



The Secretary of Labor's Report to the President on the Status of Federal Agencies' Occupational Safety and Health Programs

Calendar Year 2017

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ABSTRACT

The Secretary of Labor's Report to the President on the Status of Federal Agencies' Occupational Safety and Health Programs summarizes the occupational safety and health (OSH)-related activities of federal Executive Branch departments and agencies during calendar year (CY) 2017. It provides an analysis of the annual reports federal agencies submitted to the Secretary of Labor. The report includes injury and illness rates calculated using data from the Department of Labor's (DOL's) Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) and Office of Personnel Management (OPM). The report also details the efforts federal agencies and DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) undertook to improve workplace safety and health for federal employees during CY 2017.

Overall, data suggest federal agencies' OSH programs improved from CY 2016 to CY 2017. The Government's total and lost time illness and injury cases and the corresponding case rates decreased from CY 2016. In addition, OSHA had fewer significant enforcement cases involving federal agencies, and a lower average number of violations per OSHA inspection, compared to CY 2016. OSHA continued to offer numerous training opportunities to agencies covering a diverse spectrum of safety and health topics. Agency personnel actively engaged in these training opportunities, along with participating in OSHA's Federal Agency Safety and Health Managers' Roundtable meetings and Field Federal Safety and Health Councils.

PREFACE

This report fulfills the Secretary of Labor's (the Secretary's) annual responsibility, as set forth in Section 19(b) of the *Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970* (the Act), to inform the President about the status of federal agencies' OSH programs and the accidents and injuries that occurred at federal worksites. The report provides an analysis of the reports agencies submitted to the Secretary. It also describes the activities that OSHA conducted at or with federal agencies during CY 2017.

Agency heads must establish and provide guidance on their OSH programs, as well as report on the status of these programs, as mandated by:

- Section 19(a) of the Act (29 United States Code (U.S.C.) 668(a)), which directs, “the head of each Federal agency to establish and maintain an effective and comprehensive occupational safety and health program which is consistent with the occupational safety and health standards promulgated under Section 6” (of the Act (29 U.S.C. 655)).
- Section 19(a)(5) of the Act (29 U.S.C. 668(a)(5)), which requires federal agency heads to “make an annual report to the Secretary with respect to occupational accidents and injuries and the agency's program under this section.”
- Presidential Executive Order (E.O.) 12196, *Occupational Safety and Health Programs for Federal Employees*, which guides the heads of federal Executive Branch agencies in implementing Section 19 of the Act and directs the Secretary to issue a set of basic program elements to assist the various federal agencies in carrying out their responsibilities.
- Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §1960, *Basic Program Elements for Federal Employee Occupational Safety and Health Programs and Related Matters*, which establishes the requirements for agency heads to implement OSH programs in their respective agencies.

The Act, E.O. 12196, and 29 CFR §1960 require the heads of federal agencies to submit annual reports on their OSH programs to the Secretary. According to 29 CFR §1960.71(a)(1), the annual report is due to OSHA, annually, no later than May 1.

FORMAT

The body of this report contains an Executive Summary, two main sections, and appendices. The **Executive Summary** summarizes some of the Executive Branch agencies' significant achievements and the challenges faced in providing safe and healthy working environments for federal employees during CY 2017. This section also highlights OSHA's enforcement activities and outreach efforts to support federal agencies.

The two main sections of the report describe, in detail, the support OSHA provided to federal agencies and the OSH information federal agencies supplied in their annual reports. The first section, **OSHA Activities**, provides information on OSHA's enforcement, oversight, and compliance assistance activities during the reporting period. The second section, **Federal Agency OSH Activities**, contains information on OSH-related activities the departments and agencies provided in their reports. In addition, this section describes agencies' efforts to find and control injury and illness trends.

The **Appendices** provide information on the attributes included in the assessment tool federal agencies used to evaluate OSH programs, the injury and illness data federal agencies submitted for CY 2017, agencies' participation in Field Federal Safety and Health Councils, and their requests for technical assistance from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In CY 2017, both OSHA and federal agencies took effective steps to protect the health and safety of federal employees. This report provides injury and illness rates for federal Executive Branch employees and summarizes information provided in the federal Executive Branch agencies' annual reports to OSHA for the reporting period. In addition, this report describes the efforts of OSHA and the agencies to improve OSH programs for federal workers.

The report explains how the Executive Branch departments and agencies¹ sought to improve workplace safety and health in CY 2017. It describes how federal agencies analyzed trends and improved their programs, and assesses the Government's trends and overall progress toward improving worker safety and health.

Statistics and Trends

Injury and Illness Statistics

OSHA calculates injury and illness incidence rates for individual agencies by using fiscal year (FY) injury and illness claims data reported to the DOL's OWCP,² together with OPM's employment data. In FY 2017, the Government's employment number increased by 60,758 employees (3 percent) to a total of 2,167,980 employees. The total injury and illness cases decreased by 2,044 to 43,434 (4 percent), and the total case rate decreased from 2.16 to 2.00 (7 percent). The Government's lost-time cases decreased by 956 to 23,251 (4 percent), and the lost-time case rate decreased from 1.15 to 1.07 (7 percent).

Workers' Compensation Costs

The Federal Government's workers' compensation costs for chargeback year (CBY) 2017 were approximately \$1.5 billion. This slight decrease in costs from CBY 2016 (at approximately \$1.6 billion) was the same as CBY 2015. While this amount is a slight increase in costs over CBY 2014, which was approximately \$1.4 billion, it is approximately the same as the costs from CBY 2013. Workers' compensation benefits provided to employees include payments for medical treatment, rehabilitation services, replacement of lost wages, as well as compensation benefits to their survivors in cases of death.

Fatalities and Hospitalizations

The Act, and provisions of 29 CFR §1960 and other regulations, require employers, both private and public, to investigate, track, and promptly report incidents involving work-related fatalities and hospitalizations³ to OSHA. As shown below, for the CY 2017 reporting period, federal Executive Branch departments and independent agencies reported 24 work-related civilian employee fatalities

¹ On September 28, 1998, Congress amended the Occupational Safety and Health Act (the Act) to make it applicable to the U.S. Postal Service in the same manner as any other employer subject to the Act. Therefore, the U.S. Postal Service is not included in this report.

² OWCP data are available only on a fiscal year basis.

³ On January 1, 2015, OSHA implemented a new reporting rule that requires employers to report an incident resulting in the hospitalization of one or more employees, rather than three or more employees. In addition, employers must report incidents that result in a loss of an eye or an amputation.

and 210 work-related hospitalizations (including incidents resulting in a loss of an eye or an amputation).

Agency	Fatalities	Hospitalizations
Consumer Product Safety Commission	0	1
Department of Agriculture	3	22
Department of Commerce	0	1
Department of Defense	2	67
Department of Health and Human Services	0	6
Department of Homeland Security	1	30
Department of Justice	1	19
Department of Labor	1	9
Department of State	11	30
Department of Transportation	1	0
Department of the Interior	2	11
Environmental Protection Agency	1	4
International Boundary and Water Commission	0	1
National Credit Union Administration	0	1
Nuclear Regulatory Commission	0	1
Smithsonian Institute	1	4
Social Security Administration	0	2
Tennessee Valley Authority	0	1
Total	24	210

OSHA Activities

OSHA engaged in a wide range of enforcement and compliance assistance activities to address OSH-related issues at federal agencies. Enforcement activities primarily focused on inspections of federal worksites to identify violations of OSHA standards and to monitor agencies' injury and illness rates. Compliance assistance activities included consulting with federal agencies and both explaining the importance of providing safe and healthy working environments and highlighting the best practices or methods to help agencies accomplish this goal. (Please refer to Section 1 – OSHA Activities for a complete explanation of these activities.)

Enforcement

During CY 2017, OSHA conducted 509 programmed inspections and 318 un-programmed inspections at federal workplaces. On average, each programmed inspection identified 1.84 violations and each un-programmed inspection identified 0.87 violations. OSHA inspected federal agencies under a variety of national and local emphasis programs targeting specific hazards (such as combustible dust or exposure to hexavalent chromium) and types of industries (such as nursing or maritime). Under the Federal Agency Targeting Inspection Program, OSHA specifically targeted federal agency establishments with the highest numbers of lost-time cases. An analysis of programmed inspection data for CY 2017 identified an increase in programmed inspection activity, an increase in the compliance rate, and a decrease in the average number of violations per inspection as compared to CY 2016. In addition, OSHA issued two federal agency significant/novel case reports involving the

Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Defense (DoD). (Please refer to Section 1 – OSHA Activities, Table 2, for specific information on the significant/novel cases.)

Compliance Assistance

OSHA uses a variety of methods to assist federal agencies in their efforts to improve worker safety and health, including: responding to federal agency requests for technical assistance, encouraging agencies' participation in the Secretary's Field Federal Safety and Health Councils (FFSHCs), and providing agencies with a number of OSH training opportunities.

Agency technical assistance requests (ATARs) are consultative services that are available only to federal agencies. Similar to OSHA's Consultation Program for private-sector employers, ATARs may include hazard abatement advice, training, a partial or comprehensive visit, or program assistance. While an ATAR is not an enforcement inspection, agencies that request assistance are expected to correct all violations of citable program elements under 29 CFR Part 1960 or other OSHA standards observed during the visit. OSHA's Area Offices conduct the vast majority of ATARs and interact directly with the federal agency sites that request assistance. During 2017, OSHA Area Offices conducted five ATARs at the request of the USDA and DOL.

FFSHCs are federal interagency groups, chartered by the Secretary, that enable local OSH professionals to share knowledge and resources. In CY 2017, 36 Councils actively carried out efforts to improve the effectiveness of OSH functions within the Government. According to the annual reports submitted by FFSHCs to OSHA, during CY 2017, 31 departments and agencies participated in council activities and more than 2,000 federal employees attended meetings and/or council-provided training. Each year, OSHA assesses the work of the councils so that the Secretary can recognize the most successful. In CY 2017, the Secretary recognized nine FFSHCs for their efforts to promote the advancement of occupational safety and health in the Federal Government.

Under 29 CFR § 1960.17, if agencies cannot comply with an applicable OSHA standard, they may request an alternate standard to ensure appropriate protection for affected employees. An alternate standard is the federal agency equivalent of a private-sector variance from OSHA standards. Currently, there are six OSHA-approved alternate standards that address air traffic control towers, special-purpose ladders, lifting devices, diving standards, weight-handling equipment, and gas-free engineering. Under § 1960.18, if no OSHA standard exists for a specific working condition of federal agency employees, an agency must develop a supplementary standard for that working condition and provide the standard to OSHA. Currently, there are two supplementary standards; one addresses explosives, propellants, and pyrotechnics, and the other covers portable tank transport. OSHA did not approve any new alternate or supplementary standards in CY 2017.

OSHA provides federal agency OSH personnel with training opportunities through numerous venues, including the OSHA Training Institute (OTI). Federal OSH personnel may attend any of OTI's professional and technical courses throughout the year. In addition, OSHA provides federal agency OSH personnel with a week of free training at OTI, commonly referred to as FEDWEEK. During the 2017 FEDWEEK, OSHA provided nine half-day seminars, offered twice during the week, on topics chosen by federal OSH personnel. Seventy-six federal employees attended these seminars and reported that they were pleased with the training offered.

Agency Activities

Occupational Safety and Health Committees

In their annual reports to OSHA, agencies provided information on various OSH committees and summarized the benefits of participating in these committees. Four agencies have Certified Safety and Health Committees (CSHCs) that meet the requirements of 29 CFR Part 1960, Subpart F, while most other agencies have internal OSH committees developed outside that structure.

Under 29 CFR Part 1960, Subpart F, any Executive Branch agency can form a CSHC to monitor and assist with the agency's OSH program. Agencies with Secretary-approved CSHCs must have committees at both the national and field/regional levels. The national-level committees provide policy guidance, while the local committees monitor and assist in the execution of the agency's OSH policies. When appropriately implemented, an approved CSHC exempts agencies from unannounced OSHA inspections. During CY 2017, the following agencies maintained Secretary-approved CSHCs: the Central Intelligence Agency, DOL, Tennessee Valley Authority, and U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Each agency, except the SEC, submitted information certifying to the Secretary that their respective CSHCs met Subpart F's requirements. OSHA contacted the SEC to review its certification.

Self-Evaluations

Under 29 CFR § 1960.79, an agency must periodically evaluate its OSH program both to assess the extent to which the program conforms to the requirements of E.O. 12196 and corresponding regulations and to determine whether the program is effectively implemented in all agency establishments. Most agencies reported conducting a periodic review of their OSH programs during CY 2017, using agency-developed tools. Only a few agencies reported receiving assistance from outside experts, such as the General Services Administration (GSA), OSHA, or a private-sector organization. Agencies that reported performing self-evaluations indicated improvements in the operational, managerial, and/or cultural components of their programs.

For CY 2017, OSHA asked agencies to rate the operational, managerial, and cultural components of their OSH programs using a modified 20-question (attribute) tool. The format of the 20-attribute tool combines questions from the previously used 30-question OSH program self-evaluation with questions about how the agency fulfills specific requirements of 29 CFR Part 1960 and E.O. 12196, 13043, and 13513. An analysis of the data indicates that most federal agencies are in compliance with the requirements of 29 CFR Part 1960 and have effectively functioning OSH programs. Overall, agencies' ratings of the three components reflect an improvement in their programs. Agencies reported improving numerous program elements by providing employees with more opportunities to participate in all aspects of the program including: hazard reporting, defining safe work practices, and conducting site inspections. Agencies also reported that individuals with assigned safety and health responsibilities had the authority to perform their duties including: reinforcing OSH rules, using the necessary funds and resources to abate workplace hazards, and producing and maintaining required records.

Despite the overall success of agencies' OSH programs, most agencies have several subcomponents within each of the three components of their programs that need improvement. The operational component's hazard survey and engineering controls attributes, the managerial component's incidence data and action plan attributes, and the cultural component's employee involvement attribute may require additional emphasis in subsequent years. The analysis also indicated that a small number of

agencies were not fully aware of their OSH responsibilities or how to implement all the attributes of an effective OSH program in government operations. (Please refer to Section 1 – OSHA Activities, Evaluations, for a description of the components of an OSH program and an analysis of the agencies' self-evaluations.)

Controlling Hazards

To determine how well agencies track workplace injuries, OSHA asked agencies to report on the most common causes of injuries and the efforts taken to mitigate those causes. Most agencies reported on their efforts to reduce employees' injuries from slips, trips, and falls and/or overexertion. To address these injuries, agencies implemented engineering and administrative controls to reduce and/or eliminate exposure. Several agencies reported installing slip-resistant flooring, improving lighting, and conducting ergonomic assessments. Agencies also conducted annual safety training classes and held all-inclusive meetings to improve awareness. In addition, several agencies reported participating in OSHA's *National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls* held in May 2017. The purpose of the Stand-Down was to get employers to pause during the workday for topic discussions, demonstrations, and training on how to recognize related hazards and prevent falls.

