

EHS Regulatory Updates

Compiled for the Pine Chemicals Association

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES

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

SOCMA Summit and Annual Meeting, Atlanta GA, 11/11-13/2026

SAFETY

Fifth Circuit Limits OSHA's Authority to Require Mental Illness Recordkeeping -

"Employers should take note of a recent Fifth Circuit decision limiting OSHA's authority to require recording of work-related mental health conditions. The ruling has immediate significance for employers in Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana, and it may provide a roadmap for challenges to OSHA's mental illness recordkeeping requirements in other jurisdictions." Read the full article [here](#). (OSHA Defense Report, Lindsay A. Disalvo and Valerie Futera, 8/27/2026.)

CSB Urges Chemical Facilities to Make Sure Buildings are Protective - "A Chemical Safety Board (CSB) final report on a fatal August 2025 explosion at a coking plant emphasizes the importance of ensuring that facility buildings are designed to protect people and contents during incidents. The [report](#) details the incident, which occurred at the U.S. Steel Clairton (PA) Coke Works Facility. CSB investigators found that the explosion occurred inside the Battery 13/14 transfer room after coke gas was released from process piping. The blast killed two workers and injured 11 others, including five who sustained serious injuries. CSB reports that both deceased workers – and two of those who were seriously injured – were inside or near buildings in the area where the explosion occurred. 'None of the buildings were designed or constructed to withstand an explosion,' the agency says. Additionally, CSB found that U.S. Steel did not perform a facility siting evaluation of its coke oven batteries before the incident. To protect facilities from fires, explosions or toxic releases, CSB recommends that companies conduct facility siting analyses of 'normally occupied spaces,' such as control rooms, and involve workers who occupy the buildings in the process." Read the full article [here](#). (Safety + Health Magazine, 8/19/2026.)

OSHA Extends its Warehousing and Distribution Center Operations National

Emphasis Program - "Defying expectations that it would dial back its use of National, Regional and/or Local Emphasis Programs, OSHA has once again extended and updated another key inspection targeting program. Having already announced extensions to the Hazardous Machinery (Amputations) and Heat Illness NEPs, OSHA recently released an [updated directive](#), effective July 31, 2026, for the agency's NEP on Warehousing and Distribution Center Operations. The new directive extends the NEP through July 2031, reflecting OSHA's continued commitment to identifying and mitigating significant health and safety risks associated with the continued nationwide growth of warehouse and distribution center operations." Read the full article [here](#). (OSHA Defense Report, 8/17/2026.)

Webinar: Workplace Violence Prevention Strategies and an Overview of the

Ever-Growing Legal Landscape - Although this webinar will focus on California's rule, it may be an opportunity to glean some best practices on this important topic. "California has taken the lead in implementing the first workplace violence rule in the country for general industry, requiring nearly all California employers (unless they fall under one of the limited

exemptions) to establish, implement, and maintain an ‘effective’ written workplace violence prevention plan, investigate every workplace violence incident (broadly defined), create and maintain violent incident logs, conduct annual employee and supervisor training, and abide by additional recordkeeping requirements. Numerous state laws also govern workplace violence in specific industries, such as retail, hospitality, and healthcare. . . Participants in this webinar will learn:

- What constitutes workplace violence
- EEOC and OSHA enforcement priorities
- Legal risks associated with workplace violence
- Updates on federal OSHA workplace violence rulemaking
- California’s Workplace Violence law
- New York’s Retail Worker Safety Act
- Patchwork of State Laws to deter and address workplace violence”

The webinar is scheduled for September 15, 2026, at 1:00 pm ET. Click [here](#) to register. (OSHA Defense Report, 8/31/2026.)

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ENVIRONMENT

RCRA Rules to Watch in 2026–2027 - “Hazardous waste managers have a lot to look forward to over the next two years. The 2026 Unified Agenda included US EPA's plans for the Federal hazardous waste regulations. This article highlights rules with potential to impact compliance for hazardous waste managers in the immediate future.” These include a proposed rule for listing PFAS, and others, as RCRA hazardous constituents, a proposed rule to provide a timeline to sunset paper manifests, and future notice of proposed rulemaking to add solar panels and lithium batteries to the list of Universal Wastes. Read the full article [here](#). (Lion Technology, Inc., 8/14/2026.)

TRANSPORTATION

Help Sheet: Five Common Hazmat Shipping Paper Mistakes and How to Avoid Them - “Mistakes on hazmat shipping papers can be incredibly expensive. They can lead to rejected shipments, civil penalties from DOT, and even dangerous incidents in transit that carry costly liability. Lion's guide, *5 Common Hazmat Shipping Paper Mistakes (And How to Avoid Them)*, will show you five common shipping paper mistakes, and, well...how to avoid them.” Click [here](#) to access the guide. (Lion Technology, Inc., 8/21/2026.)

What Makes Lithium Batteries Dangerous in Transportation? - “There are usually only around two or three battery-related emergencies per one million batteries. However, with lithium batteries, it is not about how likely emergencies are; it is about how dangerous they are when they occur. Lithium battery packages are one of the top hazardous materials when it comes to inspections. Why is the Department of Transportation (DOT) so concerned with lithium batteries? The biggest hazard associated with lithium batteries is the fires that they can create, but a battery emergency can also lead to venting of gases, explosions, flying metal shrapnel, and harmful smoke. Lithium batteries have been reported as the cause of at least two plane crashes with associated loss of life and extreme property damage. Lithium battery fires are often caused by internal short circuits. However, a poorly manufactured battery or a battery with any kind of mechanical damage (which can be caused by dropping or crushing it) can also result in a fire.” Read the full article [here](#) which also include some worker safety tips. (Lion Technology, Inc., 7/30/2026.)

Send your suggestions and comments to ehs@pinechemicals.org

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