

## OSHA's Top 10 Violations

During the 2017 National Safety Council's annual Congress & Expo, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced their preliminary top 10 list of most frequently cited safety violations for the 2017 fiscal year. OSHA publishes the list annually in the hopes of raising awareness about and of encouraging employers to be proactive in preventing these risks.

### Few Changes Over Time

The 2017 list was largely unchanged from the 2016 list. The top five violations remained identical, although Fall Protection – Training Requirements joined the list this year at number 9. According to Patrick Kapust, deputy director of OSHA's Directorate of Enforcement Programs, "One thing I've said before in the past on this is, this list doesn't change too much from year to year. These things are readily fixable." He went on to add that he "encourage[s] folks to use this list and look at ... [their] own workplace."

### Most Common Violations

Falls are the most common cause of serious work-related injuries and deaths, so it is not surprising that this was the most cited hazard. OSHA holds employers responsible for establishing and maintaining a work place that prevents employees from falling off of overhead platforms, elevated work stations or into holes in the floor and walls. The second most cited violation, hazard communication, concerns the proper labeling of chemicals in the workplace. Chemicals must be properly classified and labeled, safety data must be provided, and employees must be trained in

their proper and safe use. Below is a list of the remaining eight hazards along with the standard number and the number of times the violation was cited.

### Top 10 Violations

1. Fall Protection – General Requirements (1926.501): 6,072 violations
2. Hazard Communication (1910.1200): 4,176
3. Scaffolding (1926.451): 3,288
4. Respiratory Protection (1910.134): 3,097
5. Lockout/Tagout (1910.147): 2,877
6. Ladders (1926.1053): 2,241
7. Powered Industrial Trucks (1910.178): 2,162
8. Machine Guarding (1910.212): 1,933
9. Fall Protection – Training Requirements: 1,523
10. Electrical – Wiring Methods (1910.305): 1,405

### What This Means for Counties

Currently Colorado counties are not subject to OSHA inspections or recordkeeping requirements, but OSHA safety regulations are the standard to implement when designing your safety programs. Review your workplace with the top 10 violations in mind and ensure that your workplace is safe and in compliance with safety standards. For more information about safety standards, contact the CTSI Loss Prevention Team at 303-861-0507. [ctsi](http://www.ctsi.org)