Annual Information Request

Each year, OSHA asks agencies to provide information on the status of their OSH programs, in addition to information on specific OSH topics. Requests for information on specific OSH topics are based on findings from previous annual reports or on developing trends. In CY 2017, OSHA requested an assessment of OSH program activities and events, including: presidential and Federal Government-wide initiatives; occupational illnesses, injuries, fatalities, and hospitalizations; specific 29 CFR Part 1960 requirements; and an agency OSH program self-evaluation.

Motor Vehicle Safety

In the information request, OSHA asked agencies to provide details on their motor vehicle safety programs (MVSPs) as well as any motor vehicle accidents that occurred during the reporting period. Most agencies reported having MVSPs that are in compliance with the Executive Orders requiring the use of seatbelts in motor vehicles and restricting distracted driving. Several departments and agencies offered hands-on training to employees, such as defensive driving, while most others relied on training courses provided by either the GSA or the National Safety Council. Collectively, 86 federal agencies reported that approximately 11,820 motor vehicle accidents occurred during CY 2017.

Federal Agency Safety and Health Mission

As outlined in 29 CFR Part 1960, Subpart B, a designated agency safety and health official, or other senior OSH manager with primary OSH responsibilities, is responsible for the management and administration of an agency's occupational safety and health program. Agency reports indicate that most departments and agencies manage their OSH programs from a facilities management department or office. A few agencies indicated that independent organizational safety and health divisions or departments manage their OSH functions. Most agencies reported that they have the necessary resources, including adequate personnel and budgets, to accomplish their OSH activities/objectives. They also reported that personnel with OSH responsibilities had the authority to implement operational decisions, and to obtain resources, such as equipment and training. Agencies with an OSH committee forwarded OSH issues with agency-wide implications to the committee for resolution.

Agency's Self-Inspection of Safety and Health Program

Overall, federal agencies reported an improvement in the effectiveness of their self-inspections during CY 2017. Several agencies noted that their OSH program improvements were due to the number of self-inspections completed during the reporting period. Most agencies indicated that they conducted self-evaluations on a quarterly basis and that these inspections were conducted by supervisors and employees trained in recognizing hazards. Several agencies reported that all workplaces were inspected during CY 2017. A few agencies indicated that their facilities were inspected by GSA, OSHA, or a federal contractor. Overall, agencies' involvement in internal and external inspections included correcting minor issues on the spot, abating hazards as required by corrective action plans, and updating policy and/or procedural guidance to improve the effectiveness of their OSH programs. In CY 2017, 82 agencies (89 percent) oversaw self-inspection activities, with a few having the inspections conducted by outside sources. (Please refer to Section 1 – OSHA Activities for an analysis of agencies' evaluations of their OSH programs.)

Federal Employee Training (Including Overseas Employees)

Agencies reported providing a wide range of support to their stateside employees. While most agencies reported providing employee OSH training based on job responsibilities, some agencies made special efforts to ensure that collateral duty OSH personnel received all appropriate training. Many agencies provided support by publishing information on their OSH websites and in their newsletters, encouraging OSH personnel to participate in local FFSHCs, and recognizing employees' efforts with OSH awards. In addition, agencies supported employees participating in professional OSH organizations and pursuing OSH certifications. On a related note, several agencies supported employee safety and health by encouraging healthy lifestyles. For example, agencies provided employees with onsite fitness centers or subsidized gym memberships, sponsored health fairs, or offered health screenings and physical examinations.

The Act, E.O. 12196, and 29 CFR Part 1960 have no geographical limits. These regulations require agencies to provide safe and healthful workplaces to all federal civilian employees, including those who work outside U.S. borders. In CY 2017, approximately 113,800 government employees worked overseas. This represents an 11 percent increase from the 102,267 federal civilian employees reported working overseas in CY 2016. Agencies reported providing OSH coverage to their overseas employees through the DoD, the Department of State (DOS), or their own programs. All agencies described providing their employees with prophylactic immunizations, training, and pre-travel information prior to deployment.

Whistleblower Protection Programs

In the CY 2017 information request to federal agencies, OSHA asked agencies to provide information on their whistleblower protection programs. As required by 29 CFR Part 1960, Subpart G, agencies must ensure that employees are not subjected to restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal for filing a report of unsafe or unhealthy working conditions. Agencies were to provide information on any federal employee allegations or reprisal as well as all actions taken in response to the allegations. Almost all agencies acknowledged their whistleblower responsibilities and reported having a well-designed protection program. The Department of Justice (DOJ) and DOS reported investigating allegations of reprisal during CY 2017. DOJ stated that it opened two cases. In the first case, the employee alleged that a senior manager retaliated by damaging the employee's reputation within the agency and by denying advancement opportunities. The investigation is pending disposition with DOJ's Office of the Inspector General (OIG). In the second case, the employee alleged repeated

discipline and eventual termination after documenting and reporting a lead Court Security Officer's carelessness and inconsistency. The investigation has been retained by DOJ-OIG and is ongoing. DOS opened one case during the reporting period. In this case, the employee alleged termination after raising a variety of concerns, including unsafe working conditions at an overseas post. The DOS-OIG investigated the allegation but did not substantiate illegal retaliation. No other agencies received employee allegations of retaliation for reporting unsafe working conditions.

Product Safety

In their CY 2017 reports, federal agencies described their compliance with the provisions of 29 CFR § 1960.34, which addresses conflicts that may exist in standards concerning federal buildings, leased space, products purchased or supplied, and other requirements affecting federal employee safety and health. In their reports, agencies addressed how they comply with the product safety requirements of the standard, including the use of safety data sheets (SDSs), and whether the agency responded to product recalls. Fifty-one agencies (55 percent) reported being in compliance with the standard, while 26 agencies (28 percent) indicated lacking such a program. Agencies without a product safety program reported that they did not use chemicals. Six agencies (7 percent) stated that the provision was inapplicable. OSHA will contact the agencies that stated the provision was inapplicable, and those that did not address the information request, to ensure awareness of their OSH responsibilities in this area.

Accomplishments

Agencies reported on a broad range of OSH program improvements, such as revising existing policies, procedures, and manuals; implementing new training delivery systems; and instituting mandatory OSH training. In addition, agencies reported inspecting their facilities and establishments more frequently and incorporating risk assessment into their safety policies. While several agencies have invested considerable resources and developed robust OSH programs, a few agencies are still in the early stages of program development.

Agencies Failing to Submit Annual Reports

OSHA did not receive reports from the following six agencies.

- Advisory Council on Historical Preservation
- Corporation for National Community Service
- Department of Education
- Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services
- Harry S. Truman Foundation
- Office of Special Counsel

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT

SECTION 1 - OSHA ACTIVITIES

This section discusses OSHA enforcement, oversight, and compliance assistance activities; significant/novel enforcement cases involving federal agencies; and agencies' reports of self-evaluations using components of an integrated safety and health evaluation tool. In addition, this section contains information on recordkeeping, provides a summary of agency reports on fatalities and hospitalizations, and includes a brief description of the training opportunities OSHA provided solely to federal OSH personnel.

Enforcement

Inspections

OSHA is committed to strong, fair, and effective enforcement of safety and health requirements in the federal workplace. Through inspections, OSHA assesses agencies' compliance with safety and health standards and the requirements of 29 CFR Part 1960, thus reducing the number of on-the-job hazards. OSHA inspections of federal workplaces parallel those conducted in the private sector. While inspections can occur for many reasons, they generally fall into one of two categories: programmed or un-programmed. OSHA performs programmed inspections to focus resources on and emphasize: a particular safety or health issue, workplaces associated with specific hazards or adverse health outcomes/effects, and establishments where rates of injuries and illnesses exceed industry averages. Un-programmed inspections occur for many reasons and are primarily in response to employee complaints about or notifications of serious hazards.

OSHA further categorizes inspections as related to either safety or health. Safety inspections focus on workplace issues such as means of egress, electrical safety, machine guarding, or proper confined space procedures. Health inspections may focus on worker exposures to specific chemicals or infectious disease agents, or issues such as noise and ergonomics. During an inspection, if OSHA determines that safety and/or health hazards exist, OSHA will document the violations of the standards. For federal agencies, unlike the private sector, OSHA issues *Notices of Unsafe or Unhealthful Working Conditions* (Notices), which carry no monetary penalties.

There are different types of violations, depending on the severity of the hazard or the agency's response to the condition, including:

- *De Minimis* violations have no direct or immediate relationship to safety or health and do not result in citations.
- Other-Than-Serious violations capture hazards that cannot reasonably be predicted to cause death or serious physical harm to exposed employees but do have a direct and immediate relationship to their safety and health.
- Serious violations are hazards that could cause injury or illness that would most likely result in death or serious physical harm to the employee(s).
- Willful violations exist under the Act where an employer has demonstrated either an intentional disregard for the requirements of the Act or a plain indifference to employee safety and health.
- Repeat violations occur when an employer has been cited previously for the same or a substantially similar condition or hazard and the Notice has become a final order.
- Failure-To-Abate violations occur when the agency has not corrected a violation for which OSHA has issued a Notice, and the abatement date has passed or is covered under a settlement agreement. A *failure-to-abate* also exists when the agency has not complied with interim measures involved in a long-term abatement within the given timeframe.

OSHA Inspection Activity

During CY 2017, OSHA conducted 509 programmed inspections and 318 un-programmed inspections of federal worksites. Inspections averaged 1.84 violations per programmed inspection and 0.87 violations per un-programmed inspection. According to data obtained through the OSHA Information System, 391 of the 509 worksites that received programmed inspections (77 percent) were not in compliance. Overall, OSHA discovered 1,341 violations: 899 Serious, 315 Repeat, 1 Willful, and 126 Other-Than-Serious.

In CY 2017, OSHA continued to conduct programmed inspections that focused on specific federal agency establishments/hazards. For example, OSHA targeted federal worksites through the Federal Agency Targeting Inspection Program that used the previous fiscal year's Office of Workers' Compensation Programs data to identify federal establishments with the highest number of lost-time cases. In addition, OSHA inspected federal agencies under a variety of national and local emphasis programs that targeted specific hazards (such as falls), specific injuries (such as amputations), and industries (such as maritime).

As illustrated in Table 1, while the number of programmed inspections increased in CY 2017 as compared to the prior two years, the average number of serious violations decreased. Similarly, the average number of serious violations decreased for un-programmed inspections.

Table 1. *OSHA Federal Agency Programmed, Un-programmed Inspection Activity, CY 2015 through CY 2017.*

	CY 2017	CY 2016	CY 2015
Programmed Inspections	509	349	475
Percent in Compliance	23	11	10
Average Number of Violations	3.02	3.19	3.99
Serious, Willful, Repeat Violations	939	873	1088
Average Number Serious, Willful, Repeat Violations	1.84	2.56	2.29
Un-programmed Inspections	318	365	344
Percent in Compliance	51	51	49
Average Number of Violations	2.72	1.21	2.23
Serious, Willful, Repeat Violations	276	352	345
Average Number Serious, Willful, Repeat Violations	0.87	0.97	1.0
Total Inspections	827	714	819

Significant/Novel Cases

For citation purposes, OSHA defines significant cases as inspections with penalties over \$180,000 and novel cases as inspections involving specific enforcement issues, such as workplace violence or ergonomics. While, by law, OSHA cannot assess penalties against federal agencies, it can determine the significance of a federal agency case by comparing the violations to the penalties that it would assess to a "similar" private sector employer.

In CY 2017, OSHA issued two federal agency significant/novel case reports. One case involved USDA, and one case involved DoD. (See Table 2.)

Table 2. *Summary of OSHA Significant/Novel Cases Involving Federal Agencies.*

Department/Agency	Inspection Type	Program	Type of Violations
USDA – U.S. Forest Service (USFS)/Job Corps Region 3 – Coeburn, Virginia	Planned Program	Amputation	Willful: 1 Serious: 4 Other-Than-Serious: 1
OSHA initiated this inspection when the USFS – Job Corps reported that a Job Corps welding student had amputated the tip of the left index finger. The student was operating a hydraulic shear machine at the time of the incident.			
DOD – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Bonneville Dam Project Region 10 – Cascade Locks, Oregon	Planned Program	FEDSAFE	Repeat: 5 Serious: 3 Other-Than-Serious: 3
OSHA initiated this inspection as a FEDSAFE regional emphasis planned program inspection for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Dam Project. OSHA personnel conducted safety and health inspections throughout the facility.			

Oversight

Evaluations

Section 1-401(h) of E.O. 12196 requires the Secretary of Labor to “evaluate the occupational safety and health programs of agencies and promptly submit reports to the agency heads.” While the E.O. establishes OSHA’s responsibility for evaluating federal agencies, 29 CFR § 1960.79 requires agencies to perform their own self-evaluations. Both the OSHA evaluations and the agencies’ self-evaluations focus on assessing agencies’ OSH program elements.

Federal operations and worksites are quite diverse, ranging from office spaces to construction sites. As a result, federal employees face potential exposure to a wide range of OSH hazards. Since agency OSH programs integrate OSH attributes into their organizational structures, they require a systematic approach to determine whether policies and procedures are appropriately developed and implemented. An evaluation determines if an OSH program’s policies and procedures are regularly monitored and modified to correct any problems and/or adapt to a changing worksite environment.

In 1985, OSHA developed and validated Form 33 to accurately measure the effectiveness of private sector employers’ OSH programs. OSHA’s On-Site Consultation Program refined Form 33 through years of use in the private sector. In 2013, OSHA adapted Form 33 to evaluate the safety and health programs of federal agencies. Based on the concept of an organizational safety and health program, Form 33 provides for an assessment of the three components of a structured OSH program—operational, managerial, and cultural. It uses 58 attributes as metrics for a program’s overall effectiveness and integration into an agency. (Please refer to Appendix 1 for lists of Attributes by Component OSHA selected for the CY 2017 reporting period.)

The operational component measures whether a program has a well-defined and communicated system to identify, correct, and control hazards. The managerial component assesses whether the program incorporates effective planning, administration, training, management leadership, and supervision to

support the prevention or elimination of workplace hazards. Finally, the cultural component evaluates whether the OSH program has developed an effective safety culture in which management and labor come together to effectively reduce or eliminate hazards. While the attributes within each of the components are distinct, they are interdependent and affect one another.

For the CY 2017 report, OSHA selected 20 of the tool's 58 attributes to provide a comprehensive assessment of agencies' OSH programs. OSHA selected nine attributes each from the operational and managerial components, and two attributes from the cultural component. Agencies were asked to rate each of these attributes based on their CY 2017 reporting period experience and select one of the following responses: "does not exist," "needs major improvements," "needs minor improvements," or "is highly effective." The response "does not exist" indicates that the attribute was not in place at all, while the response "is highly effective" indicates the attribute's complete effectiveness and integration into the OSH program without need for improvement. The other ratings indicate that some aspect of the attribute is present, needing either major or minor improvements, respectively. If an agency believes an attribute does not apply to its program, it may select "not applicable." In addition to scoring each attribute, agencies had to provide detailed information supporting each chosen attribute rating.

