

OSHA Citations: Tips for Top 3 OSHA Violations

OSHA's top 3 cited violations are Fall Protection, Hazard Communication, and Scaffolding.

Fall Protection:

- Use a JSA to identify hazards and risks associated with job tasks.
- Know when and what PPE to use, and how to use it properly.
- Inspect all PPE and any lift equipment to ensure they are in safe working condition. If they are not, report to your supervisor. Remove damaged PPE from service.
- Be familiar with and follow all manufacturer recommendations for PFAS and other equipment.
- If using a PFAS, choose a secure attachment point capable of holding 5,000 lbs. for each worker attached.
- Do not shorten lanyards by tying knots in them.
- Ensure all protruding or sharp objects are guarded to eliminate the hazard of impalement.
- Use guardrail systems, fences, or barricades when excavations are not readily seen.
- Cover holes.
- Keep work area clean to reduce slip, trip, and fall hazards.

Hazard Communication:

- Know what hazardous chemicals are in your worksite.
- Be familiar with the hazardous chemical labeling system your company uses.
- Know how to read and understand warning labels; Do not use unlabeled chemicals.
- Know where Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are provided at your worksite.
- Read and be familiar with the SDS for a chemical before using it. Ask your supervisor if something is unclear.
- Review section 8 of the SDS for chemicals you work with to know PPE recommendations and exposure limits.
- Use required PPE around hazardous chemicals.
- In case of exposure to a hazardous substance, refer to Section 4 of the SDS for first aid recommendations.
- Follow instructions on SDSs and warning labels.
- Recognize the warning sounds and systems used in your worksite.

Scaffolding:

- Use fall protection when working 10 feet above a lower level, even if handrails are provided. Do not tie-off to scaffolds.
- Use a ramp, stairs, or ladder to access scaffolds. Do not use cross braces as a means of access.
- Do not use bricks, concrete blocks, or other materials to increase the height of a scaffold.
- Do not stand on boxes, crates, or barrels to increase your working height.
- Wear hard hats while working on scaffolds.
- Keep work areas clean to reduce slip, trip and fall hazards.
- Tie off tools to reduce the risk of falling objects.
- Be aware of overhead hazards such as electrical lines; Stay a minimum of 10 feet from overhead lines.
- Never use scaffolds in bad weather or slippery conditions.