



SAFETY NEWS

This Month in Safety....

- General Safety
- Confined Space
- Knotty Board
- Picture page
- Back page

AS we begin the new year, I would like to take the time to review a couple specific safety practices for Signature employees that will limit injuries and allow for Signature to continue with Zero Injuries. These practices are in place to limit injuries and allow employees to retrun home in the same manner as you came to work.

- 1) Ladders used for access are to extended 3 feet from the level they are resting against if used for access. So going from the first to the second level, the extension ladder (Not a step ladder as the top cap or top step are not to be used.) would be secured at the top and the bottom and extend up 3 feet from the second floor. The ladder access area would have a handrail to limit those working in the area from falling over the edge and limit those walking backwards from falling over the edge.
- 2) Nails are always to be bent over or taken out from any board. We had two ankle busters last year, keep the loose rocks out of the walk path and smooth out as many ruts around the trailer as possible.
- 3) It was determined at the last safety meeting that hard hats and boots would be worn through carpeting of a building. If employees are not following this, please use the Signature accountability program that is in place.
- 4) Extension cords are temporary power, they are to be plugged into a GFCI. For the use on generators, there must be a method of testing the outlet GFCI on a daily basis. If you have temporary power on your project, temporary panels are to have their breakers.

NAICS Code: 2361 Residential Building Construction

Listed below are the top 10 standards which were cited by **Federal OSHA** for the specified NAICS Code during the period October 2015 through September 2016. Penalties shown reflect current rather than initial amounts. For more information, see [definitions](#).

Standard	Citations	Inspections	Penalty	Description
Total	2,368	944	\$4,876,400	<i>All Standards cited for Residential Building Construction</i>
19260501	591	543	\$2,127,067	Duty to have fall protection.
19260451	361	164	\$609,501	General requirements.
19261053	184	154	\$278,244	Ladders.
19260503	115	108	\$165,557	Training requirements.
19260020	105	99	\$264,278	General safety and health provisions.
19260102	104	103	\$174,053	Eye and face protection.
19261052	75	61	\$124,440	Stairways.
19260100	70	70	\$120,193	Head protection.
19260405	67	50	\$66,672	Wiring methods, components, and equip-
19101200	64	27	\$24,632	Hazard Communication.

Over the past month, there has been some violations for employees entering manholes and concrete structures without the Required Confined Space Permit. Contractors may assess the space, but must know the hazards of the space. Employees must be able to show there is no hazard upon entry. Most generally this is done by checking the physical hazards of the space along with atmospheric via a four gas air monitor. Possible Permit Required Confined Spaces include, but are not limited to manholes, pits, vaults, etc. On the new Daily safety, there is a place to review the possible confined spaces for the site and have a competent person sign off on the daily.

Attached is a quick summary for you to review.

Confined Spaces in Construction: Pits

Confined spaces can present conditions that are immediately dangerous to workers if not properly identified, evaluated, tested, and controlled. This fact sheet highlights many of the confined space hazards associated with pits and how employers can protect their workers in these environments.

OSHA has developed a new construction standard for Confined Spaces (29 CFR 1926 Subpart AA)— any space that meets the following three criteria:

- Is large enough for a worker to enter it;
- Has limited means of entry or exit; and
- Is not designed for continuous occupancy.

A space may also be a **permit-required confined space** if it has a hazardous atmosphere, the potential for engulfment or suffocation, a layout that might trap a worker through converging walls or a sloped floor, or any other serious safety or health hazard.

Fatal Incidents

Confined space hazards in pits have led to worker deaths. Several tragic incidents included:

- Two workers suffocated while attempting to close gate valves in a valve pit.
- A worker lost consciousness, fell, and was killed while climbing down a ladder into an unventilated underground valve vault to turn on water valves.
- While replacing a steam-operated vertical pump, an equipment repair technician died from burns and suffocation after falling into an industrial waste pit.

Training

The new Confined Spaces standard requires employers to ensure that their workers know about the existence, location, and dangers posed by each permit-required confined space, and that they may not enter such spaces without authorization.

Employers must train workers involved in permit-required confined space operations so that they can perform their duties safely and understand

the hazards in permit spaces and the methods used to isolate, control or protect workers from these hazards. Workers not authorized to perform entry rescues must be trained on the dangers of attempting such rescues.

Safe Entry Requirements

The new Confined Spaces standard includes several requirements for safe entry.

Preparation: Before workers can enter a confined space, employers must provide pre-entry planning. This includes:

- Having a competent person evaluate the work site for the presence of confined spaces, including permit-required confined spaces.
- Once the space is classified as a permit-required confined space, identifying the means of entry and exit, proper ventilation methods, and elimination or control of all potential hazards in the space.
- Ensuring that the air in a confined space is tested, before workers enter, for oxygen levels, flammable and toxic substances, and stratified atmospheres.
- If a permit is required for the space, removing or controlling hazards in the space and determining rescue procedures and necessary equipment.
- If the air in a space is not safe for workers, ventilating or using whatever controls or protections are necessary so that employees can safely work in the space.

Ongoing practices: After pre-entry planning, employers must ensure that the space is monitored for hazards, especially atmospheric hazards. Effective communication is important because there can be multiple contractors operating on a site, each with its own workers

needing to enter the confined space. Attendants outside confined spaces must make sure that unauthorized workers do not enter them. Rescue attempts by untrained personnel can lead to multiple deaths.

