



OSHA FUNDAMENTALS FOR ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS

MIDWEST ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONFERENCE (MECC) | SEPTEMBER 15, 2025



INTRODUCTION

- Senior Associate with KTL
 - Multi-disciplinary consulting firm
 - EHS, food safety, and quality compliance and management consulting services
- Over 10 years of EHS experience, including safety audits, OSHA program development, safety management systems, incident investigations, and safety training
- Certified Safety Professional (CSP), Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM), ISO 9001/14001/45001 Lead Auditor, OSHA 501/511 Trainer



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WHY ARE YOU HERE?

- Why environmental professionals need OSHA awareness/differences in focus:
 - Environmental: Permitting, pollution, waste management, resource depletion
 - Safety & Health: Worker protection, hazard elimination or minimization, injury and illness prevention
- Link between environmental compliance and worker safety
- Why leaders need to speak both languages
- Role of safety credibility in advancing leadership influence



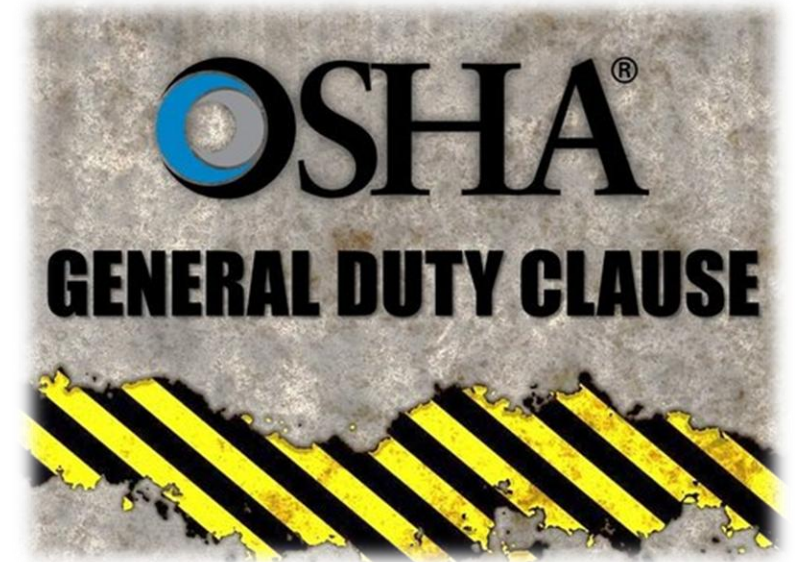
OSHA: THE BIG PICTURE

- OSHA's purpose
 - Ensure safe and healthful working conditions
 - Focus on prevention
- Standards structure
- OSHA enforcement
- Partner role
- Big picture for EHS leaders
 - Identify and prioritize hazards
 - Prioritize resources
 - Proactively address issues
 - Lead more strategically



GENERAL DUTY CLAUSE

- Section 5(a)(1) of the OSH Act
 - Acts as a “catch-all” provision
 - Enables OSHA to issue citations for unsafe conditions when no specific standard exists
- Requires employers to provide a workplace free from recognized hazards
 - Proactively identify, mitigate, and manage hazards beyond checklist compliance
 - Protect workers from new/evolving hazards
- Shifts focus from compliance to:
 - Overall hazard prevention
 - Continuous safety improvement culture



INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (IBR)

- 29 CFR §1910.6
 - Adopts external consensus standards (NFPA, ANSI, NIOSH) as legally enforceable
 - Keeps OSHA standards aligned with industry best practices
- Requires employers to comply with referenced standards beyond the OSHA standards
 - May make OSHA requirements more complex
 - Must understand and correctly implement referenced standards
- Examples include standards for machine guarding, electrical safety, fire protection, and personal protective equipment (PPE)



CRITICAL OSHA SAFETY PROGRAMS EVERY EHS LEADER SHOULD RECOGNIZE

1. Hazard Communication (HazCom) – Safety Data Sheets (SDS), labeling, training
2. Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) – energy isolation
3. Confined Spaces – permit vs. non-permit spaces
4. Fall Protection – at heights or in unusual work areas
5. Machine Guarding – preventing contact with moving parts



CRITICAL OSHA SAFETY PROGRAMS EVERY EHS LEADER SHOULD RECOGNIZE – CONT.

6. Respiratory Protection – PPE selection, fit testing
7. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – head, eye, hearing protection
8. Emergency Action & Fire Prevention – evacuation, fire safety
9. Electrical Safety – no exposed wiring, proper cords, grounded outlets.
10. Powered Industrial Trucks (PITs) – forklift training, inspections, safe operation



Ear muffs



Semi-insert/
Canal caps



Custom molded ear plugs with
noise attenuation for musicians



Foam ear
plugs

Hearing Protection

OSHA'S MOST CITED STANDARDS

Clause	Violations
1. Fall Protection: General Requirements	7,036
2. Hazard Communication	3,277
3. Lockout/Tagout (LOTO)	2,967
4. Ladders	2,897
5. Respiratory Protection	2,835
6. Powered Industrial Trucks (Forklifts)	2,604
7. Fall Protection: Training Requirements	2,310
8. Scaffolding	2,071
9. Eye and Face Protection	2,007
10. Machine Guarding	1,780



HOW TO SPOT SAFETY GAPS WITHOUT BEING A SAFETY EXPERT

Standard	Reminder
Fall Protection	Look up, look down
Hazard Communication	Read the labels
Respiratory Protection	Match the mask to the hazard
Ladders	Check before you climb
Scaffolding	Trust but verify
Lockout/Tagout (LOTO)	Control the energy
Forklifts	Watch the wheels
Machine guarding	Mind moving parts
Eye and face protection	Keep people covered
Electrical	Keep it safe and closed

You don't have to be a safety cop, just an extra set of eyes:

- See something
- Note it
- Ask about it
- Connect with your Safety Team



STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT AS AN EHS LEADER

- Shift from technical contributor to strategic leader
- Drive safety culture and accountability
- Ask the right leadership-level safety questions
- Support without micromanaging technical safety experts
- Hold experts accountable
- Stay informed (e.g., KPIs, dashboards, metrics)



BUILDING SAFETY CREDIBILITY

- Partner with Safety Teams
- Understand enough to challenge constructively
- Show commitment through cross-functional collaboration
- Link safety outcomes to environmental and business goals



SUMMARY

- OSHA matters for environmental professionals
- Focus on the “heavy hitters”
- Think beyond compliance
- Build safety credibility
- Lead strategically





CONTACT US

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