

Be Prepared for Stepped-Up OSHA Enforcement Activity

We've previously reported to you about the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA's) decision to implement a three-month phase-in period for new fall protection guidelines that became effective on June 15. As builders focus on understanding the new rules in this area, they are also reminded that OSHA has indicated that it is stepping up enforcement measures on a number of fronts and that it has taken steps to increase the dollar amount of all penalties through administrative enhancements to its penalty policy.

Builders and trade contractors should pay particular attention to the following hazards, which are the top 10 most frequently cited OSHA standards for construction in 2010 (with the reference to the specific OSHA standard in parentheses):

1. Scaffolding, general requirements, construction (29 CFR 1926.451)
2. Fall Protection, construction (29 CFR 1926.501)
3. Ladders, construction (29 CFR 1926.1053)
4. Fall Protection, training requirements (29 CFR 1926.503)
5. Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200)
6. General Safety & Health Provisions (29 CFR 1926.20)
7. Head Protection (29 CFR 1926.100)
8. Aerial Lifts (29 CFR 1926.453)
9. Eye & Face Protection (29 CFR 1926.102)
10. Excavation, specific excavation requirements (29 CFR 1926.651)

There are a few simple things that builders and trade contractors should do to be prepared for OSHA inspections. These include:

- Conducting an assessment to identify and correct safety hazards on the job site.
- Conducting appropriate safety training for employees — such as fall protection and ladder safety training.
- Updating records and making sure they are readily available.
- Understanding the OSHA inspection process.

You should know that NAHB has multiple resources that are designed to assist you in achieving compliance with OSHA rules and regulations. For example, they have versatile handbooks and videos that present key safety issues where builders and workers can reduce accidents and injuries. These are available via www.BuilderBooks.com Also, NAHB's Construction Safety & OSHA web page contains compliance assistance information at www.nahb.org/safety For more information, contact [Rob Matuga](#) or [Marcus Odorizzi](#) at 800-368-5242, x8507 or x8590. D