OSHA and Other Regulatory Requirements

The federal government passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) in 1970. Its intent was to require employers to provide a safe place of employment for all workers. Individual states had the option of having Federal OSHA oversee safety compliance, or to set up their own OSHA departments. Currently, about half of the states administer their own OSHA compliance — they are required to be at least as effective as Federal OSHA. Those states that operate solely under Federal OSHA are assigned compliance officers and other OSHA employees, who make inspections, provide safety consultations, investigate fatalities and otherwise help employers improve safety.

As a supervisor, be aware that your employees are entitled to safety training, which must be provided by the employer. This training is sometimes done by a safety director or coordinator, or human resources department. In other cases, you, as the supervisor, might be expected to provide the training. Some of the training is required only one time, before an employee first encounters the situations where it is needed. Other training may need to be repeated every year, or at some other frequency based on certain events (e.g., a forklift operator not performing per the training provided).

School Campus Facilities: Pertinent OSHA CFR 1910 standards that apply to schools are as follows. Keep in mind this isn’t an inclusive list.

- 1910.22 Walking Working Surfaces
- 1910.25 Portable Wood Ladders
- 1910.29 Manually Propelled Mobile Ladder Stands and Scaffolds (Towers)
- 1910.36 Design and Construction Requirements for Exit Routes
- 1910.37 Maintenance, Safeguards and Operational Features for Exit Routes
- 1910.38 Emergency Action Plans (Emergency evacuations)
- 1910.39 Fire Prevention Plans
- 1910.94 Ventilation
- 1910.106 Flammable and Combustible Liquids
- 1910.133 Eye and Face Protection
- 1910.134 Respiratory Protection
- 1910.138 Hand Protection
- 1910.151 Medical Services and First Aid
- 1910.157 Portable Fire Extinguishers
- 1910.164 Fire Detection Systems
- 1910.212 General Requirements for All Machines
- 1910.242 Hand and Portable Powered Tools and Equipment, General
- 1910.1200 Hazard Communication
- 1910.1030 Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens
- 1926.503 Fall Protection