



Point

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This newsletter is to inform you of recent changes & trends regarding health and safety.

The Turning Point is a monthly newsletter covering topics from various industries and sectors. The Turning Point will respond to your inquiries and inform you of current services and updates regarding

Raising the Standard Consulting Inc.



OSHA NEW RULE IN 2025

HEAT INJURY AND ILLNESS PREVENTION IN OUTDOOR AND INDOOR WORK SETTINGS RULEMAKING

OSHA is happy to announce that the Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings proposed rule has been published in the Federal Register...

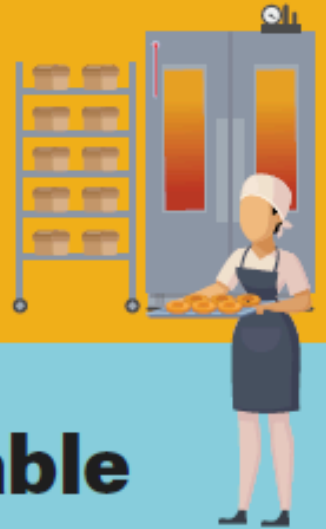
Heat is the leading cause of death among all hazardous weather conditions in the United States. Excessive heat in the workplace can cause a number of adverse health effects, including heat stroke and even death, if not treated properly. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 479 workers in the U.S. died from exposure to environmental heat from 2011-2022, an average of 40 fatalities per year in that time period. Additionally, there were

33,890 estimated work-related heat injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work from 2011-2020, an average of 3,389 per year in that time period. However, these statistics for occupational heat-related illnesses, injuries, and fatalities are likely vast underestimates.

Workers in outdoor and indoor work settings without adequate climate controls are at risk of hazardous heat exposure. Certain heat-generating processes, machinery, and equipment (e.g., hot tar ovens, furnaces, etc.) can

Work Safely in Heat

Indoor and outdoor workers are at risk for heat illness.



Heat illness is preventable

also cause hazardous heat when cooling measures are not in place. Some groups may be more likely to experience adverse health effects from heat, such as pregnant workers, while others are disproportionately exposed to hazardous levels of heat, such as workers of color in essential jobs who are more often employed in work settings with high risk of hazardous heat exposure.

Current Status

On August 30, 2024, OSHA published in the Federal Register a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings. This is a significant step toward a federal heat standard to protect workers.

The proposed standard would apply to all employers conducting outdoor and indoor work in all general industry, construction, maritime, and agriculture sectors where OSHA has jurisdiction.

The standard would require employers to create a plan to evaluate and control heat hazards in their workplace. It would clarify employer obligations and the steps necessary to effectively protect employees from hazardous heat. The ultimate goal is to prevent and reduce the number of occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities caused by exposure to hazardous heat.

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LIVE

OSHA NEWS

OSHA NATIONAL NEWS RELEASE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DOUG PARKER ISSUES STATEMENT ON 2023 CENSUS OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Labor's Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, Doug Parker, has issued the following statement in regard to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' release of its [2023 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries](#) on Dec. 19, 2024:

"Today's report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics is more positive news for worker safety and health. In November, the bureau reported a 20-year low in the rate of non-fatal worker injuries and illnesses in 2023, and we are further encouraged by the news that the number and rate of fatal worker injuries also dropped in 2023.

"I believe the Biden-Harris administration's worker-centered approach of stronger enforcement combined with our numerous collaborations with employers and labor to embrace health and safety as core values are making a difference. Whether it is our enforcement initiatives, our promotion of workplace safety and health management systems, or our initiatives to support workplace mental health and safe driving

and prevent worker drug overdoses, it all makes a difference in saving lives at work.

"There was a meaningful decline in the number of fatal injuries to Black workers of 10.2 percent, and the rate for Latino workers dropped from 4.6 to 4.4 per 100,000 workers. Addressing high rates among these populations and recognizing the disproportionate impact of work hazards on workers of color enable more workers to end their shifts safely.

"Despite these promising trends, there is more work to be done. In 2023, 5,283 workers lost their lives. That means a worker dies every 99 minutes. Every worker's death is a profound tragedy that leaves a lasting void for families, friends, co-workers and communities. We can and we must do better."

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FALL PROTECTION REQUIRED



ARTICLE

TRAGIC FATAL FALL: 45-YEAR-OLD CONSTRUCTION WORKER DIES DURING WALDORF ASTORIA \$2B RENOVATION PROJECT

Fatal Fall at Waldorf Astoria Construction Site Claims Worker's Life – A tragic construction accident at Waldorf Astoria claims life of Elie William, 45. [NYC construction accident lawyers](#) at Markhoff & Mittman, P.C. offer support to workers and families affected by job site fatalities, advocating for safety and justice in the wake of this devastating 40-foot fall during \$2B renovation project.

