AS A NEW YEAR BEGINS, SAFETY+HEALTH SHARES DATA TO HELP PAINT A PICTURE OF THE CURRENT SAFETY LANDSCAPE

By Ken Kolosh, National Safety Council statistics manager, and Melissa J. Ruminski, editor

FALL PROTECTION – GENERAL REQUIREMENTS (1926.501) was OSHA’s most-cited standard in fiscal year 2019, with 7,014 VIOLATIONS.

THE LARGEST PENALTY OSHA issued to an employer in FY 2019 was nearly $1.8 MILLION.

THE THREE INDUSTRIES WITH THE MOST WORK-RELATED DEATHS CONTINUE TO BE*:
- CONSTRUCTION
- TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING
- AGRICULTURE

In 2017, a worker died on the job every 119 MINUTES.*

THE REGULATORY AGENDA PUBLISHED BY THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION IN NOVEMBER lists 19 OSHA regulations in three stages:
- PRE-RULE
- PROPOSED RULE
- FINAL RULE

compared with 14 in the Fall 2017 agenda and 30 in the Fall 2016 agenda.

The National Safety Council estimates that work-related injuries and deaths annually cost society $164.6 BILLION.

Number of UNINTENTIONAL INJURY-RELATED WORKER fatalities recorded in 2017*

In 2017, 85,600 WORKERS were injured on the job every week.*

2020
State of safety

In 2017, 4,414 UNINTENTIONAL INJURY-RELATED WORKER fatalities recorded in 2017*
According to the results of S+H’s 2019 Training Survey, common challenges to worker safety training include:

- Keeping workers engaged and focused
- Lack of support from leadership
- Time and budget constraints
- Training a multigenerational and multilingual workforce

The opioid crisis continues to dominate headlines. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says about two-thirds of people with an opioid misuse disorder are in the workforce.

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94% of respondents to S+H’s 2019 Job Outlook consider their jobs “very” or “relatively” stable.

- Consider my job very stable: 58%
- Consider my job relatively stable: 36%
- Believe there is a slight possibility I will lose my job: 4%
- Believe strongly I will lose my job: 2%

CONTINUING EDUCATION NEEDED:
A Colorado School of Public Health survey found that 3 OUT OF 5 safety professionals perform duties outside their primary area of expertise.

MORE THAN ONE-FIFTH OF RESPONDENTS to S+H’s 2019 Salary Survey have worked in the safety field for 25 years or more.

AS EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES (SUCH AS NANOTECHNOLOGY, ROBOTICS AND ADVANCED MANUFACTURING) continue to develop, more research is needed to identify workplace hazards, NIOSH Director John Howard told S+H.

THE LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA in multiple U.S. states creates challenges for worker safety: An NSC survey of 500 employers shows that 81% are concerned about the drug having a negative impact on the workplace.

JOBS HUNTING?
The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that most safety inspection jobs will experience higher-than-average growth through 2026.

*Sources: National Safety Council, injuryfacts.nsc.org

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