

EHS Regulatory Updates
Compiled for the Pine Chemicals Association
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UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2026 ASSP Conference, Anaheim CA, 6/15-17/2026

2026 NSC Conference and Expo, Indianapolis IN, 9/14-16/2026

PCA International Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, 9/13-15/2026

2026 Global Conference on Process Safety & Big Data, Frankfurt, Germany, 9/15-16/2026

SAFETY

Heat Hazards: OSHA Revises Enforcement Emphasis Program - In April, “OSHA revised its National Emphasis Program (NEP) to protect employees from heat-related hazards in outdoor and indoor workplaces. This NEP is effective immediately and expires five years after the effective date (April 10, 2026). The original NEP was issued in April 2022. OSHA aims to focus better on outreach, compliance assistance, and enforcement efforts in high-risk industries and promote effective prevention practices. Compliance officers will expand any inspection where there is evidence of heat-related hazards on heat priority days, and, on days when the National Weather Service issues a heat advisory or warning, compliance officers will conduct random inspections focused on heat hazards in high-risk industries. Keep reading for the significant updates to [OSHA’s revised Heat NEP](#) and why OSHA is focusing on heat hazards. . .

“The US Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that between 2021 and 2024, exposure to environmental heat resulted in an estimated average of 3,793 days away, restricted, and transfer (DART) cases and 48 fatalities per year. OSHA says that these statistics likely do not capture the true magnitude and prevalence of heat-related injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.” Read the full article [here](#). (Lion Technology, Inc., 4/17/2026.)

State OSH Plans and State Legislatures Press Ahead with Unique Heat Illness Prevention Rules and Laws - This article looks at legislation at the state level related to heat illness prevention. These rules and laws may be helpful in updating your own policies or best practices.

“Building on our recent analysis of the latest National Emphasis Program (NEP), our attention now shifts from immediate enforcement trends to the evolving rulemaking and legislative landscape. At the federal level, while the rulemaking has been quiet (at least on the public-facing side), we wanted to make sure you were all aware that on Friday, April 10, 2026, [OSHA renewed and updated its Heat National Emphasis Program](#) (NEP). As you continue to keep your workforce safe from the heat this spring and summer, be aware that OSHA’s enforcement focus on the heat illness hazard remains high even after a transition from the Biden to the Trump Administration. We want to inform you of three important updates coming from Colorado, New Mexico, and Virginia.” Read two articles [here](#) and [here](#). (Conn Maciel Carey LLP, Eric J. Conn, et al., 4/27/2026.)

Webinar: Drug Testing in the Workplace – Employers’ Rights and Responsibilities - “Employers striving to provide safe, compliant, and productive workplaces face no shortage of challenges when it comes to testing employees for potential drug use. . . Employers need to understand their compliance obligations and how to use drug tests to promote safety. And if an accident occurs, a drug test can be a crucial tool during any investigation or enforcement action. Participants in this webinar will learn:

- When and whether drug testing employees is permitted.
- Tips for designing and administering a drug testing program.

- How to minimize legal risks associated with drug tests.
- How to navigate various state laws regarding recreational and/or medical marijuana.
- OSHA and MSHA implications of drug testing.”

The webinar is May 12 at 1:00 pm ET. [Click here to register](#). (Conn Maciel Carey LLP, 4/22/2026.)

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OSHA Issues Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to Rescind Ladder Retrofit Requirements in the Walking-Working Surfaces Standard - On April 6, 2026, OSHA issued a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) that would eliminate the 2036 deadline to retrofit all fixed ladders over 24 feet with personal fall arrest or ladder safety systems. Comments are due June 5. There is also the possibility of a public hearing. (osha.gov, 4/6/2026.)

The Five Levels of OSHA Emergency Responder Training - This article is a good review of [29 CFR 1910.120\(q\)\(6\)-\(8\)](#). “To respond effectively to an emergency release, a team of employees must work together, all doing their part safely and effectively. OSHA recognizes this, and splits its HAZWOPER emergency responder category into five ‘levels,’ each with its own training standards. For each emergency responder level, OSHA requires annual refresher training. Refresher training for emergency responders must be ‘of sufficient content and duration to maintain their competencies.’” Read the full article [here](#). (Lion Technology, Inc., 4/2/2026.)

ENVIRONMENT

EPA Releases Data Under the Chemical Data Reporting Rule - “On April 20, the EPA announced the release of 2024 data on the manufacturing and importing of chemicals collected as part of the Chemical Data Reporting rule. ‘EPA uses this information not only to improve transparency, but also to identify priority chemicals, assess potential cumulative exposures, and support actions that better protect children, families, workers, and communities,’ according to the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics.” Access CDR data at EPA’s website [here](#). (ACC SmartBrief, 4/23/2026.)

EPA Extends Comment Period for Revisions to the Risk Management Program Rule - “May 11 is the new deadline for comment on the Environmental Protection Agency’s [proposed amendments](#) to chemical facility safety provisions under its [Risk Management Program rule](#) (RMP). The initial comment deadline was April 10. EPA says the [extension](#) is in response to stakeholder requests. The proposal, published in February, would rescind or amend parts of the Safer Communities by Chemical Accident Prevention rule. That rule revised the RMP rule in [2024](#) as part of an effort to reduce the frequency of chemical releases.” Read the full article [here](#). (Safety and Health Magazine, 4/14/2026.)

EPA Again Delays TSCA PFAS Reporting Deadlines - “The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) just issued a [direct final rule](#) amending reporting deadlines for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). As described in our [November 2025 client alert](#), the Trump Administration’s EPA is making significant changes to the rule that requires entities that manufacture or have manufactured PFAS in any year since January 1, 2011, to submit a one-time comprehensive report regarding PFAS uses, production volumes, byproducts, disposal, exposures, and environmental or health effects. EPA has again bumped back the start of the data submission period (initially November 12, 2024 and then July 11, 2025) to January 31, 2027, or 60 days following the effective date of EPA’s forthcoming final rule on the proposed revisions to the substantive requirements of the PFAS Reporting Rule, whichever is *earlier*.” (Lexology, Pierce Atwood LLP - Georgia M. Bolduc and Lisa A. Gilbreath, 4/13/2026.)

Send your suggestions and comments to ehs@pinechemicals.org

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