Overall Assessment

For the CY 2017 reporting period, OSHA received responses from 92 of 98 agencies, a 94 percent response rate⁴. Of the responding agencies, 15 (16 percent) provided an average rating of "highly effective" for each of the 20 attributes, and 58 agencies (59 percent) indicated a need for minor improvements in most of their OSH programs. Of the 15 agencies that provided an average score of "highly effective" for the attributes, six (40 percent) agencies⁵ provided a rating other than "highly effective" on one of the 20 component attributes. These ratings indicated that these six agencies needed minor improvements to at least one component of their programs. This discrepancy included agencies that did not report on the status of their OSH program or reported that an OSH program, in full or part, was "not applicable" to their situations. Agencies' assessment scores indicate that, overall, these organizations recognize that effective safety and health programs are assets to their organizations.

Of the 92 agencies that submitted reports, five (5 percent) agencies either did not provide attribute ratings or provided a "not applicable" rating for each attribute. In their reports, most of these agencies indicated that, while they are committed to taking safety precautions in the course of their daily business operations, they did not employ full-time safety and health or collateral duty staff during CY 2017. These agencies also stated that the attributes in Form 33 do not apply to their operations because they have very few employees and their operations are limited to administrative functions. The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board stated, for example, that given the size and nature of its mission, it has not implemented formal safety programs.

⁴ Tables 3a and 3b depict the overall scores federal agencies assigned to the self-evaluations of their respective OSH programs for CY 2017. Those agencies that either did not rate any of the 20 attributes in the self-assessment or did not conduct a self-evaluation are identified as "NR" (not reported) in the Table. In addition, the agencies (listed in the Executive Summary) that did not provide an annual report are omitted from the Table.

⁵ African Development Foundation, Armed Forces Retirement Home, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Federal Elections Commission, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Capital Planning Commission, National Mediation Board, Social Security Administration, and Vietnam Education Foundation provided a "highly effective" rating for each of the 20 attributes.

Table 3a. *Major Departments/Independent Agencies' Average Safety and Health Program Rating (n = 22).*

Agency	Rating	Agency	Rating
Department of Agriculture	▲	Department of State	★
Department of the Air Force	▲	Department of Transportation	▲
Department of the Army	●	Department of Veterans Affairs	▲
Department of Commerce	▲	Department of the Interior	▲
Department of Defense	▲	Department of the Navy	▲
Department of Energy	●	Department of the Treasury	▲
Department of Health and Human Services	▲	Environmental Protection Agency	▲
Department of Homeland Security	▲	General Services Administration	●
Department of Housing and Urban Development	▲	National Aeronautics and Space Admin.	★
Department of Labor	▲	Social Security Administration	★
Department of Justice	▲	Tennessee Valley Authority	▲
Score Explanation			

★ Highly Effective – Completely in place

▲ Needs Minor Improvements – Mostly in place with only minor improvements needed

● Needs Major Improvements – Some portion/aspect is present but major improvement is needed

● Does Not Exist – No discernible indication that a portion or aspect is even in place

NA – Not applicable

NR – Data not reported by agency

Table 3b. *Smaller Independent Agencies' Average Safety and Health Program Rating (n = 70).*

Agency	Score	Agency	Score
Ability One	▲	Morris K. and Stewart L. Udall Foundation	★
African Development Foundation	▲	National Archives and Records Administration	▲

Agency	Score	Agency	Score
American Battle Monuments Commission	●	National Capital Planning Commission	★
Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board)	▲	National Credit Union Administration	●
Armed Forces Retirement Home	★	National Council on Disability	●
Broadcasting Board of Governors	▲	National Endowment for the Arts	▲
Central Intelligence Agency	▲	National Endowment for the Humanities	▲
Commission of Fine Arts	NR	National Gallery of Art	▲
Commission on Civil Rights	▲	National Labor Relations Board	▲
Commodity Futures Trading Corporation	▲	National Mediation Board	★
Consumer Product Safety Commission	▲	National Science Foundation	▲
Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency	★	National Transportation Safety Board	▲
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board	●	Nuclear Regulatory Commission	▲
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission	▲	Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission	★
Export-Import Bank of the United States	NA	Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation	▲
Farm Credit Administration	▲	Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board	NA
Federal Communications Commission	▲	Office of Personnel Management	●
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	★	Overseas Private Investment Corporation	▲
Federal Election Commission	★	Peace Corps	NR
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	●	Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	▲
Federal Housing Finance Agency	●	Postal Regulatory Commission	▲
Federal Labor Relations Authority	●	Presidio Trust	▲
Federal Maritime Commission	▲	Railroad Retirement Board	▲
Federal Mine Safety and Health Review	★	Security and Exchange Commission	★
Federal Retirement Thrift Board	▲	Selective Service System	NR
Federal Reserve Board	▲	Small Business Administration	▲
Federal Trade Commission	▲	The Smithsonian Institution	▲
Institute of Museum and Library Services	▲	Social Security Advisory Board	▲
Inter-American Foundation	▲	U.S. Agency for International Development	▲
International Boundary and Water Commission	▲	U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board	▲
James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation	★	U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum	▲
Kennedy Center	●	U.S. International Trade Commission	●

Agency	Score	Agency	Score
Marine Mammal Commission	▲	U.S. Office of Government Ethics	▲
Merit Systems Protection	●	U.S. Trade and Development Agency	▲
Millennium Challenge Corporation	▲	Vietnam Education Foundation	★
Score Explanation			

★ Highly Effective – Completely in place

▲ Needs Minor Improvements – Mostly in place with only minor improvements needed

● Needs Major Improvements – Some portion/aspect is present but major improvement is needed

○ Does Not Exist – No discernible indication that a portion or aspect is even in place

NA – Not applicable

NR – Data not reported by agency

Operational Component Assessment

OSHA provided federal agencies with nine attributes to rate the operational component of their OSH programs. Overall, agencies rated the attributes of the operational component highly, indicated by a “needs minor improvements” or a “highly effective” rating. Agencies reported success with the *self-inspections*, *hazard reporting*, and *work rules and practices* attributes, with most rating these attributes as “needs minor improvements” or “highly effective.” Eighty-four agencies (91 percent) provided a rating of “needs minor improvements” or “highly effective” for the *hazard reporting* attribute. Most agencies stated that employees can report hazards to managers and safety personnel verbally and by email. Several agencies, including the Department of the Army, set up hazard reporting boxes in breakrooms and other conspicuous locations to allow anonymous hazard reporting. In addition to these methods, many agencies implemented electronic safety hazard reporting systems, allowing employees to report and track safety hazards from a single electronic portal. Eighty-two agencies (89 percent) provided a rating of “needs minor improvements” or “highly effective” for the *self-inspection* attribute. Many agencies reported conducting more inspections during CY 2017. The Department of Energy, for example, stated that supervisors, employees, and safety and health staff conducted both scheduled and random inspections throughout the year at all facilities to determine if patterns of recurring hazards or noncompliance existed. Similarly, 82 agencies (89 percent) rated their agencies as “needs minor improvements” or “highly effective” for the *work rules and practices* attribute. The Department of Commerce (DOC) stated that it has a robust library of written administrative orders, manuals, standard operating procedures, protocols, guides, flyers, and broadcasts that are used for discussion and planning to ensure mitigation of known hazards. DOC also stated that, based on its bureaus’ missions and risk levels, it has instituted briefings before starting certain work activities. In all cases, the DOC intranet webpage serves as an ever-growing and improving safety information resource to ensure visibility of potential hazards.

Several agencies indicated a need for major improvements in the operational component of their OSH programs. *Baseline hazard survey* and *root cause investigations* attributes were not well implemented, as indicated by agencies rating these attributes as “needs major improvements” or “does not exist.” For example, 13 agencies (14 percent) provided ratings of “needs major improvements” and “does not exist” for the *baseline hazard survey* attribute. While most of these agencies did not state why they

have not conducted a baseline hazard survey within the past five years, several indicated that they plan to complete one in CY 2019. In CY 2017, some agencies provided ratings of “not applicable” or “not reported” for *engineering controls* (31 agencies, 34 percent); *baseline surveys* (17 agencies, 19 percent); and *root cause investigations* (14 agencies, 15 percent). OSHA will continue to work with these agencies to determine how best to implement these programs, if needed.

Managerial Component Assessment

This year, OSHA provided federal agencies with nine attributes to rate the managerial component of their OSH program, instead of the 11 attributes from previous years. Table 4 provides the amended list of attributes. Overall, the attributes of the managerial component were rated highly, indicated by a “needs minor improvements” or “highly effective” rating. During the CY 2017 reporting period, the four attributes used to assess the Administration/Supervision subcomponent received the highest number of “needs minor improvements” and “highly effective” ratings (79 agencies, 86 percent). Many agencies, including DoD, indicated that they provide managers and supervisors with sufficient resources to effectively implement OSH programs during the planning, programming, budgeting, and execution phases. DoD stated OSH staffing levels are adequate to assist in implementing policy requirements, and all OSH staff members have the resources necessary to perform their tasks, including the access and authority to act.

In CY 2017, several agencies provided “not applicable” or “not reported” ratings for numerous managerial components of their OSH programs. Specifically, “not applicable” or “not reported” ratings were provided for the *incidence data* (26 agencies, 28 percent), *OSH management system review* (14 agencies, 15 percent), *new employee orientation* (13 agencies, 14 percent), and *supervisory training* (13 agencies, 14 percent) attributes. Additionally, nine agencies (10 percent) provided “not applicable” or “not reported” ratings for the *knowledge, skills, and information* and the *safety and health responsibilities* attributes. OSHA will work with these agencies to determine the necessity of such programs and how best to implement them.

Cultural Component Assessment

For the CY 2017 reporting period, OSHA provided federal agencies with two attributes to rate the cultural component of their OSH programs. In years prior, OSHA provided agencies with 10 attributes to evaluate the cultural component. Table 4 provides the amended list of attributes. Most federal agencies provided a “needs minor improvements” or “highly effective” rating for both cultural component attributes. Seventy-three agencies (79 percent) provided a “needs minor improvements” or “highly effective” rating for the *resource allocation* attribute, while 12 agencies (13 percent) reported “not applicable” or “not rated” for the same attribute. Similarly, 69 agencies (75 percent) provided a “needs minor improvements” or “highly effective” rating for the *employee involvement* attribute. However, thirteen agencies (14 percent) provided a rating of “not applicable” or “not rated” for the same attribute. Overall, agencies indicated that they have a comprehensive safety and health culture that works to reduce workplace injuries and illnesses. Most agencies stated that their OSH programs are effective because they are supported by management and require supervisor and employee involvement.

Table 4. *Number of Federal Agencies Self-assigned Ratings to Safety and Health Program Attributes (n = 92).*

Operational Component

Number of Agencies with the Self-assigned Rating

Subcomponent

Attribute



NA

NR

Hazard
Anticipation/Detection

Hazard survey

42

20

2

11

14

3

Self-inspection

60

22

5

0

1

4

Surveillance

49

25

4

2

7

5

Hazard reporting

59

25

2

0

2

4

Root cause analysis

47

24

6

1

9

5

Hazard
Prevention/Control

Engineering controls

37

21

1

2

27

4

Work rules and
practices

59

23

3

0

3

4

OSHA-mandated
programs

50

28

3

2

6

3

Tracking hazard
correction

45

30

3

2

8

4

Managerial Component

Number of Agencies with the Self-assigned Rating

Subcomponent	Attribute	★	▲	●	●	NA	NR
Planning/Evaluation	Incidence data	28	31	2	5	23	3
	Action plan	36	31	6	6	9	4
	Annual SHMS review	38	29	7	4	10	4
Administration/ Supervision	Specific assignment of OSH tasks	52	29	4	0	4	3
	Knowledge, skills, and information	43	35	4	1	5	4
	Authority to perform	52	27	4	1	5	3
	OSH organizational policies	47	31	4	1	5	4
Safety/Health Training	New employee orientation	49	25	5	0	4	9
	Supervisory training	32	39	7	1	4	9

Cultural Component		Number of Agencies with the Self-assigned Rating					
Subcomponent	Attribute	★	▲	●	●	NA	NR
Management Leadership	Resource allocation	44	29	5	2	4	8
Employee Participation	Process involvement	48	21	9	1	2	11
Score Explanation							

★ Highly Effective – Completely in place

▲ Needs Minor Improvements – Mostly in place with only minor improvements needed

Cultural Component

Number of Agencies with the Self-assigned Rating

Subcomponent Attribute



NA

NR

● Needs Major Improvements – Some portion/aspect is present but major improvement is needed

● Does Not Exist – No discernible indication that a portion or aspect is even in place

NA – Not applicable

NR – Data not reported by agency

Recordkeeping

As set forth in 29 CFR Part 1904, federal agencies must maintain injury and illness records in the same format as the private sector. The recordkeeping requirement allows agencies and OSHA to identify worksites with the highest injury and illness rates and to accurately identify the training needs of federal agencies. DOL, through its Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), collects the statutorily required injury and illness records from all Executive Branch agencies on an annual basis and provides them to OSHA.

The fourth completed data collection cycle occurred in CY 2017. OSHA worked with BLS to track the data collected and monitor its quality. OSHA also worked with OWCP to assist agencies using the E-Comp system⁶ to ensure that all required data were captured and explain the procedures for transferring the data from E-Comp to BLS. OSHA provided agencies with guidance about the data collection process and followed up with information on errors identified in the submissions.

During the reporting period, OSHA received complete establishment data from 54 of 96 agencies (56 percent) and partial data from an additional 31 agencies (32 percent). The most common errors were the failures to provide the number of employees or hours worked for each establishment. OSHA will analyze the collected data for key findings and the collection process for lessons learned to further streamline and simplify the procedure. (Please see Appendix 2 for a table detailing the success of federal agencies' injury and illness reporting.)

Of the limited data BLS received in CY 2017, agencies reported 32,601 injuries and seven fatalities. According to the data, the injuries and illnesses included: 273 skin problems, 297 respiratory conditions, 33 poisonings, 846 issues with hearing loss, and 2,125 other cases of illness.

Compliance Assistance

Agency Technical Assistance Request

An agency technical assistance request (ATAR) is a consultative service open only to federal agencies and is similar to OSHA's Consultation Program for private-sector employers. Federal agencies may contact an OSHA Area Office and request technical assistance, including hazard abatement advice,

⁶ E-Comp is an electronic reporting system for OWCP information that also allows federal agencies to maintain their OSHA-required injury and illness data.

training, a partial or comprehensive visit, and/or program assistance. While the request is generally considered to be strictly consultative, an agency's subsequent failure or refusal to abate serious hazards may result in an inspection referral.

In CY 2017, three OSHA Area Offices conducted a total of five ATARs.

