces present a significant hazard in the workplace, posing a risk of slips, trips, and falls, which are among the most common causes of workplace injuries. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines, maintaining a safe walking and working surface is paramount for ensuring the safety and health of employees.

Various factors, including poor construction, wear and tear, and natural settling of the ground, can cause uneven surfaces. These irregularities can lead to missteps, causing individuals to lose their balance and potentially resulting in serious injuries, including fractures, sprains, and, in severe cases, head injuries.

To mitigate the dangers associated with uneven surfaces, OSHA emphasizes the importance of regular inspections and maintenance. Employers are encouraged to implement safety programs that include hazard identification, prompt repair of hazardous conditions, and warning signs and barriers around affected areas until repairs can be made. Additionally, educating employees on the risks associated with uneven surfaces and the importance of wearing appropriate footwear can further reduce the incidence of accidents.

For more information: Email [Kory Bakenhaster](mailto:kory.bakenhaster@osha-slc.gov) or call (614) 932-1516.

Climb Your Way to Safety

A fall from a ladder can leave you laid up for days or weeks with broken bones, back injuries, or worse, so make sure you're safe every time you climb.

While ladders are an essential tool, they are only as safe as the workers utilizing them. Listed below are some tips that can help prevent workplace accidents involving ladders:

- **Choose the Right Ladder** - Whether you choose a stepladder, straight ladder, or extension ladder depends on the job you need to do and on how high you need to go to do it. Always make sure that the ladder you choose is the right height for the job. And always give every ladder a quick safety check. Include the following when conducting a ladder safety check:
 - Are the rungs or steps firm and unbroken? Are they clean and free of dirt and grease?
 - Does it have nonslip safety feet in good condition?
 - If it's a stepladder, does it have a spreader to lock the ladder open?
 - Does it have braces to keep the rails from swaying?
 - If it's an extension ladder, is the rope in good condition? Are the rope and pulleys working smoothly?
- **Set It Up Right** - Follow these steps when you set up straight ladders and extension ladders. (The first two points apply to stepladders, too):
 - Place the ladder on a level surface.
 - Use wide boards under the feet if you are on soft ground.
 - Place the feet parallel with the top support.
 - Leave at least 3 feet of extension above the top point of support.
 - Anchor the ladder at the top and have someone hold the bottom for you.
 - Make sure the base of the ladder is placed 1 foot out from the wall for every 4 feet of the ladder's height. An easy way to do this is to count the number of rungs from the ground to the support point at the top and divide by 4. Example: 8 rungs = 2 feet. Keep the ladder 2 feet from the wall.

For more information: Email [Jim Saulters](mailto:jim.saulters@osha-slc.gov) or call (513) 858-5022.