Confined Spaces in Pits

Even though a pit is typically open on top and over 4 feet deep, it can still be a confined space or permit-required confined space. Additionally, pits can be completely underground or below grade, such as a utility vault within a sewer



system or a pit within a pit in a wastewater treatment plant.

Pits are found in many environments. Examples include sump pits, valve pits or vaults (e.g., wastewater treatment plants, municipal

water systems), electrical pits/vaults, steam pits/vaults, vehicle service/garage pits, elevator pits, dock leveler pits, industrial chemical waste pits, and many more. Many of these spaces qualify as permit-required confined spaces.

Employers must take all necessary steps to keep workers safe in confined spaces, including following the OSHA Construction Confined Spaces standard. This standard applies to both new construction in a pit and alterations and/or upgrades. Among the pit-related tasks covered by the standard are:

- Opening or closing valves during renovation work.
- Installing or upgrading pump equipment, cables, or junction boxes.

Construction work can create confined spaces, even if there are none at the start of a project. Changes to the entry/exit, the ease of exit, and air flow could produce a confined space or cause one to become permit-required.

Personal protective equipment: Employers should assess the worksite to determine what personal protective equipment (PPE) is needed to protect workers. Employers should provide workers with the required PPE and proper training on its use and about any related hazards before the work starts.

How to Contact OSHA

For questions or to get information or advice, to find out how to contact OSHA's free on-site consultation program, order publications, report a fatality or severe injury, or to file a confidential complaint, visit www.osha.gov or call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742).

Additional Information

[OSHA's Confined Spaces in Construction Standard \(29 CFR 1926 Subpart AA\)](#)

[Confined Spaces: OSHA Construction Industry Topics by Standard](#)

[OSHA Fact Sheet: Procedures for Atmospheric Testing in Confined Spaces](#)

[Confined Spaces: NIOSH Workplace Safety and Health Topics Page](#)

[State Plan Guidance:](#) States with OSHA-approved state plans may have additional requirements for confined space safety.

[Help for Small and Medium-Sized Employers:](#) OSHA's On-site Consultation Program offers free and confidential advice to businesses nationwide.

This is one in a series of informational fact sheets highlighting OSHA programs, policies or standards. It does not impose any new compliance requirements. For a comprehensive list of compliance requirements of OSHA standards or regulations, refer to Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This information will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. The voice phone is (202) 693-1999; teletypewriter (TTY) number: 1-877-889-5627.

For assistance, contact us. We can help. It's confidential.



www.osha.gov (800) 321-OSHA (6742)



U.S. Department of Labor



Knotty Board



Below are contractors where violations have been issued, or where major instances noted in ICPM by the safety director and those onsite. These are not all that have been issued, but a representative number. This is just to share experiences onsite.

I know it is tough to issue a violation to a contractor that you have to work with on a daily basis, but if it helps save a persons life, it is a good thing. Also those of you who might not like confrontation, tell the contractor that OSHA’s fines are averaging \$3500 on Signature projects. The \$250 violation that we may offer is easier than theirs. Those of you who don’t like the long walk to get the forms, because the job is so big, they can be issued at any time.

Allside/URD (Sider in Oregon)	Handrails are not being reinstalled, exposing others to a fall greater than 6 feet.
Triumph (siding NC)	Employees in an Aerial lift were not properly tied off and not tied off. Employees on the entrance roof not tied off.
Pricon (Drywall TX)	No fall protection while on the porch or in the trusses exposed to a fall greater than 6 feet.
ARS (Gypcrete TX)	Employees on the porch without fall protection after repeatedly informed.
Albright (Electrical TX)	Employee’s on the porch without fall protection
Unlimited Care (Mason Greenfield)	Scaffolding not set up per the OSHA rule. Cross braces missing on the first buck, walk boards split, employees accessing the scaffold via climbing the frame that is missing the pins for the cross bracing. Accessing via the porches leaving the handrail down exposing one to a fall greater than 6 feet not on a scaffold.
Signature	One employee on the roof without fall protection.
Signature	One employee onsite without a hard hat.
Hagerman (Commercial)	Multiple fall protection and ladder issues.
Broadly Campbell (Commercial mason)	Multiple employees exposed to a fall without proper fall protection around the elevator shaft.
Sofco (Steel erection Commercial)	Fall protection not in use when installing Steel.
Signature	Over the past couple of months, Signature has had their fair share of safety issues. Please make sure you are leading by example, Please make sure you have fall protection if on the roof, hard hats if working around a crane, safety glass are needed if working with a saw. Also if contractors are not compliant, please use the accountability program that we have. Its tough to issue violations, but it helps get all back in order.



Proper use of Yellow Carnie caps. Must have a 2x4 in the cap.



Saw horses should not be used for step ladders. Buckets should not be stood on either.

The Back Page

What's wrong with this picture?



For a \$20 gift card, tell me the number of violations you see in this picture. All correct responses will be placed in a hat and one lucky winner will receive a \$20 gift card. This should be submitted by close of business Monday 12-19-16.

Last month's winner was Chhay Chhorn.

For more information regarding safety use these references:

-www.osha.gov

-OSHA Standards For The Construction Industry 29 CFR Part 1926