Details of the Fatal Construction Fall

A tragic incident unfolded at the iconic Waldorf Astoria Hotel in Midtown Manhattan on Thursday morning, resulting in the death of a 45-year-old construction worker. The New York Police Department responded to a call at approximately 9:40 a.m. near the intersection of East 49th Street and Park Avenue.

The New York City Department of Buildings (DOB) has provided initial findings from their investigation. The worker was assisting a licensed master electrician in installing a metal framing system for electrical wiring and equipment. The work was taking place in a

catwalk area between the ceiling of a third-floor ballroom and the fourth floor of the building.

While walking on top of the drywall ceiling in the catwalk area, the worker tragically fell 40 feet, landing inside the third-floor ballroom. Emergency Medical Services pronounced the worker dead at the scene.

Immediate Response and Investigation into Construction Death

In response to this fatal accident, the DOB has taken swift action. Construction safety inspectors were dispatched to 301 Park Avenue, the site of the Waldorf Astoria. An immediate Stop Work Order has been issued for the project while authorities begin their investigation into the circumstances surrounding the fall.

This incident underscores the inherent risks in the construction industry and



the ongoing need for stringent safety measures. As the investigation continues, more details may emerge about the factors contributing to this tragic loss of life.

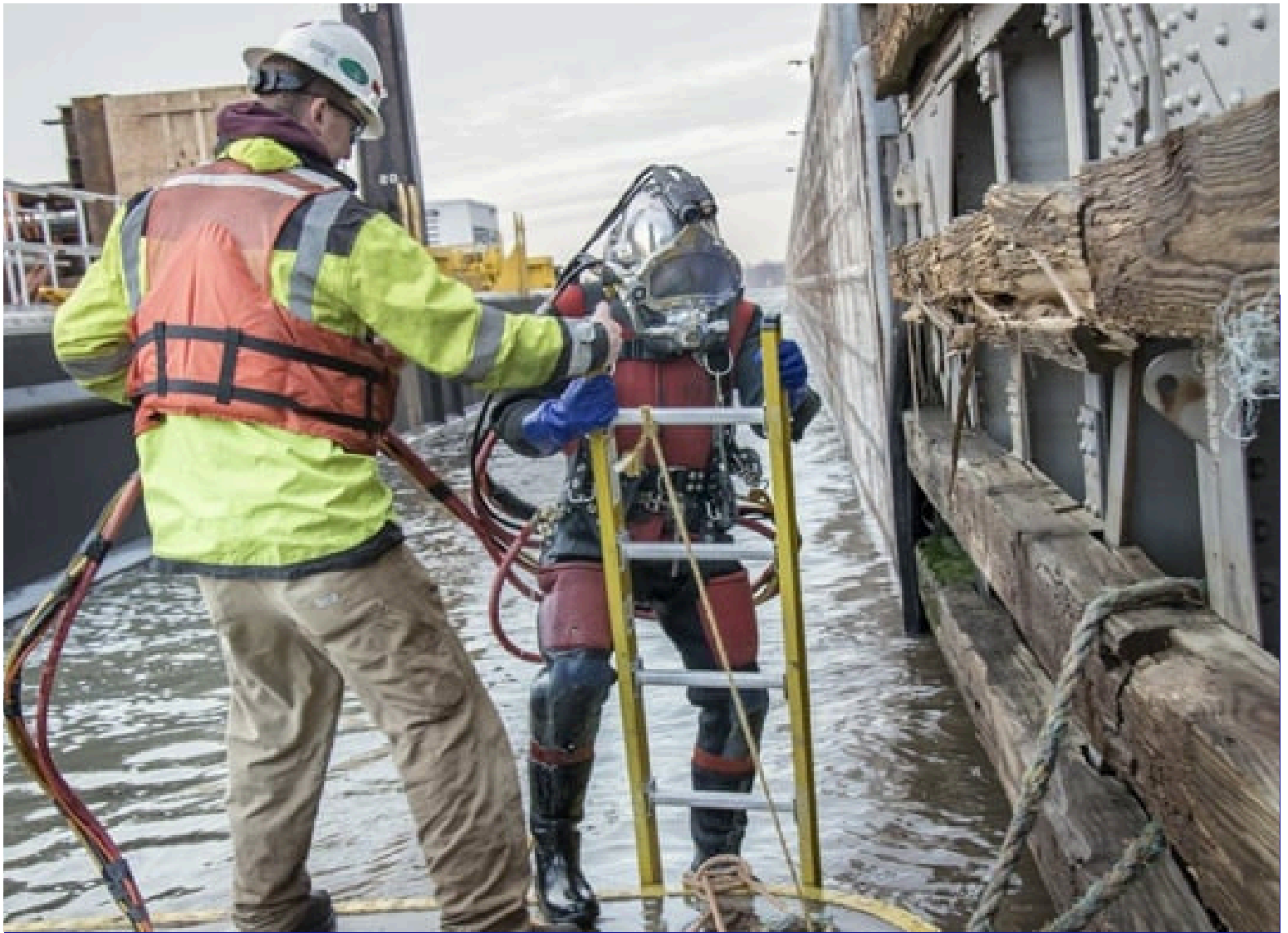
Alarming Statistics and the Urgent Need for Safety on Construction Sites

