



Northeast Public Power Association Safety Corner



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What Happens During an OSHA Inspection

Most employers will never have to face an OSHA inspection. If you do, it's important to respond in an appropriate manner. By knowing what to expect during an OSHA inspection, you can plan accordingly. You can make it simple for the inspector to conduct their evaluation and you can use the inspection to learn about workplace safety and ensure your employees are well-protected against worksite dangers moving forward.

What Is an OSHA Inspection? OSHA conducts inspections to help businesses and their workers identify and address on-the-job hazards. In doing so, OSHA ensures these companies, and their employees can prevent workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.

Who Conducts an OSHA Inspection? During an OSHA inspection, a compliance safety and health officer visits a workplace. This officer looks for workplace hazards. If the officer identifies any on-the-job dangers, he or she notifies the business accordingly.

What Type of Inspection is Conducted

Common types of OSHA inspections include:

- **Imminent Danger Situations:** Allow OSHA to assess hazards that put employees at risk of serious injury or death.
- **Worker Complaints:** Ensure OSHA can look into allegations of hazards or workplace safety violations from employees.
- **Targeted Inspection:** Enable OSHA to assess individual workplaces that have experienced high rates of injuries and illnesses
- **Follow-up Inspections:** Empower OSHA to check for abatement of violations that were previously cited during an inspection.

As a government agency, OSHA wields a lot of power. This includes the right to levy large fines. That being said, you also have rights. Knowing what to do during an OSHA inspection will help you protect your business and its workers. It can also help you avoid civil citations or possible criminal liability if there has been a fatal accident.



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