



Spring 2016

Top Stories/National News

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OSHA's On-site **Consultation Program** offers free and confidential safety and occupational health advice to small and medium-sized businesses. To find a program office near you, click on the map.



## Work Safely with Silica

The Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR) has created an [e-tool](#) that takes employers through a step-by-step assessment of their workplace and assists them in determining appropriate dust controls and creating a written plan to minimize silica dust hazards.

**Control the Dust**

There are ways **contractors** can reduce the dust and reduce the hazard. This easy to use planning tool takes you step-by-step through conducting a **job hazard analysis for silica**, selecting appropriate controls, and creating a job-specific plan to eliminate or reduce silica hazards. You can save as a pdf, print and/or email your plan.

**CREATE-A-PLAN**

[Click Here](#)

## OSHA Issues Final Rule for Respirable Crystalline Silica

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has [issued a final rule](#) to curb lung cancer, silicosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and kidney disease in America's workers by limiting their exposure to respirable crystalline silica. The rule is comprised of two standards, one for [Construction](#) and one for [General Industry and Maritime](#). The new rule requires that employers use engineering controls – such as ventilation and wet methods for cutting and sawing crystalline silica-containing materials – to reduce workers' exposure to silica dust.

OSHA issued this rule because the previous permissible exposure limits (PELs) for silica were outdated, inconsistent and did not adequately protect worker

health. OSHA determined that occupational exposure to respirable crystalline silica at the previous PELs resulted in significant risk of developing or dying from silicosis, lung cancer, other



lung diseases or kidney disease. OSHA estimates that the rule will save over 600 lives and prevent more than 900 new cases of silicosis each year, once its effects are fully realized.

About 2.3 million workers are exposed to respirable

crystalline silica in their workplaces, including 2 million construction workers who drill, cut, crush, or grind silica-containing materials such as concrete and stone, and 300,000 workers in general industry operations such as brick manufacturing, foundries, and hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking. The Final Rule is projected to provide net benefits of about \$7.7 billion, annually.

The construction standard provides for flexible alternatives, especially useful for small employers. Employers can either use a control method employed in Table 1 or they can measure workers' exposure and independently determine which dust control methods work best to limit exposures in their workplaces.

### SOME KEY PROVISIONS OF THE SILICA STANDARD:

- Reduces the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for respirable crystalline silica to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air (50ug/m3) as an 8-hour average
- Requires employers to use engineering controls to limit exposure
- Requires employers to provide respirators when engineering controls cannot adequately limit exposures
- Requires employers to develop a written control plan
- Requires employers to offer medical exams to highly exposed workers

### COMPLIANCE DEADLINES

Construction:  
June 23, 2017

General Industry/ Maritime: June 23, 2018

Hydraulic Fracturing:  
June 23, 2018 for all provisions except Engineering Controls, which have a compliance date of June 23, 2021

### Recordkeeping Resources:

[Final Rule](#)

[Recordkeeping Web Page](#)

[Recordkeeping Forms](#)

[29 CFR 1904](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Fact Sheet](#)

"Our new rule will 'nudge' employers to prevent work injuries to show investors, job seekers, customers and the public they operate safe and well-managed facilities. Access to injury data will also help OSHA better target compliance assistance and enforcement resources, and enable 'big data' researchers to apply their skills to making workplaces safer." - Dr. David Michaels, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health

## Final Rule to Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses

The [final rule](#) revises OSHA's regulation on Recording and Reporting Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (29 CFR 1904). The new rule requires certain employers to electronically submit injury and illness data to OSHA that they are already required to keep under OSHA regulations. The content of these establishment-specific submissions depends on the size and industry of the employer (see table below).

To ensure that the injury

data on OSHA logs are accurate and complete, the final rule also promotes an employee's right to report injuries and illnesses without fear of retaliation, and clarifies that an employer must have a reasonable procedure for reporting work-related injuries that does not discourage employees from reporting.

Electronic submission of establishment-specific injury and illness data will enable OSHA to use its enforcement and compliance assis-

tance resources more efficiently. Analysis of the data will improve OSHA's ability to identify, target, and remove safety and health hazards, thereby preventing workplace injuries, illnesses, and deaths.

OSHA will provide a secure website for the electronic submission of information. The website will include web forms for direct data entry and instructions for other means of submission (e.g. file uploads). Establishments must submit the information electronically and may not submit the information on paper. Employers who do not have the necessary equipment or internet connection may submit their data from a public facility, such as a library. OSHA also intends to provide an interface for entering data from a mobile device.



**The final rule takes effect Jan. 1, 2017, and reporting requirements will be phased in over two years, as follows:**

Establishments with 250 or more employees must begin submitting information from Form 300A by July 1, 2017, and must submit information from all forms (300A, 300, and 301) by July 1, 2018. Beginning in 2019 and every year thereafter, the information must be submitted by March 2.

Establishments with 20-249 employees in certain [high-risk industries](#) must begin submitting information from Form 300A by July 1, 2017, and again by July 1, 2018. Beginning in 2019 and every year thereafter, the information must be submitted by March 2.

Establishments with fewer than 20 employees at all times during the year do not have to routinely submit information electronically to OSHA.

