

EMS STAFF SAFETY NEWSLETTER

MAAS Fund Newsletter for Field Staff

JANUARY 2016

HEALTHCARE VIOLENCE

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has launched a new webpage to help employers and employees understand and address violence in hospitals and other healthcare professions.

From 2002 to 2013, the rate of serious workplace violence incidents was more than four times greater in health care than in private industry on average.

According to OSHA, health care accounts for nearly as many serious violence injuries as all other industries combined.

To assist in that effort, OSHA has collected resources and strategies at :
www.osha.gov/dsg/hospitals-workplace-violence.html.

If you have any questions, please contact your supervisors and refer to your companies policies regarding WPV and how best to address the concerns.

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Best practices in the New Year

Resolve to stay safe in 2016

The Safety Community has developed these best practices to create a safe work environment:

- **Don't take shortcuts.** It's natural to want to get the job finished on or even ahead of schedule. But the "get-it-done-quick" attitude can be a recipe for disaster. Stick to the instructions, and get all your questions answered.
- **Be careful on the road.** Inspect your vehicle, including brake lights, turn signals, tire pressure, and the amount of gas in the tank, before each trip, and get repairs made immediately.
- **Watch the weather.** Both indoor and outdoor work can expose you to extreme temperatures. In cold conditions like those currently gripping many parts of the country, dress in layers, and properly cover your head, feet, hands, and face - the body parts most prone to frostbite.
- **Make personal protective equipment (PPE) a priority.** It's not enough to wear PPE. You should also know how to properly use goggles, face protection, gloves, safety shoes, hard hats, and ear protection.
- **Keep things shipshape.** Good housekeeping does more than keep the workplace neat. It can prevent serious incidents like trips

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

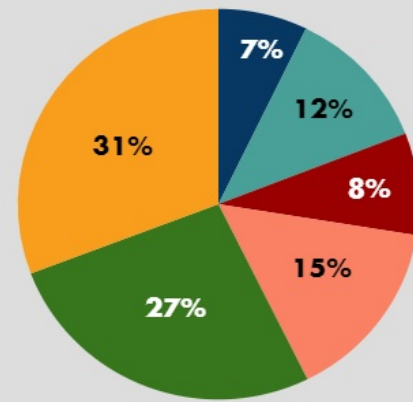


It can happen anywhere.
Are you prepared?

In 2014, U.S. workers experienced 403 occupational homicides and over 16,000 nonfatal occupational injuries intentionally inflicted by a person.

Use this infographic to find out who's most at risk—and what you can do to prevent and respond to violence at your facility.

2014 WORKPLACE HOMICIDES BY ASSAILANT TYPE



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

RISK FACTORS

Do any of these apply to your workers?



Exchanging money



Working alone



Providing services & care



Working where alcohol is served



Working late at night



Working in high-crime areas

PLAN AND PREPARE

C REATE

Create a violence prevention plan that focuses on the risks most likely to affect your workplace.

A SSESS

Assess your facility's security strengths and weaknesses, both physical and procedural. Implement additional security measures if necessary.

T RAIN

Train your workers to recognize and report violent behavior, resolve conflict effectively, and respond to workplace violence.

P RACTICE

Hold periodic drills for workers to practice the actions they should take during a workplace violence emergency.

As attention to the issue grows, safety pros agree that responding to workplace violence requires attention to more than just an actual physical attack. So, a workplace violence prevention program will be ineffective if it does not consider harassment, threats, and abuse of all kinds. A successful workplace violence prevention program must include training in violence prevention, threat detection, threat assessment, and threat management. And, in fact, this training should become part of the workplace culture.

Although dramatic multiple homicide incidents are highly publicized, they represent a very small number of workplace violence incidents. The majority of incidents that employers and employees deal with on a daily basis are cases of assaults, domestic violence, stalking, threats, harassment (to include sexual harassment), and physical and/or emotional abuse that make no headlines. And, many of these are not even reported to management. So, data on the exact extent of workplace violence are sketchy.

Like all violent crime, workplace violence creates ripples that go beyond what is done to a particular victim. It damages trust, community, and the sense of security every worker has a right to feel while on the job. In that sense, everyone loses when a violent act takes place, and everyone has a stake in efforts to stop violence from happening.

Employees play a role in workplace violence prevention as well. They should:

- Accept and adhere to the employer's preventive policies and practices.
- Become aware of and report violent or threatening behavior by coworkers immediately.
- Follow procedures established by the workplace violence prevention program, including those for reporting incidents.