

# Hazards in ASCs & Employer Resources

---

Mike Corbett, CAS  
OSHA Avenel Area Office

# DISCLAIMER

*The views and positions of the speakers do not necessarily represent the official stance of the United States Department of Labor – OSHA.*

*This information is being shared for the purposes of promoting workplace safety and health and protecting employees.*

*The sessions are being presented live due to the timeliness of the information, and the sessions are not being recorded.*

# What types of hazards do workers face?

- They include bloodborne pathogens and biological hazards, potential chemical and drug exposures, waste anesthetic gas exposures, respiratory hazards, ergonomic hazards from lifting and repetitive tasks, slips trips and falls, laser hazards, workplace violence, hazards associated with laboratories, and radioactive material and x-ray hazards.
- Some of the potential chemical exposures include formaldehyde, used for preservation of specimens for pathology; ethylene oxide and glutaraldehyde.

# How many workers get sick or injured?

- More workers are injured in the healthcare and social assistance industry sector than any other. This industry has one of the highest rates of work related injuries and illnesses. In 2017, the healthcare and social assistance industry reported more injury and illness cases than any other private industry sector -- 582,800 cases (2017 Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, BLS). That is 153,900 more cases than the next industry sector, manufacturing.

# Slips, Trips and Falls

- Keep floors clean and dry [29 CFR 1910.22(a)(2)]. In addition to being a slip hazard, continually wet surfaces promote the growth of mold, fungi, and bacteria, that can cause infections.
- Provide warning signs for wet floor areas [29 CFR 1910.145(c)(2)].
- Where wet processes are used, maintain drainage and provide false floors, platforms, mats, or other dry standing places where practicable, or provide appropriate waterproof footwear [29 CFR 1910.141(a)(3)(ii)].
- Walking/Working Surfaces Standard requires [29 CFR 1910.22(a)(1)]: Keep all places of employment clean and orderly and in a sanitary condition.
- Keep aisles and passageways clear and in good repair, with no obstruction across or in aisles that could create a hazard [29 CFR 1910.22(a)]. Provide floor plugs for equipment, so power cords need not run across pathways.
- Keep exits free from obstruction. Access to exits must remain clear of obstructions at all times [29 CFR 1910.36(b)(4)].

# Personal Protective Equipment

- General PPE: Protective equipment, including personal protective equipment for eyes, face, head, and extremities, protective clothing, respiratory devices, and protective shields and barriers, shall be provided, used, and maintained in a sanitary and reliable condition wherever it is necessary by reason of hazards of processes or environment, chemical hazards, radiological hazards, or mechanical irritants encountered in a manner capable of causing injury or impairment in the function of any part of the body through absorption, inhalation or physical contact[29 CFR 1910.132(a)].

# Potential Chemical Exposures

- OSHA requires that employers implement a written program that meets the requirements of the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) to provide for worker training, warning labels, and access to Safety Data Sheets (SDSs).
- Agents with any of the following characteristics are considered hazardous: carcinogens, corrosives, toxic or highly toxic, irritants, sensitizers, or target organ effectors.
- Hazard Communication Standard Appendix A and chemicals listed in 29 CFR 1910.1000 Table 2.
- Provide appropriate PPE: (e.g., gloves, goggles, splash aprons) when handling hazardous dishwashing detergents and chemicals[29 CFR 1910.132].

# Eye Wash Requirements

- Where the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, provide suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body within the work area for immediate emergency use.
  - Must be accessible within 10-seconds of hazard, approximately 55-feet.
  - Must be located on the same level as the hazard.
  - Path of travel must be free of obstructions—Appendix B5 clarifies that a step into an enclosure where emergency equipment is located is not considered an obstruction.
  - Location must be well lit and identified with a highly visible sign.
  - Must deliver tepid flushing fluid—suggested temperature range of 60–100° F



