

## Be Prepared if OSHA Comes Calling

There have been signs that OSHA is increasing its enforcement actions on home building sites throughout the country. The current OSHA administration has been clear for some time now that stepped-up enforcement is a top priority and it appears as if OSHA will remain as aggressive as ever under the new Secretary of Labor, Thomas Perez. Even though Ohio administers its own agency it still must adhere to the OSHA standards.

There are a few simple things that your members should do to be prepared for OSHA inspections:

- Conduct an assessment to identify and correct safety hazards on the jobsite;
- Conduct appropriate safety training for employees;
- Update records and make sure they are readily available;
- Understand the OSHA inspection process (*see links below*).

Builders and trade contractors should pay particular attention to the following hazards, which are the top 10 most frequently cited OSHA standards in 2013 (with the reference to the specific OSHA standard in parentheses):

1. Fall protection, construction ([29 CFR 1926.501](#))
2. Hazard communication standard, general industry ([29 CFR 1910.1200](#))
3. Scaffolding, general requirements, construction ([29 CFR 1926.451](#))
4. Respiratory protection, general industry ([29 CFR 1910.134](#))
5. Control of hazardous energy (lockout/tagout), general industry ([29 CFR 1910.147](#))
6. Powered industrial trucks, general industry ([29 CFR 1910.178](#))
7. Electrical, wiring methods, components and equipment, general industry ([29 CFR 1910.305](#))
8. Ladders, construction ([29 CFR 1926.1053](#))
9. Machines, general requirements, general industry ([29 CFR 1910.212](#))
10. Electrical systems design, general requirements, general industry ([29 CFR 1910.303](#))

NAHB has several resources to assist builders:

- NAHB's Construction Safety & OSHA webpage, which contains compliance assistance information here: [www.nahb.org/safety](http://www.nahb.org/safety)
- Easy-to-use handbooks and videos that present key safety issues builders and workers need to focus on to reduce accidents and injuries, which can be found here: [www.builderbooks.com/safety](http://www.builderbooks.com/safety)
- NAHB Webinar Replay for "[How to Prepare for an OSHA Inspection](#)" and corresponding [PowerPoint presentation](#)
- OSHA Assistance for the Residential Construction Industry: <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/residential/index.html>

If you have any questions or need any additional information, contact [Rob Matuga](#), NAHB Labor, Safety and Health Policy at 800-368-5242 Ext. 8507. Prepared by the HBA of Greater Cincinnati 4/25/14. For more information contact Dan Dressman, [ddressman@cincybuilders.com](mailto:ddressman@cincybuilders.com), 513-589-3213.