- The Cleveland, Ohio Area Office assisted DOL's OWCP in Cleveland, Ohio with an ergonomics assessment.
- The Cleveland, Ohio Area Office assisted DOL's Energy Occupational Illness Compensation Program with an ergonomics assessment.
- The Omaha, Nebraska Area Office conducted an ATAR for the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service's Kellogg Soil Survey Laboratory in Lincoln, Nebraska. The USDA requested a comprehensive visit of the facility and program assistance with recordkeeping, hazard communication, and ergonomics.
- The Portland, Oregon Area Office conducted an ATAR for the USFS Yankee Fork Station in Challis, Idaho. USFS requested a comprehensive visit of approximately 15 buildings.
- The Portland, Oregon Area Office provided technical assistance to the USFS in Portland, Oregon regarding pesticide regulations. Specifically, USFS asked OSHA to evaluate its pesticide application process under the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Worker Protection Standard (WPS) and requested an explanation of OSHA's hazard communication regulations. OSHA determined that the scope of EPA's WPS covers pesticide applications in forests and instructed USFS to follow the EPA regulations to protect its workers.

Field Federal Safety and Health Councils

Field Federal Safety and Health Councils (FFSHCs) are federal interagency groups, chartered by the Secretary, that bring together local OSH professionals for education, problem solving, and cooperation in the safety and health field. Located throughout the nation, these Councils work to reduce the incidence, severity, and cost of accidents, injuries, and illnesses within their designated geographic areas.

Agencies reported varied involvement, from extensive engagement to occasional worker attendance at FFSHC meetings. DoD, for example, reported that approximately 20% of its agencies participated in local FFSHCs during CY 2017. Many of the DoD agencies hosted local and regional meetings and provided logistical support. Similarly, EPA reported that 17 of its employees participated in 10 FFSHCs. Collectively, EPA employees attended more than 30 FFSHC meetings in CY 2017. Only 10 agencies reported that they provided in-kind support to their local Councils during CY 2017. That support ranged from generating meeting notices and providing meeting space to assisting the FFSHC with program development.

In CY 2017, 36 FFSHCs actively carried out efforts to improve the effectiveness of OSH functions within the Government⁷. According to the FFSHC annual reports FFSHCs submitted to OSHA, 31 departments and agencies participated in the Councils and over 2,000 federal employees attended meetings and/or council-provided training. Participation decreased for some as a result of limited funds and personnel shortages. Nationwide coverage by the Councils, particularly in rural areas, also limited participation.

⁷ Please see Appendix 3 for a complete listing of active FFSHCs for CY 2017 and other FFSHC information.

Under 29 CFR § 1960.89, each active Council must submit an annual report to the Secretary describing activities and programs for the previous calendar year and plans, objectives, and goals for the current year. OSHA uses these reports to assess each individual FFSHC's program plans to determine the success of these goals and objectives. The Councils that best exemplify the intent and purpose of the FFSHC program may receive an achievement award from the Secretary.

In determining award recipients, Councils are grouped into three categories based on the size of the federal populations they serve, which allows them to compete with other Councils that possess approximately the same resources and serve similar populations. Each Council's annual report to the Secretary is evaluated, rated, and ranked against other FFSHCs in its category. The top three scoring Councils in each category receive awards for Superior Performance, Meritorious Achievement, and Notable Recognition.

In CY 2017, nine FFSHCs received a secretarial award for their activities. By category, these were:

- Category I:** Federal employee population exceeding 24,000
- Superior Performance – Oklahoma
 - Meritorious Achievement – Greater Kansas City
 - Notable Recognition – Dallas/Fort Worth
- Category II:** Federal employee population between 12,000 and 24,000
- Superior Performance – Minneapolis
 - Meritorious Achievement – Middle Tennessee Volunteer
 - Notable Recognition – Central New York
- Category III:** Federal employee population of fewer than 12,000
- Superior Performance – Mississippi Gulf Coast
 - Meritorious Achievement – Hudson Valley
 - Notable Recognition – Louisville Area

Alternate and Supplementary Standards

Under 29 CFR § 1960.17, if an agency cannot comply with an applicable OSHA standard, the agency may submit a request to OSHA for an alternate standard.⁸ Currently, there are six OSHA-approved alternate standards. The agencies and their alternate standards include:

- Federal Aviation Administration - *Alternate Standard for Fire Safety in Air Traffic Control Towers*;
- National Archives and Records Administration - *Standard on Special-Purpose Ladders*;
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration - *Standard for Lifting Devices and Equipment*;
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - *Alternate Diving Standards*;
- U.S. Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command - *Management of Weight-Handling Equipment*; and,
- U.S. Navy - *Gas Free Engineering Manual*.

⁸ An alternate standard is the federal sector's equivalent of a private-sector variance. Any alternate standard must provide protection for the affected federal employees that is equal to or greater than the applicable OSHA standard.

Under 29 CFR § 1960.18, if no OSHA standard exists that is appropriate for application to working conditions of federal agency employees, an agency must develop a supplementary standard. Currently, there are two supplementary standards. The agencies and their supplementary standards include:

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration - *Safety Standard for Explosives, Propellants, and Pyrotechnics*; and
- U.S. Department of Agriculture/Forest Service - *Supplementary Standard for Containers and Portable Tanks Transport*.

FEDWEEK

OSHA provides a week of training each year, known as FEDWEEK, specifically for federal agency OSH personnel. The tuition-free training is held at the OSHA Training Institute, located in Arlington Heights, Illinois. OSHA seeks input from federal agencies when developing the FEDWEEK curriculum. While the number of federal agencies represented at the CY 2017 event remained consistent with prior years, there was a slight increase in the number of participants compared to CY 2016. (Please see Table 5 below.) In CY 2017, OSHA provided nine half-day seminars, offered twice during the week. Federal OSH employee participants had the opportunity to attend up to six different sessions on various topics: Distracted Driving; Electrical; Fire Protection; Hazard Communications – Aligning with GSH; Indoor Air Quality; Office Ergonomics; Recommended Practices for Safety and Health Programs; Walking/Working Surfaces; and Workplace Violence.

Table 5: *FEDWEEK Participation by Attendees and Calendar Year (2015–17).*

	Calendar Year		
	2017	2016	2015
Participants	76	73	93
Seminar Registrants	130	NA*	458
Agencies Represented	18	NA*	18

*A new system for registering students did not include this information.

Federal Agency OSH Managers' Roundtable

The Federal Agency OSH Managers' Roundtable is a valuable tool for agencies to exchange information on safety and health issues, and to share best practices. Since its inception, the number of federal senior OSH managers, medical personnel, technical experts, and labor representatives participating in the roundtable has increased significantly. Additionally, the topics addressed during roundtables demonstrate added value for participating agencies. In 2017, OSHA began preparations for roundtable meetings to be held in 2018. OSHA intends to provide agencies with information on several OSHA programs include: Voluntary Protection Programs, National Safety Stand Down, and Safe + Sound Week.

SECTION 2 – FEDERAL AGENCY OSH ACTIVITIES

This section contains information on agency-reported fatalities and hospitalizations, agency participation in OSH committees and councils, and agencies' product safety and motor vehicle safety programs. In addition, this section provides a summary of agencies' methods of controlling occupational injury and illness trends, their OSH training programs, and the protections agencies afford employees who report OSH hazards. Per statute, the GSA and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) must provide certain services to federal agencies to support the Government's pursuit of improved safety and health conditions for federal employees. A summary of their activities is provided at the end of this section.

Fatalities and Hospitalizations

The Act, provisions of 29 CFR Part 1960, and other regulations require employers to investigate, track, and promptly report findings involving work-related fatalities and hospitalizations to OSHA. Agencies reported 24 federal civilian worker fatalities in CY 2017, the same number reported in CY 2016 and an approximately 12.5 percent increase from the 21 work-related federal civilian employee fatalities reported for CY 2015.

Table 6: *Number of Fatalities/hospitalizations by Department/Agency for CY 2017.*

Agency	Fatalities	Hospitalizations
Consumer Product Safety Commission	0	1
Department of Agriculture	3	22
U.S. Forest Service	3	21
Natural Resources Conservation Service	0	1
Department of Commerce	0	1
Department of Defense	2	67
Army and Air Force Exchange Service	0	4
Defense Contract Audit Agency	0	1
Department of the Air Force	0	18
Department of the Army	2	26
Department of the Navy	0	17
DoD Education Activity	0	1
Department of Health and Human Services	0	6
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	0	1
Health Resources and Services Administration	0	1
Indian Health Service	0	3
National Institutes of Health	0	1
Department of Homeland Security	1	30
Federal Emergency Management Agency	0	2
Transportation Security Administration	0	3
U.S. Coast Guard	0	1
U.S. Customs and Border Protection	1	23

Agency	Fatalities	Hospitalizations
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement	0	1
Department of Justice	1	19
Bureau of Prisons	0	10
Federal Bureau of Investigation	1	6
U.S. Marshals Service	0	3
Department of Labor	1	9
Bureau of Labor Statistics	0	1
Job Corps	1	7
Wage and Hour Division	0	1
Department of State	11	30
Department of the Interior	2	11
Bureau of Indian Affairs	0	4
Bureau of Land Management	1	5
Bureau of Reclamation	1	0
Fish and Wildlife Service	0	2
Department of Transportation	1	0
Environmental Protection Agency	1	4
International Boundary and Water Commission	0	1
National Credit Union Administration	0	1
Nuclear Regulatory Commission	0	1
Smithsonian Institute	1	4
Capital Gallery	0	1
National Air and Space Museum	0	1
National Zoological Park	0	2
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute	1	0
Social Security Administration	0	2
Tennessee Valley Authority	0	1
Total	24	210

Summary and Agency Fatality/Hospitalization Reports

The Consumer Product Safety Commission reported one hospitalization:

- An employee suffered first- and second-degree burns to the palm of the hand during routine fireworks field testing.

USDA reported three civilian fatalities and 21 work-related hospitalizations at USFS, and one work-related hospitalization at the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

- An employee waded into a streambed to sample its composition and stumbled on a submerged rock. The employee then walked to the river bank and lost consciousness.

U.S. Forest Service

- Two employees, in separate incidents, were killed in vehicular accidents.
- During a tree felling operation, an employee was struck from behind by the falling tree and fatally injured.

Several injuries resulted from physical exertion.

- Five employees, in separate incidents, were hospitalized due to extreme muscle exertion after engaging in strenuous physical fitness activities.
- An employee working in a garden felt short of breath and was hospitalized.
- An employee taking the firefighter work capacity test collapsed and was hospitalized.
- An employee engaged in field operations suffered a foot injury that required hospitalization.

Several injuries resulted from falling or being struck.

- An employee fell off a ladder and was hospitalized.
- An employee was loading cattle into livestock trailer when an animal kicked the trailer gate, which hit the employee's face.
- An employee was struck on the head/climbing helmet by a rock that was dislodged by hikers on the trail above him. The blow caused the employee to fall approximately 70 feet down the mountainside.
- An employee fell off of a horse and broke an elbow.
- An employee climbing a ladder suffered a broken leg when the ladder moved and the employee's left foot became caught in the rung of the ladder.

Two injuries were the results of trying to correct sewer problems.

- An employee suffered respiratory distress after inhaling vapors from a chemical used to unclog a sink.
- An employee who was working in a sewer house had difficulty breathing and was hospitalized. The employee was diagnosed with a bacterial blood infection.

Two injuries were due to burns related to wildland fires.

- An employee was burned when the employee's chainsaw ignited.
- An employee was burned when a firehose malfunctioned and sprayed the worker with hot water.

Two injuries resulted from motor vehicle accidents.

- An employee operating a motorcycle was seriously injured when the motorcycle tipped over.
- An employee operating a motor vehicle was seriously injured in a motor vehicle accident.

Two injuries were due to exposures.

- An employee was bitten by a snake and hospitalized for treatment.
- An employee was hospitalized after making contact with poison oak.

DOC reported one hospitalization.

- An employee was hospitalized after being stung by a bee.

DoD reported two civilian fatalities and 26 work-related hospitalizations at the Department of the Army, four hospitalizations at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, one hospitalization at the

Defense Contract Audit Agency, 18 hospitalizations at the Department of the Air Force, one hospitalization at the DoD Education Activity, and 17 hospitalizations at the Department of the Navy.

Army & Air Force Exchange Service

- Two employees were injured, in separate incidents, as the result of slipping or falling. One employee tripped over another employee's foot. Another employee slipped on black ice in a parking lot.
- An employee was hospitalized with serious injuries after being struck by a forklift.
- An employee amputated the tip of a finger while removing residue from inside a dough machine.

Defense Contract Audit Agency

- An employee broke an arm after slipping in a parking lot.

Department of the Air Force

Several injuries were the results of slip, trips, or falls.

- Three employees were injured, in separate instances, after misplacing a foot and falling.
- Two employees were injured, in separate instances, after slipping on a wet surface.
- An employee tripped and fractured a kneecap.
- An employee fell off a bicycle and was hospitalized.
- An employee fell from a lawnmower and was hospitalized.
- An employee fell off a catwalk and was hospitalized.

Three injuries were the results of being struck.

- An employee collided into another person and was hospitalized.
- An employee ran into an obstacle and was hospitalized.
- An employee driving a stake into the ground was injured when fragments of a stake hit the employee.
- Three employees, in separate incidents, were injured while lifting objects.
- Two employees, in separate incidents, were hospitalized due to dog bites.
- An employee preparing food was burned by hot liquid and hospitalized.

Department of the Army

- Two employees, in separate incidents, were killed due to operating construction roller machines. One died of sepsis brought on by wounds from being pinned under the overturned machine, while the other was crushed to death.

Three injuries were the results of caught-in/between accidents.

- An employee working on an air hose while a crane was in motion was injured when the employee's arm was caught in a pinch point between the crane and an access ladder.
- An employee smashed a finger while trying to dislodge material from the tailgate of a dump truck.
- An employee crushed a finger while moving material between two forklifts.

Several injuries were the results of slip, trips, or falls.

- Three employees, in separate incidents, were hospitalized after falling down backwards.
- Two employees, in separate incidents, fell off a ladder and were hospitalized.

- Two employees, in separate incidents, tripped and suffered broken bones that required hospitalization.
- An employee slipped in a snow-covered parking lot.
- An employee's wedding ring was caught on a piece equipment during a fall and caused the skin on the finger to be torn off (degloved).
- An employee suffered second- and third-degree burns from stepping into the drain tank of a washing machine.
- An employee aboard a dredge fell on the stairs and incurred a puncture wound from a serrated tread.

Four injuries were due to physical exertion.

- Two employees, in separate incidents, became dehydrated and lost consciousness, requiring hospitalization.
- One employee injured a shoulder when lifting a bin.
- One employee suffered carpal tunnel syndrome from repetitive motion.

Three injuries resulted in amputations.

- An employee's middle fingertip was amputated while operating a parachute packing machine.
- An employee working on a tanker had a finger severed when a suspension bar fell.
- An employee suffered a finger amputation while operating a jointer.

Three injuries were the results of being struck by an object.

- An employee was struck by a falling crate and hospitalized.
- An employee ran into a building while running away from a bear and fractured an arm.
- An employee was using an air compressor to purge water out of plumbing and was injured when the pressurized air compressor lines caused a urinal to break, sending pieces of porcelain throughout the latrine. A piece of the urinal impaled the employee's elbow.

Two injuries were weapon-related.