# Key eyewash and eye/face wash station features and specifications include:

- Eyewash and eye/face wash controlled, low velocity flow rinses both eyes and is not injurious to user
- Water flow is sufficiently high to allow user to hold eyes open while rinsing
- Spray heads are protected from airborne contaminants - covers are removed by water flow
- Plumbed eyewash delivers at least 0.4 gallons of water per minute at 30 pounds per square inch pressure for 15 minutes
- Gravity-fed (self-contained) eyewash delivers at least 0.4 gallons of water per for 15 minutes
- Plumbed eye/face wash delivers at least 3.0 gallons of water per minute at 30 pounds per square inch pressure for 15 minutes
- Gravity-fed (self-contained) eye/face wash delivers at least 3.0 gallons of water per for 15 minutes
- Water flow pattern is positioned between 33 and 53 inches from the surface on which the user stands and at least 6- inches from the wall or nearest obstruction
- Valve actuator is easy to locate and readily accessible to user
- Unit washes both eyes simultaneously and covers area indicated on test gauge at no more than 8 inches above spray heads

# Bloodborne Pathogens

- Identify employees who have occupational exposure to blood or OPIM [29 CFR 1910.1030(b)], and then establish and implement a written Exposure Control Plan (ECP), designed to eliminate or minimize employee exposure.
- Exposure Control Plan requirements include:
  - Documenting an annual review and update of the written plan that reflects changes in technology for safer medical devices. [29 CFR 1910.1030(c)(1)(iv)(A)] Employers must also document consideration and implementation of the safer medical devices annually.
- Employer must get input for the devices from those responsible for direct patient care. This input must also be documented.
- Employer should ensure that the Exposure Control Plan (ECP) is accessible to all employees. [29 CFR 1910.1030(c)(1)(iii)] They should also review and update it at least yearly.
- Employer should ensure that employees with occupational exposure to blood borne pathogens receive appropriate training, at no cost to employee, and during working hours.

# Workplace Violence

- OSHA recommends that employers establish and maintain a violence prevention program as part of their facility's safety and health program. The prevention program should:
  - Be made available to all employees, including managers and supervisors; and all employees should receive specific training concerning its content and implementation.
  - Track their progress in reducing work-related assaults,
  - Reduce the severity of injuries sustained by employees,
  - Decrease the threat to worker safety.
  - Reflect the level and nature of threat faced by employees.

# Employer Resources

- Compliance Assistance Specialists (CAS)
  - Check the Compliance Assistance Specialist Directory for the CAS in your local office.
- OSHA's On-Site Consultation Program offers no-cost and confidential occupational safety and health services to small- and medium-sized businesses in all 50 states.
- Voluntary Protection Program (VPP)
- On-Site Consultation Program's Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP)

# More Employer Resources

- Alliance Program
- OSHA Strategic Partnership Program
- Local Area Offices
- E-Tools
- OSHA.GOV

# On-site Consultation Program Web Page

May 25, 2008      Site Index: [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

**Small Business**    Consultation    SHARP    Tools    Hispanic Safety

[Program Information](#) | [Benefits](#) | [How to Get Started](#) | [Directory](#) | [Success Stories](#)



## On-Site Consultation

OSHA's On-Site Consultation Service offers free and confidential advice to small and medium-sized businesses in all states across the country, with priority given to high-hazard worksites. Consultation services are totally separate from enforcement and do not result in penalties or citations.

### Program Information

Using a free consultation service largely funded by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), employers can find out about potential hazards at their worksites, improve their occupational safety and health management systems, and even qualify for a one-year exemption from routine OSHA inspections.

The service is delivered by state governments using well-trained professional staff. Most consultations take place on-site, though limited services away from the worksite are available.

Click on the map to find the local [Consultation Office](#) in your state.



Learn about the Consultation Recognition Program:



## SHARP

Safety & Health Achievement  
Recognition Program  
Consultation: An OSHA Cooperative Program

### Highlights

- [Letter from Another Satisfied Customer](#)



**Occupational Safety  
and Health Administration**

**Mike Corbett  
Corbett.Mike@dol.gov**

**[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)**

