EHS Regulatory Updates
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UPCOMING CONFERENCES

- ⇒ SOCMA Summit and Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA - **November 11-13, 2026**
- ⇒ 2027 SOCMA Show, Nashville, TN - **February 24-26, 2027**
- ⇒ Global TapRooT® Summit, Lake Conroe, Texas - **April 7-9, 2027**
- ⇒ ASSP Safety Conference and Expo, New Orleans, LA - **June 7-9, 2027**
- ⇒ 2027 NSC Safety Conference & Expo, Anaheim, CA - **September 24-30, 2027**

SAFETY

OSHA Eyewash Station Requirements: What Employers Need to Know About Compliance, Inspections, and Common Citations - "Many employers think emergency eyewash stations are only needed in chemical plants or factories. However, OSHA's requirements can apply in any workplace where employees might be exposed to harmful corrosive materials. This includes places like warehouses, distribution centers, retail stores, labs, maintenance shops, healthcare facilities, and battery charging areas. While OSHA's rule is brief, enforcement can be complicated because OSHA often uses other standards and specific regulations to decide if an employer's eyewash equipment is adequate. Understanding when eyewash stations are required, where they must be located, and how they must be maintained is critical because eyewash-related citations are frequently classified as a serious violation and often act as the focal point during inspections involving chemical exposures." Read the full article here to learn more. (OSHA Defense Report, Rachel L. Graeber, 9/24/2026.)

Supplemental Proposed Rule on Heat Could Appear Soon, OSHA Staffer Says - "In the coming months, OSHA is planning to issue a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking for a standard on heat-related injury and illness prevention. . . The supplemental NPRM is something that's occasionally done by the federal government, where we did a proposed rule and now we have different thoughts,' Levinson said. "We want to give the public an opportunity to provide input on what we're now thinking. 'All of what was said, all the evidence, all the public comments (from the proposed rule issued in August 2024), those are still part of the rulemaking record. We may say: 'Here are some different thoughts. Tell us what you think about that.' And there will be another public comment period.'" (Safety + Health Magazine, Alan Ferguson, 9/16/2026.)

Firefighters Group Launches Online Library of Health and Safety Resources - "Firefighters and emergency medical workers now have access to nearly 300 health and safety resources – with more to come – via a publicly available digital library. The International Association of Fire Fighters says its new Resource Library 'puts the information members need to protect themselves and serve their communities directly in their hands.' Users can search the library by topic – such as occupational health, illness/injury, building and fire codes, nutrition and fitness, and behavioral health – and filter results by year, project time and other categories. Available resources include guides, webinars, trainings, safety advisories, checklists and social media graphics. 'The IAFF has a wealth of information to help firefighters and emergency medical workers make informed decisions about their health and safety, but those resources are only helpful if people can find and use them,' Ryan Heffernan, IAFF's assistant to the general president for communications, said in a press release." (Health + Safety Magazine, 9/23/2026.)

Construction Safety Groups Partnering on Mental Health Awareness - "A pair of construction safety organizations are teaming up to coordinate efforts on education and outreach related to worker mental health and suicide prevention. Under a Memorandum of

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Understanding announced Sept. 24 – during National Suicide Prevention Month – the Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention and Safety and Health, the Construction Safety Organization hope their collaboration will 'help empower the entire industry,' a CIASP press release states. Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows that the construction industry has a suicide rate four times greater than that of the general population. A data analysis from CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training found that construction workers are about five times more likely to die from suicide than from a workplace injury. 'Construction has always been an industry built on people coming together to accomplish something greater than any one individual could do alone,' CIASP Executive Director Sonya Bohmann said in the release. 'This partnership carries that same spirit forward. By connecting safety, mental health and suicide prevention, we can help create workplaces where people feel supported, valued and empowered to look out for one another.' Safety and Health President Raffi Elchemmas added that the partnership is about 'recognizing that safety is bigger than a hard hat, a harness or a regulation – it is about the whole person.'" (Safety + Health Magazine, 9/29/2026.)