- An employee was injured when a weapon accidentally discharged.
- An employee injured a hand when the employee picked up a damaged grenade without a pin, and the grenade exploded.

Department of Defense Education Activity

- An employee caught the tip of a shoe on the floor, fell, and was hospitalized.

Department of the Navy

- Two employees, in separate incidents, were electrocuted and hospitalized.
- An employee conducting a dive lost consciousness and was hospitalized.
- An employee performing vehicle maintenance was exposed to smoke and hospitalized.
- An employee performing maintenance on a propane boiler was injured when the superheated water flashed into a cloud of steam during a bleed operation.
- An employee's finger was amputated while performing arresting gear testing.

Several injuries were the results of slip, trips, or falls.

- Three employees, in separate incidents, suffered fractured bones after tripping over an object.
- Two employees, in separate incidents, fell off ladders and were hospitalized.
- An employee fell in a parking lot and fractured the left hip.

Three injuries were the result of being struck by an object.

- An employee suffered a fractured foot when an oak block fell on the employee's foot.
- An employee was walking barefoot, slammed the bare arch of the foot on a shelf, and was hospitalized.
- An employee suffered broken bones when a truck struck the employee.

Two injuries resulted in amputations.

- One employee's right index finger up to the first knuckle was amputated when another employee hit the finger with a drill. An employee was descending a scaffolding platform and suffered an amputated finger when the employee's ring was caught on part of the scaffolding.

The Department of Health and Human Services reported one work-related hospitalization at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one hospitalization at the Health Resources and Services Administration, three hospitalizations at the Indian Health Service, and one hospitalization at the National Institutes of Health.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- An employee tripped on the carpet and fell.

Health Resources and Services Administration

- An employee became ill and was hospitalized with typhoid fever and severe dehydration.

Indian Health Service

- While on travel in a remote area, an employee was accidentally left behind. The employee was hospitalized due to mental stress.
- An employee fell and was hospitalized.
- An employee slipped on a walking surface and injured an ankle.

National Institutes of Health

- While walking, an employee slipped on a wet floor and was hospitalized.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reported one civilian fatality and 23 work-related hospitalizations at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, two hospitalizations at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, three hospitalizations at the Transportation Security Administration, one hospitalization at the U.S. Coast Guard, and one hospitalization at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

- An employee was hospitalized for heat stress after organizing equipment in a non-air-conditioned storage bay.
- An employee tripped and fell while walking and was hospitalized.

Transportation Security Administration

- An employee, retrieving an item from a storage cabinet located behind a door, was struck in the back by the door and fell to the ground.
- Two employees, in separate incidents, suffered blood clots while inflight and were hospitalized.

U.S. Coast Guard

- An employee slipped while loading salt into a spreader and was hospitalized.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

One fatality and two injuries were the results of being struck by objects.

- Two Agents were ambushed and beaten with rocks, resulting in the death of one Agent and the hospitalization of the other Agent.
- An employee was hospitalized after a hit to the head while riding in a truck.

Several injuries were the results of physical exertion.

- Nine employees engaged in physical fitness were hospitalized for extreme muscle exertion, dehydration, or heat stress.
- An employee was hospitalized with a knee injury after engaging in training exercises.

Several injuries were the results of motor vehicle accidents.

- Three Agents, in separate incidents, were hospitalized after losing control of the all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) they were operating.
- An Agent involved in a vehicle accident was hospitalized.
- An Agent on a motorcycle suffered a foot injury that required hospitalization.

Four Agents were injured due to slips and falls.

- Two Agents, in separate incidents, fell off their horses and had to be hospitalized.
- An Agent jumped to avoid a rattlesnake and suffered serious back and neck injuries that required hospitalization.
- An Agent fell and suffered a broken ankle.
- An Agent inhaled a toxic gas while sitting idling in a patrol vehicle and was hospitalized for sustained chemical burns to the lungs.
- An Agent was inflating a boat when the boat's relief valve failed and lacerated the Agent's ankle. The agent was admitted to the hospital for surgery on the ankle.
- An employee was bitten while feeding a dog.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

- An employee contracted viral meningitis and was hospitalized.

DOJ reported one civilian fatality and six work-related hospitalizations at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 10 hospitalizations at the Bureau of Prisons, and three hospitalizations at the U.S. Marshals Service.

Bureau of Prisons

Several injuries resulted in amputations.

- Three employees, in separate incidents, amputated fingers while performing food service prep.
- Two employees, in separate incidents, amputated fingers while operating table saws.
- An employee's hand was struck by falling plywood, resulting in a finger amputation.
- An employee operating an injection molding press placed a hand between the machine frame and mold stock, amputating fingers.
- An employee received first- and second-degree burns to the arms, face, and upper back while burning a pile of tree limbs.
- An employee fell off a ladder and was hospitalized.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

- An Agent had a heart attack and died while participating in an annual physical fitness test.
- An employee was hospitalized due to heat exhaustion and dehydration after engaging in training exercises.
- An Agent was shot in the line of duty and hospitalized.
- An Agent injured a hand while participating in firearms training.
- An Agent was injured when a flashbang grenade activated in the employee's hand.
- An Agent was injured in a fall.
- An Agent was injured during parachute training.

U.S. Marshals Service

- An employee scaled a fence and landed in a hole, breaking a leg.
- An employee was shot in the foot and hospitalized.
- An employee suffered full-body muscle pain after participating in intense physical activity and was hospitalized.

DOL reported one civilian fatality and seven work-related hospitalizations at the Job Corps, one hospitalization at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and one hospitalization at the Wage and Hour Division.

Bureau of Labor Statistics

- An employee was injured in a motor vehicle accident and was hospitalized.

Job Corps

- Two Job Corps students were in a motor vehicle accident. One student was killed in the accident, and the other was hospitalized with serious injuries.
- Two Job Corps students, in separate incidents, broke legs after falling.
- A Job Corps student suffered a finger amputation while using a hydraulic press.
- A Job Corps student was pulling a bed frame away from a wall when the metal frame lacerated the student's right fingertip.
- A Job Corps student suffered carbon monoxide poisoning and was hospitalized.
- A Job Corps student was participating in forest fire fighting activities with USFS when a tree branch fell, striking and fracturing the student's right forearm.

Wage and Hour Division

- An employee was injured in a motor vehicle collision.

The Department of the Interior reported one civilian fatality and five work-related hospitalizations at the Bureau of Land Management, one fatality at the Bureau of Land Reclamation, four hospitalizations at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and two hospitalizations at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

- Two employees, in separate incidents, were hospitalized due to amputations. One employee cut off the tip of a finger while operating a radial arm saw. The other employee was struck by a table on the foot. After an infection developed in the foot, the employee was hospitalized, and the foot was amputated.
- An employee fell from an ATV and was hospitalized.

- An employee was hospitalized after a motor vehicle collision with an elk.

Bureau of Land Management

- An employee died in the hospital after being in a motor vehicle accident.
- Two employees who were engaged in wildland fire operations were hospitalized due to heat stress.
- An employee was injured when a vehicle fell off a jack and struck the employee on the back.
- An employee, fighting a wildland fire, was hospitalized for pneumonia due to smoke inhalation, weather exposure, and fatigue.
- An employee was injured after being struck by a falling tree.

Bureau of Land Reclamation

- An employee was killed in a motor vehicle collision.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- An employee was hospitalized for overexertion.
- An employee lost consciousness after completing a dive and was hospitalized.

DOS reported eleven fatalities and 30 hospitalizations:

- Forty guards conducting routine embassy security operations were involved in an explosion. Ten guards were killed in the explosion, and thirty guards were hospitalized with serious injuries.
- An employee became trapped in a boatswain's chair on a cable. The employee disconnected the safety lines, lost grip on the cable, fell approximately 420 feet to the ground below, and died.

The Department of Transportation reported one fatality:

- While on duty and participating in the Office of Inspector General's (OIG's) Physical Fitness Program, an Agent suffered a fatal heart attack.

EPA reported one fatality and four hospitalizations:

- An employee was found dead in a private restroom.
- An employee tripped and fell in the corridor, breaking an arm and dislocating a shoulder.
- An employee lost balance and fell against a wall, causing the employee's head to strike the wall.
- An employee was leaning against a table. The table tipped and the employee fell, incurring serious injuries.
- An employee was running on a wet surface, slipped, and fell to the ground.

The International Boundary and Water Commission reported one hospitalization:

- An employee was pinned between two vehicles while conducting a river dredging operation.

The National Credit Union Administration reported one hospitalization:

- An employee was injured in a motor vehicle collision at an intersection.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported one hospitalization:

- An employee was seriously injured in a rear-impact motor vehicle collision.

The Smithsonian Institute reported one fatality at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, one hospitalization at the Capital Gallery, one hospitalization at the National Air and Space Museum, and two hospitalizations at the National Zoological Park.

Capital Gallery

- An employee was driving a post into the ground when the post driver recoiled, causing the employee's hand to slip off the driver. The employee's finger was amputated at the tip.

National Air and Space Museum

- An employee missed a step on a staircase and fell.

National Zoological Park

- An employee on a ladder suffered a concussion when the employee's head hit an overhead pipe, causing the employee to fall to the floor.
- An employee on a ladder lost balance and grabbed a condensation pan in an attempt to stop from falling. The sharp edge of the pan lacerated the employee's hand.

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

- An intern became ill, had difficulty breathing, and then died.

The Social Security Administration reported two hospitalizations:

- An employee was hospitalized for breathing complications as a result of a chemical exposure.
- An employee slipped in water on the floor and was hospitalized.

Certified Safety and Health Committees

A CSHC is an agency OSH committee that the head of the sponsoring agency has certified to the Secretary of Labor as meeting the requirements of 29 CFR Part 1960, Subpart F. These committees monitor and support agencies' safety and health programs. Specifically, they allow agencies to maintain an open channel of communication between employees and management and to facilitate employee input on agencies' OSH-related policies, conditions, and practices.

When an agency decides to form a CSHC, it must report this intent to the Secretary. The agency must provide the Secretary with information regarding the existence, location, and coverage area (establishments and populations) of the committee, and the names and phone numbers of each committee chair. In addition, the agency must certify that the committee meets all the requirements of 29 CFR Part 1960, Subpart F. It must also provide an update of its OSH program activity as part of its required annual report to the Secretary.

Agencies with CSHCs that meet the requirements are exempt from unannounced OSHA inspections. However, these agencies may request an inspection. While any agency may form a CSHC, only four such certified committees existed in CY 2017. The Secretary recognized the following Departments and independent agencies as having CSHCs:

- Central Intelligence Agency
- Department of Labor
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

For the CY 2017 reporting period, the Central Intelligence Agency, DOL, and Tennessee Valley Authority submitted information certifying to the Secretary of Labor that their respective CSHCs met the requirements of the subpart. The SEC did not report on its CSHC for CY 2017. The Department of Energy, which previously had a CSHC, reported that it is exploring the feasibility of re-establishing its Committee.

Other OSH Committees and Councils

OSHA asked federal agencies to provide information on their involvement in both internal and external OSH committees and councils. Agencies were also asked to indicate whether they support OSH-related certifications from these organizations. For CY 2017, 57 agencies (62 percent) reported that they encourage employee participation in OSH-related committees at the departmental, agency, and field operation levels, and in a variety of local OSH committees, including FFSHCs. Committee membership varied among agencies. Some agencies reported that OSH committee membership included only management, while other agencies noted that committee participant requirements included OSH-related expertise, duties, or responsibilities. For example, DOS and the Department of the Treasury reported that their designated agency safety and health officials participated in the Office of Federal Agency Programs' Roundtable meetings. DOC facilitates a departmental level safety committee, which provides internal safety training opportunities to all employees with OSH-related duties within its bureaus. In addition, DOC bureaus designate funds for employees to participate in offsite OSH training and committees.

Several agencies, including the Department of the Interior, reported that they encourage employees to participate in OSH professional organizations, such as the American Industrial Hygiene Association, the American Society of Safety Professionals, and the National Safety Council (NSC). Many of these agencies also stated that they encourage and provide funding for OSH personnel to obtain and maintain professional licenses such as the Certified Safety Professional, Associate Safety Professional, Certified Industrial Hygienist, and Professional Engineer. Other agencies indicated that, while they encourage employees to participate in and receive certification from OSH organizations, due to fiscal restraints, opportunities for employees to participate in training were limited. DHS, for example, stated that it prioritizes hiring the most accomplished and experienced OSH professionals and supporting their professional certifications and maintaining existing certifications over the length of their careers. However, due to fiscal restraints, DHS has limited funds for employee training and cannot spare time for employees to be away from the office. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights reported that, since it is a small agency, participation in OSH committees and professional organizations is not a good use of staff time.

Motor Vehicle Safety

Collectively, 86 federal agencies provided information on the roughly 11,820 motor vehicle accidents their employees experienced during CY 2017. Most agencies reported having a motor vehicle safety program (MVSP), with the majority noting compliance with E.O. 13043 and 13513, which require the use of seatbelts in motor vehicles and ban texting while driving, respectively. In addition, agencies reported that they continued to provide programs to limit the likelihood and effect of motor vehicle accidents.

Similar to previous years, many agencies reported requiring defensive driving courses. Most agencies used courses developed by GSA, NSC, or similar organizations. Several agencies also reported placing decals in vehicles, reminders on employee websites, and/or notices in break rooms to encourage seatbelt use. While several agencies reported tracking seatbelt use after an accident – many

using information from police reports – few had any full-time tracking. A few agencies mentioned performing random compliance checks, and several agencies reported using camera surveillance inside vehicles to monitor compliance.


DOS reported using Event Data Recorders, both domestically and overseas, to monitor drivers. DOS believes this approach reduced fatalities and injuries associated with operating motor vehicles. DOS added two overseas posts to its Drive-Cam™ program in CY 2017, bringing the total to 21 posts in the program. DOS reported that these posts reduced risky driving behavior by 87%, with an estimated 44 lives saved since the program's inception overseas. During 2017, DOS tracked a 26% reduction in seatbelt policy violations and a 9% reduction of cell phone policy violations compared with 2016 totals. Domestically, the Fleet Management Office installed a total of 19 Event Data Recorders to monitor driver performance in passenger vans and shuttle buses.

The Department of the Air Force (Air Force) reported that its installations used national motor vehicle safety programs such as the American Automobile Association's *Defensive Driving* and the NSC's *Alive at 25*. These programs served to further reinforce motor vehicle safety and mishap prevention. Its policy and guidance directly addressed compliance with E.O. 13043 and 13513. The Air Force also specified that civilian employees who operated motorcycles in the performance of their duties were required to attend motorcycle safety training, and those who operated motorcycles for personal use outside their assigned duties could attend the same training at no cost. The Air Force's civilian employees who operated a government motor vehicle other than a motorcycle received operator training as part of their employment. The Air Force noted that it continued to use *Street Smart* presentations conducted by Stay Alive From Education (SAFE) Inc., often funded through a grant from Anheuser Busch. The *Street Smart* program used audience participation to demonstrate, from first responders' perspectives and real-life experiences, what happened to individuals who made poor driving choices, such as driving without seatbelts, driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs, and texting while driving.

