

## Occupational Safety and Health for Federal Employees

Thousands of federal employees are sickened, injured, or killed in work-related incidents each year. In addition to the human toll, workers' compensation claims total billions of dollars annually.

### How Agencies Protect Federal Employees

Each Executive Branch federal agency must:

- Provide workplaces free from recognized health and safety hazards.
- Establish procedures for responding to workplace emergencies and reporting unsafe and/or unhealthful working conditions.
- Acquire, maintain, and require the use of approved personal protective equipment.
- Inspect all workplaces annually with employee representatives present.
- Establish procedures to assure that employees are not subject to restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal for exercising their rights.
- Post notices of unsafe or unhealthful working conditions found during inspections.
- Abate hazardous conditions promptly, and notify employees exposed to such conditions.
- Correct imminent danger conditions immediately.
- Keep records of incidents, injuries, illnesses, and their causes, and post annual summaries for the required time. (See [29 CFR Part 1960.66-74](#)).
- Conduct occupational health and safety training for top management, supervisors, safety and health personnel, employees, and employee representatives.
- Comply with all OSHA occupational safety and health standards.
- Develop and implement a site-specific safety and health program consistent with OSHA standards.
- Prominently display the federal agency [Occupational Safety and Health Protection For Employees poster](#).
- Select a Designated Agency Safety and Health Official (DASHO) to lead the agency's occupational safety and health program.

### Rights of Federal Workers

Federal employees are entitled to:

- Use official time to participate in their agency's health and safety program and related activities;
- Access their agency's safety and health information, including data on hazardous substances in the workplace;
- Comment on their agency's proposed alternate standard;
- Obtain copies of medical and exposure records;
- Report unsafe or unhealthful working conditions to federal officials, including the Secretary of Labor; and
- Request inspections of worksites.

### Worker Protections

Federal employees must comply with agency health and safety policies, procedures, and directives; and use personal protective equipment and other agency-provided safety equipment.

### **Additional Information**

For more information on occupational safety and health, including the full text of OSHA's standards, visit OSHA's [website](#). OSHA's [Office of Federal Agency Programs](#) provides information relevant for federal Executive Branch employees.

### **How to contact OSHA**

OSHA's mission is to assure America's workers have safe and healthful working conditions free from unlawful retaliation. For more information, visit [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov) or call OSHA at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742), TTY 1-877-889-5627.

**This is one in a series of informational fact sheets highlighting OSHA programs, policies or standards. It does not impose any new compliance requirements. For a comprehensive list of compliance requirements of OSHA standards or regulations, refer to Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This information will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. The voice phone is (202) 693-1999; teletypewriter (TTY) number: (877) 889-5627.**