The Role of Glove Gauge in Hand Protection - "Safety gloves have come a long way. Advances in materials and knitting technology have expanded the range of options available, making it easier to match hand protection to specific hazards and tasks. One specification plays a key role in that decision: gauge. Understanding how glove gauge affects performance can help safety professionals choose gloves that provide the right balance of protection, dexterity and durability." Read the full article here. (Safety + Health Magazine, 8/24/2026.)

CSB Final Report: Shell Polymers Monaca Furnace Explosion and Fire - On September 16, the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) released its final report on the June 4, 2025 explosion and fire at the Shell Polymers Monaca facility in Pennsylvania. The CSB found that two motor-operated isolation valves were inadvertently opened simultaneously, allowing flammable cracked gas to backflow into a furnace firebox and ignite. The incident caused approximately $95 million in property damage. The CSB highlighted reliance on administrative controls and deficiencies in the human-machine interface, and recommended engineered safeguards to prevent catastrophic backflow scenarios. Read the CSB news release and access the final report here. (csb.gov, 9/16/2026.)
Question for Consideration: Where could two valves being opened at the wrong time at your facility create a catastrophic scenario, and what independent safeguard would stop it?

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ENVIRONMENT

EPA Aligns EPCRA Chemical Reporting with OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard - "[T] he U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a final rule amending the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) hazardous chemical inventory reporting regulations, at 40 C.F.R. Part 370, which became effective on August 21, 2026. The rule conforms EPA's regulations for EPCRA Sections 311 and 312 hazardous chemical inventory reporting to amendments that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) made to its Hazard Communication Standard (HazCom) in 2012 and 2024. Facilities must use the new hazard categories beginning January 1, 2028. EPA expects those changes to be reflected in 2027 EPCRA Section 312 annual reports due March 1, 2028." Read the full article here. (Lexology, Sidney Austin, 9/10/2026.)

EPA Proposes 2027 Construction General Permit for Public Comment - "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently published its proposed 2027 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit (CGP) for public comment. The proposal would replace the current 2022 CGP, which will expire in February 2027, and includes targeted changes addressing (1) the Supreme Court's decision in *City and County of San Francisco v. EPA*, (2) submission of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) when seeking coverage, (3) sediment basin stabilization measures, and (4) purported streamlining of certain permit requirements. When it goes into effect in 2027, the permit will affect construction site operators that obtain CGP coverage in areas where EPA administers the NPDES program, including Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and the District of Columbia. Longer term, the proposal may influence state construction stormwater permits as states renew their own general permits. . . Find EPA's proposed 2027 CGP and accompanying fact sheet here." Read the full article here. (Lexology, Beveridge & Diamond PC, 9/2/2026.)

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TRANSPORTATION

PHMSA Final Rule: ASME Code Section XII and National Board Inspection Code for Transport Tanks - On September 28, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issued a final rule amending the Hazardous Materials Regulations to authorize use of the 2015 ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XII, and portions of the 2015 National Board Inspection Code. The changes apply to the construction and continued service of certain cargo tank motor vehicles, cryogenic portable tanks, and multi-unit tank car tanks, and are intended to provide additional regulatory flexibility without compromising safety. Read the final rule and supporting information here. (phmsa.dot.gov, 9/28/2026.)

SECURITY

Chemical Industry Groups, GAO Press DHS to Resume Terrorist-Screening Program - "Chemical industry groups are backing a US Government Accountability Office (GAO) report from earlier this month calling on the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to address a key vulnerability for the sector: the inability of chemical facility owners and operators to efficiently screen visitors and employees for possible terrorism ties. Once the statutory authority for the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program expired in July 2023, chemical facilities lost the ability to work with the DHS to vet personnel and visitors against the federal Terrorist Screening Database. Industry groups and the GAO say this lapse leaves the sector vulnerable to security risks." Read the full article here. (Chemical & Engineering News, Alex Music, 9/22/2026.)

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