## ZIKA VIRUS

OSHA and NIOSH have issued an [interim guidance](#) on preventing occupational exposure to the Zika virus. Workers who are exposed on the job to mosquitoes or the blood or other body fluids of infected individuals may be at risk for occupationally acquired Zika virus infection. This interim guidance provides both employers and workers with information on preventing occupational exposure to the Zika virus. The guidance may be updated as additional information becomes available.

OSHA and NIOSH continue monitoring the Zika virus outbreak spreading through Central and South America, Mexico, and parts of the Caribbean, including US territories. For the most up-to-date information, check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Zika website](#) frequently.



Credit: CDC/James Gathany

## Susan Harwood Training Grant Program

On May 9, 2016, OSHA [announced](#) the availability of \$4.6M in Susan Harwood safety and health training grants. Through the [Susan Harwood program](#), OSHA awards grants to nonprofit organizations on a competitive basis. Grants are awarded to provide training and education programs for employers and workers on the recognition, avoidance, and prevention of safety and health hazards in their workplaces.



**NEW FUNDING  
OPPORTUNITIES  
CLOSES JUNE 28, 2016**

## New Local Emphasis Program for Wood Manufacturing in Montana

The [Billings Area Office](#) has issued a Local Emphasis Program (LEP) for Wood Manufacturing and Processing Facilities that covers all of Montana. The goal of this LEP is to reduce the incidence of serious injury or death from hazards associated with wood working machinery and potential health hazards associated with exposure to wood dusts. Injuries incurred in this industry range from cuts, lacerations, and avulsions to amputations, tears and punctures. According to NIOSH, exposure to wood dust has long been associated with health effects including allergic respiratory conditions and cancer.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the total recordable case rate (TRC) for some of the industries covered under this LEP was 7.3 per 100

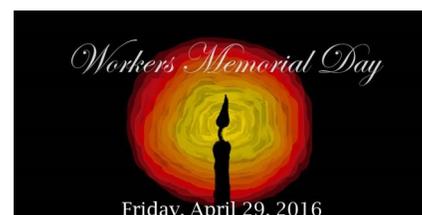
full-time workers from 2012-2014. This is 2.2 times higher than the average national TRC rate of 3.3. In an epidemiologic survey on woodworking injuries, the PubMed database division of the National Center for Biotechnology Information found that woodworking equipment produces approximately 720,000 injuries per year.

Inspections under this LEP will begin following a 90 day outreach period. For more information about this emphasis program, contact the [Billings Area Office](#).

Compliance assistance products, including e-tools for [woodworking](#) and [sawmills](#), can be found on the [OSHA website](#).

## Workers' Memorial Day

On April 29, 2016, occupational safety experts, employers, workers and federal, state and local officials held a commemoration event at the IBEW Union Hall to remember and honor the 55 workers who died in Region VIII (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming) in 2015. Every year, more than 4,000 American workers die from preventable work-related injuries and illness. For more information visit OSHA's [workers' memorial day website](#).

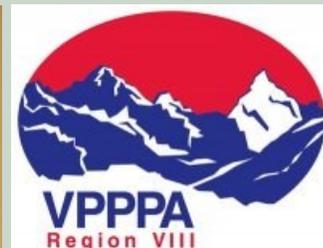


## Region VIII Voluntary Protection Program Participants Association Conference 2016

The Region VIII VPP Participants Association (VPPPA) held their annual regional conference in Denver April 26-28. More than 200 people attended along with multiple vendors and exhibitors. Pre-conference workshops included a Best-Practice Sharing Session called “Sustaining Star Quality”, a VPP-101 introductory course, and a VPP Applications Workshop. Keynote presentations and other sessions focused on safety and health management

system excellence and technical topics such as industrial hygiene, OSHA regulatory updates, and electrical safety. The VPPPA is a service organization whose mission is to promote workplace safety and health excellence through the achievement, maintenance, and continuous improvement of site safety and health programs through the OSHA Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). The VPP is a cooperative partnership program developed by OSHA to recog-

nize worksites that maintain excellence in employee safety and health through the OSHA VPP model for comprehensive workplace safety and health management systems. To learn more about VPP please contact Brad Baptiste, OSHA Regional VPP Manager, at 720-264-6555 or at [bradtiste.brad@dol.gov](mailto:bradtiste.brad@dol.gov). To learn more about the VPPPA you can access their National and Regional websites, respectively, at [www.vpppa.org](http://www.vpppa.org) and [www.regionviii.vpppa.org](http://www.regionviii.vpppa.org).



### Meet the Compliance Officer

Kevin McElvany is a compliance officer with the Bismarck Area Office. He is a Safety Specialist and has been with OSHA for four years.

Kevin was a preventative medicine specialist in the Army from 1998 to 2006. He lived all over the world including stints in Japan, Honduras, Iraq, Kuwait and Korea. After the military, he obtained a bachelor's degree in

occupational safety and health and master's degrees in project management and business administration. He's been married for 6 years and has two young children. Kevin and his family enjoy outdoor activities at the local parks, but are looking to expand to camping trips in the near future.

Kevin was on the All Army Chess Team for 3 years

and has played a few international tournaments, winning some. When he has the time, he still enjoys studying and playing chess.



This newsletter is distributed quarterly. Call John Olaechea (720-264-6586) or send an e-mail to [olaechea.john@dol.gov](mailto:olaechea.john@dol.gov) to subscribe or to submit comments, questions or suggestions.