Fifteen agencies indicated the lack of an MVSP for a variety of reasons, including having a small number of employees assigned to the agency, the agency's mission (such as not driving in an "official capacity" or not owning an agency-dedicated fleet), or that agency employees used mass transit for travel needs to and from the workplace. A number of agencies asserted that such a program was "not applicable" to their situations or failed to provide any report on the item. Some agencies deemed to have little to no training stated a mere compliance with E.O. 13043 and 13513, with no indication of any further information on safety protocols or measures. OSHA will follow up with agencies to offer assistance in addressing motor vehicle safety.

Agencies reporting the lack of an MVSP include: Ability One Commission, Access Board, African Development Foundation, American Battle Monuments Commission, Commission on Civil Rights, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Federal Labor Relations Authority, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Inter-American Foundation, James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation, National Council on Disability, National Endowment for the Humanities, Peace Corps, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, and the Postal Regulatory Commission.

Table 7: *Summary of Motor Vehicle Accidents as Reported by Departments and Independent Agencies (Fiscal Year 2015 through Calendar Year 2017).*

Department/Agency	Status	Number of Accidents CY 2017 (2016/2015)
Department of Agriculture		2,339 (2,013/2,117)

Department/Agency	Status	Number of Accidents CY 2017 (2016/2015)
Department of the Air Force	↑	19 (18/29)
Department of the Army	?	NR (15/NR)
Department of Commerce	↓	80 (106/102)
Department of Defense	↓	543 (638/485)
Department of Energy	↓	85 (95/NR)
Department of Health and Human Services	↓	0 (147/88)
Department of Homeland Security	↑	1,585 (1,126/1,127)
Department of Housing and Urban Development	?	0 (NR/0)
Department of Justice	↓	2,251 (2,303/1,971)
Department of Labor	↑	546 (498/487)
Department of the Interior	↑	841 (497/618)
Department of the Navy	↑	246 (15/9)
Department of State	↑	2,024 (1,885/1,692)
Department of Transportation	↓	39 (181/50)
Department of the Treasury	↓	124 (329/196)
Department of Veterans Affairs	↓	367 (402/308)
Environmental Protection Agency	↓	29 (43/39)
General Services Administration	↓	68 (69/72)
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	↓	69 (85/135)
Social Security Administration	↓	18 (32/16)
Tennessee Valley Authority	?	227 (NR/160)
Office of Personnel Management	↑	252 (209/177)
Ability One	?	0 (NR/NR)
Access Board	?	NR (0/0)
African Development Foundation	?	0 (NR/0)
American Battle Monuments Commission	↑	1 (0/0)
Armed Forces Retirement Home	↔	0 (0/3)
Broadcasting Board of Governors	↓	0 (1/NR)
Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board	↔	0 (0/0)
Commission on Civil Rights	?	0 (NR/0)
Commodity Futures Trading Commission	?	0 (NR/NR)
Consumer Product Safety Commission	↓	2 (7/2)
Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency	?	7 (NR/4)
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board	?	0 (NR/0)
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission	↓	6 (7/12)
Export-Import Bank of the United States	↔	0 (0/0)
Farm Credit Administration	↑	2 (0/0)
Federal Communications Commission	↑	7 (5/5)
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	↓	6 (35/40)
Federal Elections Commission	↔	0 (0/0)

Department/Agency	Status	Number of Accidents CY 2017 (2016/2015)
Federal Housing Finance Agency	↑	1 (0/NR)
Federal Labor Relations Authority	?	NR (0/NR)
Federal Maritime Commission	↔	0 (0/0)
Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service	?	NR (0/0)
Federal Mine Safety & Health Review Commission	↔	0 (0/0)
Federal Reserve Board	↓	0 (3/0)
Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board	↔	0 (0/0)
Federal Trade Commission	↔	0 (0/0)
Holocaust Memorial Museum	↔	0 (0/0)
Institute of Museum & Library Services	?	0 (NR/NR)
Inter-American Foundation	?	NR (0/0)
International Trade Commission	?	0 (NR/0)
International Boundary and Water Commission	↑	10 (4/7)
James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation	?	0 (NR/NR)
John F. Kennedy Center	↔	0 (0/0)
Marine Mammal Commission	↔	0 (0/0)
Merit Systems Protection Board	↔	0 (0/0)
Millennium Challenge Corporation	↔	0 (0/0)
Morris K. Udall & Stewart L. Udall Foundation	↔	0 (0/0)
National Archives and Records Administration	↑	4 (1/1)
National Capital Planning Commission	↔	0 (0/0)
National Council on Disability	?	NR (NR/NR)
National Credit Union Administration	?	3 (NR/NR)
National Endowment for the Arts	?	0 (NR/NR)
National Endowment for the Humanities	?	NR (NR/NR)
National Gallery of Art	↓	0 (1/NR)
National Labor Relations Board	↓	0 (1/0)
National Mediation Board	↔	0 (0/0)
National Science Foundation	?	0 (NR/NR)
National Transportation Safety Board	?	0 (NR/NR)
Nuclear Regulatory Commission	↓	1 (10/1)
Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board	?	0 (NR/NR)
Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission	↔	0 (0/0)
Office of Government Ethics	?	0 (NR/NR)
Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation	↔	0 (0/0)
Overseas Private Investment Corporation	↓	0 (1/0)
Presidio Trust	?	3 (NR/NR)
Railroad Retirement Board	↔	0 (0/0)
Securities and Exchange Commission	↔	0 (0/0)
Selective Service System	?	0 (NR/NR)
Small Business Administration	↓	0 (1/1)

Department/Agency	Status	Number of Accidents CY 2017 (2016/2015)
Smithsonian Institution	↓	15 (30/26)
Social Security Advisory Board	?	0 (NR/NR)
The Peace Corps	?	NR (NR/2)
Trade and Development Agency	↓	0 (1/0)
Vietnam Education Foundation	↔	0 (0/0)
Legend		
↔	No change from 2016 report	NR Not reported
↓	Decrease from 2016 report	? Undetermined from reported data
↑	Increase from 2016 report	

Analyzing and Controlling Hazards

This year, OSHA again asked agencies how they determined any OSH-related trends, such as specific causes/types of injuries, or hazardous jobs/tasks. Of the 84 agencies that provided information on this topic, 37 (44 percent) reported that the most frequent cause of employee injuries was slips, trips, and falls. EPA, for example, stated that more than half the injuries and illnesses its employees reported in CY 2017 were categorized as slips, trips, or falls. Other common causes of injuries included materials handling (lifting, caught by/against) and ergonomics. Many of the smaller independent agencies had no employee injuries to report, while some agencies' statistics were such that they could not identify a "most frequent" cause.

Agencies included a variety of prevention strategies to counter injurious incidents, such as relying on accurate employee and supervisor reports to identify hazard areas. Other approaches included: installing slip-resistant flooring and warning signage; prevention awareness training, including ergonomics and ladder safety; general housekeeping improvement, including removing slip, trip, and fall hazards and placing cleaning supplies and equipment in accessible areas; and using website and safety bulletin boards to increase hazard awareness. This year several agencies also reported participating in OSHA's National Safety Stand-Down for Fall Prevention in May 2017 designed to bring awareness to fall hazards, typical work tasks associated with fall risks, and fall protection strategies.

Agencies provided information on efforts to identify and analyze workplace hazards and described a range of analytical methods, from manually cataloging incidents to real-time computer monitoring of OSH-related data as entered into a variety of information systems. In general, agencies with more employees, or higher incidence rates, tended to incorporate information systems and more frequent monitoring. Overall, federal agencies with higher rates reported greater emphasis on data analysis, integrating OSH-related considerations into all aspects of agency operations and tracking near misses. Yet, generally, even agencies that reported few or no work-related injuries and illnesses continued to track OSH-related reports and information to help ensure safer and more healthful workplaces.

Similar to previous years, most agencies reported performing some type of data analysis to determine the prevalence of injury type and cause, and the jobs or tasks that resulted in injuries. A few agencies reported that incident investigation remained a top priority in root cause analysis and helped aid in

hazard abatement. Agencies also reported tracking and analyzing near-misses, or incidents that could have resulted in an accident or injury. Other strategies for reducing workplace injuries and illnesses included integrating safety considerations into building design and/or job duties and procedures; encouraging employees to report potential hazards upon discovery; and focusing on specific problems, such as frequent types of injuries or specific hazards. Agencies stressed the importance of self-inspection in identifying, analyzing, and controlling hazards.

Safety and Health Program Response to the Inspection Process

Federal agencies were asked to report on their involvement in a variety of inspection activities, including internal and external agency inspections. Agencies' responses varied from correcting hazards during the course of an inspection, to working with GSA and other entities for hazard abatement, to consulting with OSHA on abatement methods. Many also reported updating policy and procedural guidance. Most agencies indicated that they encouraged employees and supervisors to participate in the inspection process.

Collectively, 64 agencies affirmed that they performed at least annual internal OSH program inspections/audits. DoD required each of its organizations to complete an annual program self-assessment and pass an external assessment every four years. As a result, during CY 2017, the Air Force reported that approximately 100,000 OSH inspections occurred, of which approximately 79 were OSHA inspections.

Several agencies reported an increase in the frequency of inspections. For example, the U.S. Access Board reported that OSH officials conducted quarterly inspections of its OSH program management system. The National Gallery of Art reported their Risk Management Department conducted quarterly inspections of a portion of the campus and inspected the entire campus annually. The National Mediation Board reported that it performed a daily "walk through" of the work space to identify and remove any potential hazards. The Overseas Private Investment Corporation reported that it performed ad hoc self-inspections throughout the year, and observed and addressed issues via facility walkthroughs. The Smithsonian Institute reported that it required each of its establishments (museums/facilities) to conduct at least three self-inspections every year, and some of its establishments increased the frequency to achieve a uniform level of facility safety throughout the year.

In addition to self-inspections/audits, agencies reported that external regulatory agencies performed routine OSH-related inspections at their establishments. While most agencies did not specify the exact number of such inspections/audits, they did indicate receiving more than 400 Notices of Unsafe or Unhealthy Working Conditions or the equivalent from the Joint Commission, OSHA, or the Mine Safety and Health Administration. Commonly cited hazards included impediments to egress; fire safety; hazard communication; OSH training, at all levels of responsibility; personal protective equipment programs, including respiratory protection; poor housekeeping; and recordkeeping. Most agencies reported correcting the hazards immediately or within the specified abatement periods.

Federal Employees Overseas





The legislative provisions of the Act, E.O. 12196, and 29 CFR Part 1960, which require agencies to provide safe and healthful workplaces, have no geographic limits. During the CY 2017 reporting year, OSHA requested that agencies provide information on whether any of their federal employees were stationed overseas, and how they ensured that those employees were provided with safe and healthful workplaces.

According to agency reports, more than 113,800 government employees worked outside the United States' borders during CY 2017. DoD (including the armed services), which reported approximately 46,792 overseas employees, and DOS (59,666 employees) reported the largest numbers of overseas employees. DoD, its various components, and the military Departments indicated that they extended their OSH programs and coverage to include their overseas federal civilian employees. DOS indicated that its robust overseas OSH program included provisions for safe and healthful living conditions for its own overseas employees, and for other agencies' federal employees stationed at embassies. Multiple agencies indicated the presence of a federal civilian overseas workforce but did not disclose an approximate number of these employees serving in overseas locations. In addition, a few agencies reported an overseas federal workforce, most of whom were covered under OSH programs of DoD or DOS.

Table 8: *Number of Federal Civilian Employees in Overseas Locations by Agency (Fiscal Year 2015 through Calendar Year 2017) (n = 33 agencies).*

Agency	Status	Number of Employees		
		2017	2016	2015
Department of Agriculture	↑	900	400	400
Department of Commerce	?	278	NR	NR
Department of Defense	↑	46,792	39,309	60,000
Department of Energy	?	NR	NR	NR
Department of Health and Human Services	?	89	NR	NR
Department of Homeland Security	↓	2,000	2,100	2,100
Department of the Interior	?	1,006	NR	NR
Department of Justice	↑	1,312	431	426
Department of Labor	↑	53	0	30
Department of State	↑	59,666	59,522	57,888
Department of Transportation	?	332	NR	NR
Department of the Treasury	↓	33	48	46
Department of Veterans Affairs	↔	0	0	0

Agency	Status	Number of Employees		
		2017	2016	2015
Environmental Protection Agency	↑	360	183	199
General Services Administration	?	12	NR	NR
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	↓	12	14	12
African Development Foundation	?	12	NR	0
American Battle Monuments Commission	?	59	NR	NR
Broadcasting Board of Governors	?	32	NR	NR
Consumer Product Safety Commission	↓	1	2	2
Export Import Bank	?	1	NR	NR
Millennium Challenge Corporation	↑	33	26	22
National Endowment for the Humanities	?	0	NR	NR
National Science Foundation	?	0	NR	NR
Nuclear Regulatory Commission	↓	2	4	4
Overseas Private Investment Corporation	↔	5	5	4
Peace Corps	↑	188	186	191
Postal Regulatory Commission	↔	0	0	0
Smithsonian Institution	?	620	NR	NR
Social Security Administration	↔	0	0	NR
U.S. Trade and Development Agency	↓	1	37	30
Vietnam Education Foundation	↑	1	0	0

Agency	Status	Number of Employees		
		2017	2016	2015
TOTAL		113,800	102,267	121,354
Legend				
	No change from CY 2016 report	NR	Not reported	
	Decrease from CY 2016 report	?	Undetermined from reported data	
	Increase from CY 2016 report			

OSH Training and Resources

E.O. 12196 requires each agency to provide OSH training for its employees, and 29 CFR Part 1960, Subpart H, prescribes the necessary OSH training for employees with respect to applicable standards. In their reports to OSHA, most agencies stated that they provide OSH training to employees based on job responsibilities via such conventional methods as online (53 agencies (57 percent)) or classroom training (46 agencies (50 percent)) and hands-on activities. DHS, for example, reported that it uses a variety of training delivery methods, but it relies heavily on virtual and online technologies to ensure that approximately 200,000 civilian employees located in over 1,200 establishments receive appropriate and timely OSH training. DHS also stated that it uses instructor-led training for supervisor training, collateral duty safety officer training, and safety committee member training. For CY 2017, 25 agencies (27 percent) reported that they made special efforts to ensure that collateral duty OSH personnel received appropriate training.

Several agencies reported encouraging employees to seek professional certification and participate in professional OSH organizations. For example, the U.S. Navy provides employees with external training and professional development opportunities at colleges and universities, safety and health conferences, and the OSHA Training Institute. Twenty-three agencies (25 percent) reported providing employees with the opportunity to participate in the FY 2017 OSHA FEDWEEK. In addition, 27 agencies (29 percent) reported that employees received training from the OSHA Training Institute or its Education Centers. Agencies also reported providing support by maintaining OSH websites, publishing OSH newsletters, and encouraging participation in FFSHCs.

