



## **OSHA Update – Changes to 1910.134**

OSHA published in the August 24 *Federal Register* revisions to its respiratory protection standard (29CFR 1910.134). The changes incorporate new Assigned Protection Factors (APFs) into agency rules. The additional provisions, those OSHA says are necessary for a comprehensive workplace respiratory-protection program, address selection and use of respirators, training, medical evaluation, and fit testing.

According to OSHA, APFs are numbers that indicate the level of protection that a respirator or class of respirators is expected to provide employees when used as part of an effective program. An APF table was included in the final standard to guide employers in the selection of air-purifying, powered air-purifying, supplied-air (or airline respirator), and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) respirators.

The agency requires employers to follow the new requirement and use APFs to choose the appropriate respirator based on the exposure limit of a contaminant and the level of that contaminant in the workplace. Employers select respirators by comparing the exposure level and the maximum concentration of the contaminant in which a particular type of respirator can be used. Known as the Maximum Use Concentration or MUC, this is generally determined by multiplying the respirator's APF by the contaminant's exposure limit. If the level of contaminant is expected to exceed the MUC, the employer must choose a respirator with a higher APF.

Noted OSHA chief Edwin G. Foulke, Jr., "This standard helps employers and employees select the right respirator for the job. And with the right respirator employees will have adequate protection to be safe and healthy at work."

OSHA Link:

[http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=FEDERAL\\_REGISTER&p\\_id=18846](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=18846)

## **OSHA Offers Building Safety Publication**

OSHA has produced *Fire Service Features of Buildings and Fire Protection Systems*. The new publication is aimed at increasing the safety of building occupants and emergency responders by streamlining firefighter interaction with building features and fire systems.

According to OSHA, firefighting operations typically take place in stressful and time-sensitive environments. Decisions are often made in unfamiliar settings and without key information, such as what is burning, where the fire is spreading, or the location of occupants. Poorly located fire hydrants, inaccessible fire department connections, and confusing zone information are among conditions that can slow response. Such delays can dramatically affect the outcome of an operation. OSHA's new manual explains how response can be influenced by various building features.

It addresses building and site design, sprinkler systems, standpipe systems, fire department connections, fire alarms and communications, and various firefighting systems. The booklet can be downloaded from OSHA's website. Or it is available by calling 202-693-1888.

Document Link:

[http://www.osha.gov/Publications/fire\\_features3256.pdf#search=%22Fire%20Service%20Features%20of%20Buildings%20and%20Fire%20Protection%20Systems%22](http://www.osha.gov/Publications/fire_features3256.pdf#search=%22Fire%20Service%20Features%20of%20Buildings%20and%20Fire%20Protection%20Systems%22)

Or you can search for "*Fire Service Features of Buildings and Fire Protection Systems*" within the browser of your choice.



### **2006 Dates:**

#### **January:**

Plan Your Safety Training Now!  
Call Cambridge For Ideas!  
312-381-8208

#### **February:**

Child Passenger Safety Week

#### **March:**

Poison Prevention Week  
Workplace Eye Safety Month  
Save Your Vision Month

#### **April:**

Sports Eye Safety Month  
Intl Building Safety Week  
Work Zone Aware. Week  
Playground Safety Week

#### **May:**

Clean Air Month  
Melanoma Awareness Month  
Electrical Safety Month  
National EMS Week  
Poison Prevention Week

#### **June:**

National Safety Month

#### **July:**

EYE INJURY PREV. MONTH

#### **August:**

Prepare Your Winter Safety Training!

#### **September:**

Farm Safety /Health Week

#### **October:**

Nat. Fire Prevention Week  
Drive Safely Work Week  
Radon Action Week

#### **November:**

Take advantage of the weather and do your classroom training!

#### **December:**

"3D Month" - National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month



## **Orientation – your first chance to make a difference**

New-hires at talent and outsourcing firm Yoh learn from the start that safety is a core company value. During the hiring process, when they receive benefits enrollment paperwork and federal tax forms, they also are given information about the company's Why Be Safe program.

In 2002, the company created the Why Be Safe program as a medium for its long-standing focus on safety, says the vice president of strategy & marketing for Yoh. The program promotes safety awareness by providing new-hires with an online safety orientation, as well as safety tips and procedures.

### **The Program That Works**

Yoh employs between 4,500 and 5,000 employees at any given time, including staff employees who work in Yoh offices and "consultants" (also called "contract employees") who are placed in a variety of client industries. New hires are invited to complete the safety orientation at [www.whybesafe.com](http://www.whybesafe.com). To ensure that they actually visit the site and read the available information, they are required to answer related questions on a paper survey--tailored to their job assignment—and then submit the survey when they return their tax forms and benefit enrollment information. Upon entering the site, the new hire is greeted by "Beatrice Safe," a cartoon character created internally at Yoh, who is more commonly referred to as "Bea Safe." In a written message, Bea Safe welcomes the new hire aboard and explains that safety is a priority at Yoh.

Bea Safe then instructs the new hire to select one of eight work-specific safety orientation programs, depending on his or her job assignment with Yoh: general office, health care, help desk, home safety, industrial, laboratory, on-the-road, or telecommunications. Topics covered include electrical safety, ergonomics, fire safety, general home safety, bloodborne pathogens, chemical spills, ladder safety, personal protective equipment, and more. Yoh reinforces its safety message through visits that its national safety director makes to client sites; a weekly employee newsletter, which includes a message from Bea Safe; and a safety topic discussion at the beginning of every meeting with employees or customers, the VP says, noting that the company also distributes laminated "reminder" cards containing safety messages from Bea Safe.

Why is safety such a priority for Yoh? "We're literally in one of those businesses where our inventory leaves at the end of the day. Our most important asset is the people who work for us. It's our primary goal to make sure the people who work for us stay safe at work, at home, and on the road."

The company's efforts have paid off. This June, Yoh reported that it had reached a significant safety milestone--64 million work hours completed over 6 years without a days-away-from-work incident due to a work-related injury. The figure is particularly impressive when you consider that Yoh doesn't have day-to-day oversight of its consultants.

### **What Can You Do?**

Yoh offers the following advice to employers who want to offer effective safety training. "Make it unique. Make it different enough that people will pay attention to it," he says, noting that Yoh was able to draw attention to safety by introducing Bea Safe. "You've got to be compelling to people. Otherwise, it comes across as another corporate program."

He also recommends communicating your safety message on an ongoing basis--formally and informally--from the time new-hires come onboard. "Start early and be as repetitive as possible without turning people off from the idea? Make safety part of your DNA and part of the way the company acts and thinks."

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# **Safety Resource Center**

*It's Good To Know:*

October 8-14 is...

**"National Fire Prevention Week"**

September 2 – 6 is:

**"Drive Safely Work Week"**

*Did You Know?*

Between 1999-2002, there were 114,000 reported home fires associated with cooking equipment on average per year, resulting in an annual 290 deaths and 4,380 injuries.

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires.

Three in 10 reported home fires start in the kitchen -- more than any other place in the home.

*Safety Information:*

The National Fire Protection Association ([www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)) is a tremendous fire safety resource. They're available 24 hours per day by visiting their website:

[www.nfpa.org/](http://www.nfpa.org/)

