



SAFETY

Nebraska Building Chapter

AGC Safety Initiative E-News

June 22, 2022

OUR Safety MISSION: Help each other enforce safety rules to ensure that every person on construction site goes home safe and healthy at end of the workday.

Calendar of Events – [Learn more](#)

OSHA withdrew its [Vaccination and Testing Emergency Temporary Standard](#) and will focus on a permanent [COVID-19 Healthcare Standard](#)

Safety Initiative Goals:

As an AGC Nebraska Building Chapter member, are you participating with:

- 100% of all AGC members and other contractors on AGC jobsites enforcing OSHA standards as they apply to falls, electrical safety and possible another topic.
- 100% of all AGC members will have set their own company goals to improve safety in their firm and have a way to measure progress towards the goal.
- 100% of all AGC members will encourage and support all contractors on their jobsites to set their own company goals for improving safety.

Clarity on OSHA Heat Hazard Enforcement?

OSHA wants to double its heat hazard inspections but doesn't lay out how inspectors should evaluate contractor protocols to address heat exposure under its new national emphasis program.

On June 8, AGC [sought clarification](#) from OSHA on its enforcement of heat-related hazards under its [National Emphasis Program](#) (NEP). Due to the absence of specific guidance clarifying how compliance safety and health officers (CSHOs) will evaluate a contractor's implementation of protocols to address heat exposure, fair and consistent enforcement will be significantly impacted across all regions. In addition, the NEP's ambiguities may ultimately put workers at further risk of injury or illness.

Based on AGC's review and analysis of the NEP, it is unclear if following the principles of Water. Rest. Shade. under OSHA's [Heat Illness Prevention Campaign](#) will be deemed acceptable. It also raises questions as to whether current best practices that go above and beyond these principles meet NEP requirements.

As previously reported, OSHA issued the first [NEP](#) addressing outdoor and indoor heat-related hazards to further focus on heat-related hazards. Under the NEP, each OSHA Region is expected to have a fiscal year goal of increasing their heat inspections by 100% above the baseline of the average of fiscal years 2017 through 2021. Given the potential for aggressive enforcement under the NEP, AGC is demanding that the agency provide clear guidance to ensure consistent enforcement across OSHA, while also allowing AGC to provide the necessary resources to contractor members to protect workers and avoid citations.

For more information, please contact Kevin Cannon at kevin.cannon@agc.org or Nazia Shah at nazia.shah@agc.org.

Safe use of extension cords

(Editor's Note: A good reminder for me as I cut one Saturday while using the hedge trimmer!)

Extension cords can be found in many types of workplaces, from offices and warehouses to retail stores and construction jobsites. Unfortunately, they're often commonly misused.

Do:

- Inspect an extension cord for physical damage before use.
- Check that the cord matches the wattage rating on the appliance or tool you're using.
- Make sure all cords have been approved by an independent testing laboratory such as UL.
- Fully insert the extension cord into the outlet.
- Keep cords away from water.
- Use ground-fault circuit interrupter protection when using extension cords in wet or damp environments.
- Unplug extension cords when not in use.
- Consider installing overhead pendants to reduce trip hazards.

Don't:

- Use an indoor extension cord outdoors.
- Overload cords with more than the proper electrical load.
- Run extension cords through doorways, holes in ceilings, walls, or floors.
- Daisy chain, or connect, multiple power strips together.
- Move, bend, or modify any of the extension cord plug's metal parts.
- Force a plug into an outlet.
- Drive over an extension cord.
- Attach extension cords to the wall with nails or staples.