According to their reports, agencies' OSH training efforts ranged from new-hire orientation to supervisory training. Most agencies indicated that new-hire orientation included information on agency-specific safety and health policies, general safety and health rules, major hazards and protections, and emergency procedures. Supervisory training included a review of 29 CFR Part 1960, E.O. 12196, the agency's non-retaliation policy, and the agency's emergency procedures. Other training topics included OSHA compliance, accident analysis, and hazard communication. Few agencies provided specific details regarding monies dedicated to OSH training efforts. Most agencies reported having a mandatory training budget, although training fund distribution policies varied dramatically. Some agencies reported a centralized training budget that required each independent site

to request funding approval for safety classes. These agencies indicated that the standard mechanism for monitoring training budgets was to review funding requests. Other agencies, including EPA, reported a decentralized approach that delegated funds to each location along with the responsibility for ensuring that employees receive appropriate OSH training.

To evaluate the effectiveness of their OSH training programs, most agencies reported that they review course evaluations to obtain employee feedback on course material relevance and instructor quality, and identify opportunities for improvement. Most agencies stated that they can evaluate how well employees absorbed training material by reviewing exam performance and hands-on demonstrations. In addition, most agencies recognize that the effectiveness of their OSH training program is best assessed by observing employee behavior, performing internal inspections, and reviewing injury and illness data. EPA stated that a lack of injuries and illnesses and agency OSH audit findings provided the evidence of OSH training effectiveness.

Whistleblower Protection Programs

Under 29 CFR Part 1960, Subpart G, federal agencies must ensure that employees are not subjected to reprisal or other forms of restraint for filing a report of unsafe or unhealthy working conditions. In an effort to assess agencies' whistleblower protection programs, OSHA requested that agencies provide information on any federal employee allegations of reprisal and the actions taken in response to such allegations. OSHA also asked agencies to describe program improvements that may have resulted from these cases of employee-alleged reprisal.

Nearly all agencies indicated awareness of 29 CFR Part 1960, Subpart G, and reported having functional protection programs. Only two agencies reported investigating allegations of reprisal during CY 2017. DOJ stated that it opened two cases. In the first case, the employee alleged the senior manager retaliated by damaging the employee's reputation within the agency and by denying advancement opportunities. The investigation is pending disposition with DOJ-OIG. In the second case, the employee alleged repeated discipline and ultimate termination after documenting and reporting the Lead Court Security Officer's carelessness and inconsistency. The investigation has been retained by DOJ-OIG and is ongoing. DOS reported investigating one allegation of reprisal during the calendar year. In this case, the employee alleged termination after raising a variety of concerns that included unsafe working conditions at an overseas post. The OIG investigated the allegation but did not substantiate illegal retaliation.

Product Safety Programs

In the CY 2017 information request, OSHA asked the agencies to describe their compliance with the provisions of 29 CFR § 1960.34, specifically addressing how each agency ensured that the products and services procured complied with the product safety requirements of the standard. Agencies were also asked to address their use of safety data sheets and to detail how they respond to product recalls. Of the 77 responding agencies, 51 (66 percent) reported their compliance with the standard, and 26 (33 percent) indicated that such a program did not exist within their respective agencies. The remaining agencies did not respond to this item.

Most agencies provided few details on their programs, responding that program-specific authority was vested to GSA under 29 CFR Part 1960, Subpart E. However, USDA noted that it addressed product safety through the federal acquisition process and required purchases to meet federal product safety guidelines. It also reported that the affected functional areas, such as Fleet Management for fleet vehicles, would address any recalls. The Department of Health and Human Services reported that its

component OSH program managers monitored product recalls, and local offices received follow-up information as appropriate using alerts and electronic webpage postings. Among smaller agencies, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) reported that it purchased only products that were Underwriters Laboratory (UL) listed, and then used them in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations and guidelines. It also noted that it strictly adhered to its Hazard Communication Program requirements, including issuing and reviewing all SDSs, and maintained an electronic SDS database for all products. FDIC stated that its managers followed product recalls in their program areas.

EPA's product safety program was noteworthy. EPA reported that its OSH program was covered under its Safety, Health, and Environmental Management Program (SHEMP) and was implemented throughout all organizational levels. EPA also reported that it subscribed to ChemWatch, a database that provides access to Safety Data Sheets for millions of chemicals. SHEMP managers used this repository to learn about the properties and potential hazards associated with new chemicals that entered their facilities. According to the agency's report, although it had not developed a comprehensive product safety program to address 29 CFR § 1960.34(b), 94 percent of its operating locations had procedures in place to ensure that OSH managers were notified when new chemicals, such as cleaning agents, pesticides, and laboratory reagents, were introduced into their processes. The OSH managers then determined the associated introduced risks. Safety professionals and relevant employees reviewed the SDS and kept them available for reference. Moreover, EPA indicated that in a recent questionnaire, 91 percent of its operating location OSH managers reported compliance with labeling hazardous materials, wearing the correct personal protective equipment, adhering to special handling procedures, and complying with product recalls.

Specific Agency Reporting Programs

OSHA's regulations at 29 CFR Part 1960, Subpart E require GSA and NIOSH to assist federal agencies with specific activities affecting federal employee safety and health. OSHA requested that GSA and NIOSH provide details on these activities in their annual reports. Specifically, OSHA asked GSA to report on its programs for ensuring that federal facilities are designed, operated, and maintained in accordance with OSH requirements and best practices. OSHA also asked the agency to address how it ensures that the products and services offered to federal agencies comply with product safety requirements; how safety recalls are implemented; and how federal purchasers are made aware of the safe use of such products, including any system for providing safety data sheets. OSHA asked NIOSH to provide information on its Request for Technical Assistance⁹ program, and the program's effect on federal agencies.

General Services Administration

As requested, GSA reported on its processes pertaining to facilities and operations, indicating that it continually updated the safety and health requirements in the governing standards and requirements

⁹ NIOSH's response to a federal agency's Request for Technical Assistance usually involves a Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE): a workplace study to learn whether workers are exposed to hazardous materials or harmful conditions. Based on the information provided, NIOSH answers an HHE/technical assistance request in one of the following ways: in writing with pertinent information or a referral to a more appropriate agency, by telephone to discuss the problems and how they might be solved, or with a visit to the workplace. During a visit, NIOSH will meet with the employer and employee representatives to discuss the issues and tour the workplace. During one or more visits, NIOSH may review records about exposure and health, interview or survey employees, measure exposures, and perform medical testing. At the end of an evaluation, NIOSH will provide a written report to the employer and employee representatives. Depending on the type of evaluation, the final report may require a development time of a few months to a few years.

regarding both federally owned facilities and those commercially leased to federal tenants. It also reported that both its operations and maintenance and custodial services required safety and health specifications, which were current. In CY 2017, GSA did not implement any significant changes within its products and services function. It continued to require that products and services met applicable federal and nongovernment standards, such as those of EPA, UL, and National Fire Protection Association. There were no product recalls issued in the 2017 reporting period.

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

NIOSH reported it received 37 federal agency technical assistance requests for health hazard evaluations. It completed 26 (70 percent) of those requests, performing six field investigations and 20 record reviews/consultations. Federal agencies' requests varied by both exposure groups and health problems. For the reporting period, the exposure group categories of *indoor environmental quality*, *biological*, and *chemical* accounted for over 91 percent of assistance requests. The health problem category of *respiratory* accounted for nearly 53 percent of assistance requests, with the categories of *viral/bacterial* and *skin* composing another 24 percent of the grouping. (Please see Appendix 4 for a breakdown of agencies' requests to NIOSH for technical assistance.)

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Safety and Health Program Attributes Evaluated in CY 2017

Operational Component

- **Hazard Anticipation and Detection (5 of 11 attributes assessed)**
 - **A comprehensive, baseline hazard survey has been conducted within the past five years.** The purpose of this attribute is to determine if the agency, through site inspection and analysis, has developed a reasonably complete inventory of the safety and health hazards existing at a certain time, to serve as the basis for subsequent action planning and priority setting.
 - **Effective safety and health self-inspections are performed regularly.** The purpose of this attribute is to determine if personnel in the agency are performing effective safety and health inspections on a regular basis.
 - **Effective surveillance of established hazard controls is conducted.** The purpose of this attribute is to determine if the agency regularly assesses if previously established safety and health controls are still effective, or if they are either improperly applied or otherwise inadequate.
 - **An effective hazard reporting system exists.** The purpose of this attribute is to determine if the agency has effective policies and procedures in place to identify and assess hazards and implement control measures.
 - **Accidents are investigated for root causes.** The purpose of this attribute is to determine if the agency conducts investigations to identify correctible system failures following an incident or near miss at a site to prevent future occurrences.
- **Hazard Prevention and Control (4 of 9 attributes assessed)**
 - **Feasible engineering controls are in place.** The purpose of this attribute is to determine if the agency identifies and employs engineering methods to eliminate or control workplace hazards.
 - **Effective safety and health rules and work practices are in place.** The purpose of this attribute is to determine if the agency has established general workplace rules and specific work practices that prescribe safe and healthful behavior and task performance methods.
 - **Applicable OSHA-mandated programs are effectively in place.** The purpose of this attribute is to determine if the agency has effectively implemented program management requirements in applicable OSHA standards.
 - **An effective procedure for tracking hazard correction is in place.** The purpose of this attribute is to determine if the agency monitors timely correction of identified hazards.

Managerial Component

- **Planning and Evaluation (3 of 5 attributes assessed)**
 - **Hazard incidence data are effectively analyzed.** The purpose of this attribute is to determine if the agency uses hazard incidence data to set safety and health priorities.

- **An action plan designed to accomplish the organization's safety and health objectives is in place.** The purpose of this attribute is to determine if the agency has established a plan to achieve its safety and health objectives.
- **A review of the overall safety and health management system is conducted at least annually.** The purpose of this attribute is to determine if the agency periodically audits the management aspects of its SHMS, identifying progress and needed changes/improvements.
- **Administration and Supervision (4 of 8 attributes assessed)**
 - **Safety and health program tasks are each specifically assigned to a person or position for performance or coordination.** The purpose of this attribute is to determine if the essential OSH responsibilities are identified and assigned to appropriate personnel.
 - **Individuals with assigned safety and health responsibilities have the necessary knowledge, skills, and timely information to perform their duties.** The purpose of this attribute is to determine if the agency's personnel have the understanding, skill, and current information needed to effectively perform their OSH responsibilities.
 - **Individuals with assigned safety and health responsibilities have the authority to perform their duties.** The purpose of this attribute is to determine if the agency's personnel have adequate authority to perform their safety and health responsibilities effectively.
 - **Organizational policies promote the performance of safety and health responsibilities.** The purpose of this attribute is to determine if the agency's personnel are provided positive incentive for performance of their safety and health responsibilities.
- **Safety and Health Training (2 of 6 attributes assessed)**
 - **New employees' orientation includes applicable safety and health information.** The purpose of this attribute is to determine if the agency provides appropriate education and training in safety and health protection for new employees who are assuming new duties.
 - **Supervisors receive training that covers the supervisory aspects of their safety and health responsibilities.** The purpose of this attribute is to determine if the agency provides supervisory training that addresses their responsibilities and an understanding of hazards.

Cultural Component

- **Management Leadership (1 of 10 attributes assessed)**
 - **Managers allocate the resources needed to properly support the agency's safety and health program.** The purpose of this attribute is to determine if the agency's managers demonstrate OSH leadership, promote a culture of safety and health in the organization, and support effective operation of the safety and health program by allocating needed resources.
- **Employee Participation (1 of 9 attributes assessed)**
 - **There is an effective process to involve employees in safety and health issues.** The purpose of this attribute is to determine if there is an established organizational process that is known, trusted, and used by employees to provide input regarding safety and health issues.

Appendix 2: Status of Agency Injury and Illness Reporting

Department/Agency	Number of Establishments		
	Total	Submitted Data	Submitted Usable Data
AbilityOne	1	1	1
Access Board	1	1	1
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	1	0	0
African Development Foundation	1	1	1
Agency for International Development	5	5	5
American Battle Monuments Commission	28	28	28
Armed Forces Retirement Home	2	2	1
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System	5	5	5
Broadcasting Board of Governors	28	28	28
Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board	2	2	2
Commission of Fine Arts	1	1	1
Commission on Civil Rights	5	0	0
Commodity Futures Trading Commission	4	0	0
Consumer Product Safety Commission	3	3	2
Corporation for National and Community Service	52	0	0
Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency	10	10	10
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board	1	1	1
Department of Agriculture	2,318	2,318	319
Department of the Air Force	542	541	398
Department of the Army	543	309	290
Department of Commerce	725	693	680
Department of Defense	759	759	546
Department of Education	26	26	21
Department of Energy	53	51	51

Department/Agency	Number of Establishments		
	Total	Submitted Data	Submitted Usable Data
Department of Health and Human Services	1,979	1,979	724
Department of Homeland Security	1,210	907	800
Department of Housing and Urban Development	32	8	7
Department of the Interior	2,130	2,130	0
Department of Justice	1,331	1,331	688
Department of Labor	954	954	954
Department of the Navy	571	300	225
Department of State	405	405	375
Department of Transportation	1,062	858	854
Department of the Treasury	1,000	200	0
Department of Veterans Affairs	1,550	994	969
Environmental Protection Agency	108	108	108
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission	54	54	43
Export-Import Bank	13	13	13
Farm Credit Administration	5	5	5
Federal Communications Commission	17	17	17
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	95	95	86
Federal Election Commission	1	1	1
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	11	11	11
Federal Housing Finance Agency	6	1	1
Federal Labor Relations Authority	7	7	7
Federal Maritime Commission	7	7	6
Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service	1	1	1
Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission	3	3	3
Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board	1	1	1
Federal Trade Commission	11	11	11
General Services Administration	456	20	3
Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation	1	0	0

Department/Agency	Number of Establishments		
	Total	Submitted Data	Submitted Usable Data
Holocaust Memorial Museum	9	8	4
Institute of Museum and Library Services	1	1	1
Inter-American Foundation	1	1	1
International Boundary and Water Commission	13	13	13
International Trade Commission	1	1	1
James Madison Foundation	1	1	1
Kennedy Center	1	1	1
Marine Corps	56	25	13
Marine Mammal Commission	1	1	1
Merit Systems Protection Board	10	0	0
Millennium Challenge Corporation	21	1	1
Morris K. Udall & Stewart L. Udall Foundation	2	2	2
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	32	25	24
National Archives and Records Administration	42	42	19
National Capital Planning Commission	1	1	1
National Council on Disability	1	1	1
National Credit Union Administration	6	6	6
National Endowment for the Arts	1	1	1
National Endowment for the Humanities	2	1	1
National Gallery of Art	1	1	1
National Labor Relations Board	51	51	51
National Mediation Board	2	2	2
National Science Foundation	1	1	0
National Transportation Safety Board	6	6	6
Nuclear Regulatory Commission	7	7	7
Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board	1	1	0
Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission	3	3	3