The construction industry in New York continues to face significant challenges in worker safety. In 2023, while the number of construction-related fatalities dropped to its lowest level in nearly a decade with seven deaths, there was a concerning 25% increase in worker injuries, totaling 692.

This marks the third consecutive year of rising injury rates, with falls remaining the leading cause of both injuries and fatalities.

Across New York City's boroughs, thousands of construction site suspensions were implemented in 2022 due to safety violations, with Brooklyn leading at 4,236 suspensions. These statistics underscore the critical need for enhanced safety measures and stricter adherence to regulations in the construction industry.

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ARTICLE

US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR FINDS CONTRACTOR'S SAFETY FAILURES LED TO DIVER'S PREVENTABLE FATALITY AT UNDERWATER WORKSITE AT MANN'S HARBOR BRIDGE

MANN'S HARBOR, NC – A Maryland-based construction contractor could have prevented a 47-year-old diver from suffering fatal injuries during an underwater dive test in June 2024 at the Mann's Harbor Bridge on Croatan Sound.

Investigators with the U.S. Department of Labor's [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) learned a four-member dive team employed by Coastal Gunitite Construction Co. was doing an underwater test on the worker's first day of work.

Seconds after descending from a boat to about 19-feet underwater, the diver became unresponsive. Once the diver failed to answer radio calls, the other team members responded by removing the diver from the water.

Co-workers assisted in getting the employee out of the water and performed CPR while waiting for emergency personnel to arrive. Despite those efforts, the employee could not be revived.

What's In Your

Safety Management System?



OSHA's investigators identified several safety deficiencies at the site, including Coastal Gunite's failure to assess workers' fitness for diving and ensure first aid supplies and a manual resuscitator were available on site.

In addition, the company improperly positioned an air intake to prevent contamination and did not perform regular air purity tests on compressor systems and test air hose pressure annually.

"Ensuring employees are physically fit for commercial diving is a fundamental part of workplace safety," said OSHA Area Office Director Kim Morton in Raleigh, North Carolina. "Employers have a duty to protect their workers by implementing strict safety protocols and thorough pre-employment evaluations, particularly in high-risk industries like commercial diving.

OSHA cited Coastal Gunite Construction for four serious violations and proposed \$40,329 in penalties, the maximum that OSHA can legally recommend.

The company has 15 business days from receipt of its citations and penalties to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA's area director, or contest the findings before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

Based in Cambridge, Maryland, Coastal Gunite Construction Co. has provided structural shotcrete services for commercial, industrial, energy and public sectors clients and has built, maintained and rehabilitated concrete structures since 1983. The company employs divers for marine operations to perform infrastructure construction, maintenance and repair.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL ARTICLE](#)

Raising The Standard



Want to prevent workplace accidents?

RTS Consulting works with clients to develop a custom corporate safety, health and environmental program or site specific accident prevention program (in accordance with the Corps of Engineers EM 385-1-1 or OSHA/HIOSH requirements) based on sound principles of risk management. We also proactively manage the claims process to ensure that claimants receive proper care, while serving as an advocate and advisor to settle claims with our clients' best interest in mind.

For more information please contact
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Raising the Standard Consulting will raise the standard of EH&S in your organization through the development of new and innovative strategies and programs driven by your own individual needs.

We want to build relationships with our clients to help create lasting change in their organizations. Contact us today to build a safer tomorrow.

With Aloha,

Stanford Brown, B.Sc., CSP, CSHP, CRSP, CHSC, Senior
Consultant, President & CEO