

15 Most Commonly Cited OSHA Violations

Written to Minnesota Fire Departments

The following are the 15 most commonly cited violations written to Minnesota Fire Departments for a 10 year period, from 1/1/2005 to 12/31/2014. The list includes the standard number, an excerpt from the standard and some explanations or common examples when appropriate. (***in italics*)

Item numbers that start in a 52 are Minnesota Rules and the item number that starts with 0182 is a Minnesota Statute. Items that start in 1910 are from the Federal OSHA Standards

5206.0700 (1) (B) The employer shall develop and implement a written Employee Right-to-Know program. ***Must include specific hazards found in fire station, include MSDS sheets on any products in use and must be written.*

5205.0675 (2) All overhead or sliding doors with sufficient weight or closing force to cause crushing injury to employees shall be provided with a constant pressure closing switch, safety edge, pressure relief mechanism, or three button control station meeting the specifications of Underwriters' Laboratories Standard UL 325 (1987) ***Most violations are for inoperable or absent electric eyes and/or safety edges that would cause doors to reverse if a person was in the way.*

1910.305 (d) (1) Switchboards with exposed live parts. Switchboards that have any exposed live parts shall be located in permanently dry locations and shall be accessible only to qualified persons. Exposed live (electrical) parts. ***Most violations written for open slots in a circuit panel box.*

1910.134 (a) (2) Prior to the selection process, the test subject shall be shown how to put on a respirator, how it should be positioned on the face, how to set strap tension and how to determine an acceptable fit. A mirror shall be available to assist the subject in evaluating the fit and positioning of the respirator. This instruction may not constitute the subject's formal training on respirator use, because it is only a review. *** This section is primarily used for problems with the departments respiratory protection program specifically having a written program, physical exams and fit testing.*

- 1910.156 (d)** Firefighting equipment. The employer shall maintain and inspect, at least annually, firefighting equipment to assure the safe operational condition of the equipment. Portable fire extinguishers and respirators shall be inspected at least monthly. Firefighting equipment that is in damaged or unserviceable condition shall be removed from service and replaced. ***Most violations written for problems with maintenance or repair of turn out gear and equipment. Must maintain records of inspection and maintenance.*
- 0182.0653 (02)** Conditions and place of employment. Each employer shall furnish to each of its employees conditions of employment and a place of employment free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious injury or harm to its employees.
- 1910.23 (c) (1)** Every open-sided floor or platform 4 feet or more above adjacent floor or ground level shall be guarded by a standard railing (or the equivalent as specified in paragraph (e)(3) of this section) on all open sides except where there is entrance to a ramp, stairway, or fixed ladder. The railing shall be provided with a toe board wherever, beneath the open sides. ***Areas above shops or mezzanines in the apparatus bay area, converted for storage or an office, that were not designed for this use and do not have proper access or safety railings.*
- 1910.151 (c)** Where the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within the work area for immediate emergency use. *** Specifically when you have a battery charger or other things that can get into eyes you need an eye-wash station that supplies a minimum 15 minutes of flushing time that can be operated by the individual. A couple of 1 quart squeeze bottles do not comply.*
- 1910.242 (b)** Compressed air used for cleaning. Compressed air shall not be used for cleaning purposes except where reduced to less than 30 p.s.i. and then only with effective chip guarding and personal protective equipment. ***If you have an air spray nozzle in your shop the air pressure must be limited to 30psi.*
- 1910.037 (b) (2)** Each exit must be clearly visible and marked by a sign reading "Exit."
- 1910.120 (q) (3)** Procedures for handling emergency response.

- 5206.700 (1) (G)** Training programs provided to employees concerning hazardous substances, harmful physical agents, and infectious agents. *** Must be annual training. Most departments get the blood borne pathogens but forget to cover other hazardous situations including noise hazards and heat stress.*
- 1910.304 (f) (5)** Electrical grounding. ***This number is no longer used. It covered electrical grounding of fixed equipment such as washers/dryers, compressors where there is a grounding problem or an adapter is used.*
- 1910.305 (g) (1) (iii)** The flexible (electric) cord shall be equipped with an attachment plug and shall be energized from an approved receptacle outlet. ***Extension cords used for permanent wiring or in an unsafe manner.*
- 1910.1030(c)(1)(i)** Bloodborne pathogens: Each employer having an employee(s) with occupational exposure as defined by paragraph (b) of this section shall establish a written Exposure Control Plan designed to eliminate or minimize employee exposure. *** Must have a written plan.*

Minnesota OSHA has a Consultation service. They can help you assure a safety work environment and avoid OSHA violations. For more information, contact MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation via [e-mail](mailto:OSHA.Consultation@state.mn.us) (OSHA.Consultation@state.mn.us) or phone (651) 284-5060, toll-free at 1-800-657-3776.

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