Department/Agency	Number of Establishments		
	Total	Submitted Data	Submitted Usable Data
Office of Government Ethics	1	1	1
Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation	3	0	0
Office of Personnel Management	65	65	0
Office of Special Counsel	1	1	1
Overseas Private Investment Corporation	1	1	1
Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	4	4	4
Postal Regulatory Commission	1	1	1
Presidio Trust	1	1	1
Railroad Retirement Board	54	54	54
Securities and Exchange Commission	12	12	12
Selective Service System	4	4	4
Small Business Administration	184	0	0
Smithsonian Institution	32	32	8
Social Security Administration	1,853	1,853	1,669
Social Security Advisory Board	1	1	1
Tennessee Valley Authority	82	75	75
The Peace Corps	78	1	1
Trade and Development Agency	1	1	1
Vietnam Education Foundation	1	1	1
Total	20,790	17,518	10,301

Appendix 3: *Field Federal Safety and Health Councils*

Active FFSHCs in CY 2017 – Received Annual Reports by OSHA Region

Region II	Region V
Central New York FFSHC	Chicago FFSHC
Greater New York FFSHC	Detroit FFSHC
Hudson Valley FFSHC	Duluth/Superior FFSHC
Puerto Rico FFSHC	Minneapolis FFSHC
Western New York FFSHC	Region VI
Central New York FFSHC	Dallas/Fort Worth FFSHC
Greater New York FFSHC	Oklahoma FFSHC
Region III	South Texas FFSHC
Hampton Roads FFSHC	Region VII
Metropolitan Washington, DC FFSHC	Greater Des Moines FFSHC
Northeastern Pennsylvania FFSHC	Greater Kansas City FFSHC
Region IV	Greater Omaha FFSHC
Atlanta FFSHC	Greater St. Louis FFSHC
Central Florida FFSHC	Region VIII
Coastal Empire FFSHC	Denver FFSHC
Louisville Area FFSHC	Region IX

Middle Tennessee FFSHC	Phoenix FFSHC
Mississippi Gulf Coast FFSHC	San Francisco Bay Area FFSHC
North Carolina FFSHC	Region X
South Florida FFSHC	Mt. Rainier FFSHC

FFSHCs with Appointed Representatives in CY 2017 by Federal Department/Agency

Department of Agriculture

- Dallas/Ft. Worth FFSHC
- Duluth/Superior FFSHC
- Greater Des Moines FFSHC
- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Greater St. Louis FFSHC
- Minneapolis FFSHC
- Mt. Rainier FFSHC
- North Carolina FFSHC
- Puerto Rico FFSHC
- San Francisco Bay FFSHC

Department of Commerce

- Dallas/Ft. Worth FFSHC
- Detroit FFSHC
- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Greater St. Louis FFSHC
- Mississippi Gulf Coast FFSHC
- Mt. Rainier FFSHC
- North Carolina FFSHC

Department of Defense

- Dallas/Ft. Worth FFSHC
- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Greater St. Louis FFSHC
- Minneapolis FFSHC
- Northeastern Pennsylvania FFSHC

Department of Energy

- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Western New York FFSHC

Department of Health and Human Services

- Atlanta FFSHC
- Dallas/Ft. Worth FFSHC
- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Minneapolis FFSHC
- Puerto Rico FFSHC

Department of Homeland Security

- Atlanta FFSHC
- Dallas/Ft. Worth FFSHC
- Detroit FFSHC
- Duluth FFSHC
- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Greater New York FFSHC
- Greater Omaha FFSHC
- Greater St. Louis FFSHC
- Mississippi Gulf Coast FFSHC
- Mt. Rainier FFSHC
- Northeastern Pennsylvania FFSHC
- Phoenix FFSHC
- San Francisco FFSHC
- South Florida FFSHC
- Western New York FFSHC

Department of Justice

- Atlanta FFSHC
- Dallas/Ft. Worth FFSHC
- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Greater Omaha FFSHC
- Greater St. Louis FFSHC
- Minneapolis FFSHC
- North Carolina FFSHC
- Northeastern Pennsylvania FFSHC
- San Francisco Bay FFSHC

Department of Labor

- Atlanta FFSHC
- Central Florida FFSHC
- Dallas/Ft. Worth FFSHC
- Duluth/Superior FFSHC
- Greater Des Moines FFSHC
- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Greater New York FFSHC
- Greater Omaha FFSHC
- Hudson Valley FFSHC
- Minneapolis FFSHC
- Mississippi Gulf Coast FFSHC
- North Carolina FFSHC
- Northeastern Pennsylvania FFSHC
- South Florida FFSHC

- Western New York FFSHC

Department of State

- South Florida FFSHC

Department of Transportation

- Dallas/Ft. Worth FFSHC
- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Greater Omaha FFSHC
- Minneapolis FFSHC
- Puerto Rico FFSHC

Department of Veterans Affairs

- Atlanta FFSHC
- Dallas/Ft. Worth FFSHC
- Detroit FFSHC
- Greater Des Moines FFSHC
- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Greater New York FFSHC
- Greater Omaha FFSHC
- Greater St. Louis FFSHC
- Hudson Valley FFSHC
- Minneapolis FFSHC
- Mississippi Gulf Coast FFSHC
- Northeastern Pennsylvania FFSHC
- Mt. Rainier FFSHC
- San Francisco Bay FFSHC
- South Florida FFSHC
- Western New York FFSHC

Department of the Interior

- Atlanta FFSHC
- Greater New York FFSHC
- Minneapolis FFSHC
- Mississippi Gulf Coast FFSHC
- Northeastern Pennsylvania FFSHC

Department of the Treasury

- Dallas/Ft. Worth FFSHC
- Greater Des Moines FFSHC
- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Greater Omaha FFSHC
- Mt. Rainier FFSHC
- South Florida FFSHC

Environmental Protection Agency

- Dallas/Ft. Worth FFSHC
- Duluth/Superior FFSHC

- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Greater New York FFSHC
- Mississippi Gulf Coast FFSHC
- Mt. Rainier FFSHC
- North Carolina FFSHC

General Services Administration

- Dallas/Ft. Worth FFSHC
- Greater Des Moines FFSHC
- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Mt. Rainier FFSHC
- Northeastern Pennsylvania FFSHC
- San Francisco Bay FFSHC
- Western New York FFSHC

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

- Central Florida FFSHC
- Mississippi Gulf Coast FFSHC

National Archives and Records Administration

- Dallas/Ft. Worth FFSHC
- Greater St. Louis FFSHC

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- Dallas/Ft. Worth FFSHC

Small Business Administration

- Puerto Rico FFSHC
- Western New York FFSHC

Social Security Administration

- Greater Des Moines FFSHC

U.S. Air Force

- Dallas/Ft. Worth FFSHC
- Detroit FFSHC
- Duluth/Superior FFSHC
- Greater Omaha FFSHC
- Minneapolis FFSHC
- Mississippi Gulf Coast FFSHC
- Mt. Rainier FFSHC
- North Carolina FFSHC
- Western New York FFSHC

U.S. Army

- Dallas/Ft. Worth FFSHC
- Detroit FFSHC
- Greater Des Moines FFSHC
- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Greater New York FFSHC
- Greater St. Louis FFSHC
- Mt. Rainier FFSHC
- North Carolina FFSHC
- Northeastern Pennsylvania FFSHC
- South Florida FFSHC
- Western New York FFSHC

U.S. Navy

- Dallas/Ft. Worth FFSHC
- Mt. Rainier FFSHC
- Mississippi Gulf Coast FFSHC

U.S. Postal Service

- Atlanta FFSHC
- Dallas/Ft. Worth FFSHC
- Detroit FFSHC
- Greater Des Moines FFSHC
- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Greater St. Louis FFSHC
- Hudson Valley FFSHC
- Phoenix FFSHC
- Minneapolis FFSHC
- Mt. Rainier FFSHC
- North Carolina FFSHC
- Northeastern Pennsylvania FFSHC
- Western New York FFSHC

FFSHCs with Non-Appointed Representatives in CY 2017 by Federal Department/Agency

Department of Agriculture

- Atlanta FFSHC
- Central Florida FFSHC
- San Francisco FFSHC

Department of Commerce

- Louisville Area FFSHC
- Minneapolis FFSHC
- Oklahoma FFSHC
- Western New York FFSHC

Department of Defense

- Greater New York FFSHC
- Hampton Roads FFSHC
- Oklahoma FFSHC
- San Francisco FFSHC

Department of Energy

- Greater New York FFSHC
- Hampton Roads FFSHC

Department of Health and Human Services

- Atlanta FFSHC
- Chicago FFSHC
- Greater New York FFSHC

Department of Homeland Security

- Greater New York FFSHC
- Hampton Roads FFSHC
- Oklahoma FFSHC
- San Francisco Bay FFSHC
- South Florida FFSHC
- Western New York FFSHC

Department of Housing and Urban Development

- Atlanta FFSHC
- Chicago FFSHC
- Greater New York FFSHC
- Western New York FFSHC

Department of Justice

- Atlanta FFSHC

- Greater New York FFSHC
- Western New York FFSHC

Department of Labor

- Atlanta FFSHC
- Hampton Roads FFSHC
- Oklahoma FFSHC
- San Francisco Bay FFSHC

Department of Transportation

- Duluth/Superior FFSHC
- Greater New York FFSHC
- Oklahoma FFSHC

Department of Veterans Affairs

- Central Florida FFSHC
- Central New York FFSHC
- Greater New York FFSHC
- Louisville Area FFSHC
- Minneapolis FFSHC
- San Francisco Bay FFSHC

Department of the Interior

- Atlanta FFSHC
- Central Florida FFSHC
- Greater New York FFSHC
- Louisville FFSHC
- Minneapolis FFSHC
- San Francisco FFSHC

Department of the Treasury

- Chicago FFSHC
- Greater New York FFSHC
- San Francisco Bay FFSHC
- South Florida FFSHC

Environmental Protection Agency

- Chicago FFSHC
- Greater New York FFSHC
- San Francisco Bay FFSHC

General Services Administration

- Atlanta FFSHC

- Central Florida FFSHC
- Greater New York FFSHC
- San Francisco Bay FFSHC
- Western New York FFSHC

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

- Central Florida FFSHC
- Hampton Roads FFSHC

National Labor Relations Board

- Atlanta FFSHC

Small Business Administration

- Western New York FFSHC

Social Security Administration

- Greater New York FFSHC
- San Francisco Bay FFSHC
- Western New York FFSHC

U.S. Air Force

- Atlanta FFSHC
- Central Florida FFSHC
- Central New York FFSHC
- Hampton Roads FFSHC
- Oklahoma FFSHC
- South Texas FFSHC

U.S. Army

- Central New York FFSHC
- Greater New York FFSHC
- Hampton Roads FFSHC
- Louisville Area FFSHC
- San Francisco FFSHC
- South Florida FFSHC

U.S. Navy

- Central Florida FFSHC
- Hampton Roads FFSHC
- Minneapolis FFSHC

U.S. Postal Service

- Atlanta FFSHC
- Greater New York FFSHC
- Louisville Area FFSHC
- Oklahoma FFSHC
- San Francisco FFSHC

Departments/Agencies that Appointed New Representatives to FFSHCs in CY 2017

Department of Agriculture

- Greater Kansas City FFSHC

Department of Commerce

- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Greater St. Louis FFSHC
- Minneapolis FFSHC

Department of Defense

- Greater Kansas City FFSHC

Department of Education

- Greater Kansas City FFSHC

Department of Energy

- Greater New York FFSHC

Department of Health and Human Services

- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Minneapolis FFSHC

Department of Homeland Security

- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Greater New York FFSHC
- Phoenix FFSHC
- Puerto Rico FFSHC
- South Florida FFSHC

Department of Housing and Urban Development

- Greater Kansas City FFSHC

Department of Justice

- Duluth/Superior FFSHC
- Greater Kansas City FFSHC

Department of Labor

- Atlanta FFSHC
- Duluth/Superior FFSHC
- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Greater New York FFSHC
- Hampton Roads FFSHC

Department of Transportation

- Greater Kansas City FFSHC

Department of Veterans Affairs

- Detroit FFSHC
- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Greater New York FFSHC
- North Carolina FFSHC
- Northeastern Pennsylvania FFSHC
- San Francisco FFSHC
- South Florida FFSHC

Department of the Interior

- Mt. Rainier FFSHC

Department of the Treasury

- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Western New York FFSHC

Environmental Protection Agency

- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Mt. Rainier FFSHC

General Services Administration

- Greater New York FFSHC
- Mt. Rainier FFSHC

Social Security Administration

- Greater Kansas City FFSHC

U.S. Air Force

- Central Florida FFSHC
- Western New York FFSHC

U.S. Navy

- Minneapolis FFSHC
- Mississippi Gulf Coast FFSHC

U.S. Postal Service

- Greater Kansas City FFSHC
- Greater New York FFSHC

Appendix 4: Agency Requests to NIOSH for Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance Requests, and Completed Investigations by Type

CY 2015 through CY 2017

Department/ Agency	Technical Assistance Requests			Completed Investigation by Type					
	2017	2016	2015	Desktop			Field		
				2017	2016	2015	2017	2016	2015
Agriculture	2	3	3		4		2		1
Commerce		1			1				
Defense	9	9	3	3	5	1	1	1	1
Energy	1			1					
General Services		1							
Health and Human Services		2	2		1				
Homeland Security	7	2	4	3	3	1		1	2
Interior		3	1			3	3		
Justice	2	4		2				1	
U.S. Postal Service	1	1	4	2		3			
Social Security Administration	2	4	2		5	1			
Transportation	1	2	1	1					
State			1			1			
Treasury	1	3	1		4				
Veterans Affairs	9	6	5	5	4	5		1	
Other	3	2		3	2				
Total	38	43	27	20	32	15	6	4	4

2017 Assistance Requests by Department/Agency and Exposure Group

Department/Agency	Exposure Group*							
	Chemical	Biologic	Indoor Environmental Quality	Noise	Heat	Stress	Radiation	Ergonomics
Agriculture	2							
Commerce								
Defense	4	1	3					
Energy							1	
General Services								
Health and Human Services								
Homeland Security	3	1	2				1	
Interior								
Justice		2						
U.S. Postal Service			1					
Social Security			2					
Transportation				1				
Treasury								
Veterans Affairs		1	8					
Other	1		1					
Total	10	5	17	1	0	0	2	0

* A Request for Technical Assistance, also known as a Health Hazard Evaluation request, may involve an investigation under more than one exposure group category. This is illustrated by DoD's single request to investigate two exposure groupings: "Biologic" and "Indoor Environmental Quality."

2017 Assistance Requests by Department/Agency and Health Problem

Department/Agency	Health Problem							
	Respiratory	Viral/Bacterial	Cancer	Musculoskeletal	Mental/Behavioral	Sensory	Skin Disorder	Nervous System
Agriculture	2							
Commerce								
Defense	6		4				2	
Energy								
General Services								
Health and Human Services								
Homeland Security	4	1	1				1	1
Interior								
Justice	1	2						
U.S. Postal Service			1					
Social Security	2		1					
Transportation								1
Treasury	1							
Veterans Affairs	7	3					1	1
Other	3						2	1
Total	26	6	7	0	0	0	6	4