

An ehsInc E-Newsletter



SAFETY INFORMER

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JULY - VOL. 07

OSHA REGULATION UPDATE — JULY 2026:

- **HazCom deadline moved.** The employer compliance date for the updated Hazard Communication Standard (workplace labeling, written program, training for substances) shifted from July 20, 2026 to November 20, 2026. If you had "July" circled, update your calendar — but keep working toward compliance now.
- **Heat enforcement is live.** The proposed federal Heat Illness Prevention Standard is still in agency review with no final rule expected in 2026. Until then, OSHA enforces heat hazards under the General Duty Clause and its recently updated Heat National Emphasis Program. Review your hydration, rest, and acclimatization plans before peak summer.
- **Fixed-ladder rule in flux.** A proposed rule on Walking-Working Surfaces would remove the 2036 deadline for fall-arrest/ladder-safety systems on fixed ladders over 24 feet, letting employers replace ladders at end of service life. Comment dockets are open on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).
- **Training grants available.** DOL announced \$12.7 million in Susan Harwood Training Grants (July 1) to fund worker and employer safety training. Visit www.dhs.gov/susan-harwood-training-grants for details.

training. Worth a look if you're eligible to apply.

- **Penalties unchanged — for now.** As of early 2026, no separate 2026 inflation adjustment had been published, so 2025 maximums still apply. Verify at [osha.gov/penalties](https://www.osha.gov/penalties) before publishing.
- **Check your state plan.** State-plan states like California (Cal/OSHA) often set their own deadlines and workplace-violence rules. Multi-state employers should confirm local requirements.



ehsInc INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT



Inside this last month's events and highlights at ehsInc!

SPOTLIGHT SERIES: CONFINED SPACE ENTRY



We're Listening! Below is a quick read from our User-Submitted Safety Topic.



Confined Space Entry: Respect the Invisible

A tank, pit, or manhole can look harmless — until a worker climbs in and hits an atmosphere that incapacitates them in seconds. That hidden danger is exactly why confined space work demands a process, not a quick judgment call.

A confined space is big enough to enter, hard to get in and out of, and not designed for continuous occupancy. The most dangerous

ones are permit-required, meaning they carry hazards like toxic or oxygen-deficient air, engulfment, or entrapment.

A few essentials keep entries safe:

-Test the air first — and keep testing. Check oxygen, then flammable gases, then toxins with a calibrated meter, before entry and continuously during it. "We checked earlier" isn't good enough.

-Assign clear roles. The entrant works inside, the attendant stays outside monitoring and never enters, and the supervisor authorizes the entry and can shut it down anytime.

-Plan the rescue in advance. Many confined space deaths are would-be rescuers who rushed in and were overcome by the same hazard. Never attempt an untrained rescue — call the planned response.

Bottom Line:

Confined spaces punish complacency. Identify the space, test the air, assign roles, and plan the rescue before anyone goes in.



COURSE CATALOG



CONSULTING SERVICES CATALOG

— WE'RE LISTENING

WHICH TOPIC SHOULD WE COVER NEXT?

Reply with the safety topics you'd like to see next. If your response is picked, you win a Starbucks gift card and we'll cover it in the next issue.

Send your response →

