

THE SAFETY NET

CSEA

PPE: IT'S YOUR LAST LINE OF DEFENSE, BUT ARE YOU USING IT?

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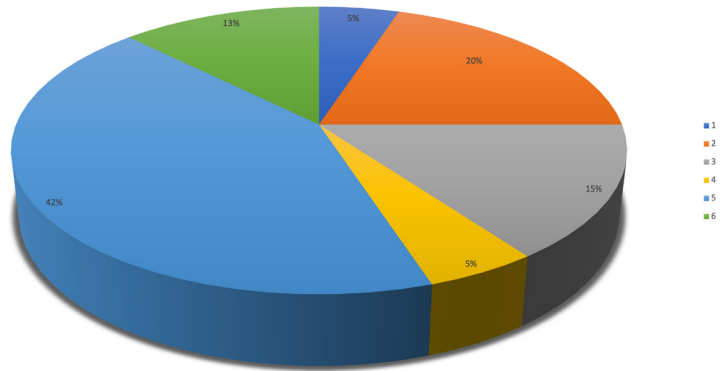
MOURN FOR THE DEAD, FIGHT LIKE HELL FOR THE LIVING

This past month, CSEA honored those that have died at the workplace. Each day, more than 340 workers are killed and more than 6,000 suffer injury and illness because of dangerous working conditions that are preventable. This includes two CSEA members in the past year: Theresa Steele, a bus monitor at the Mexico Central School District in Oswego County and Aaron Peters, a Park and Recreation Aide 6 in the Niagara State Park Commission.

It's clear that the fight for safe workplaces continues. Without counting COVID numbers, CSEA loses an average of four workers per year. Many of these members are killed in roadways and 16% of all member fatalities are highway maintenance workers. It's not just operational titles who die at work. Administrative and institutional members account for 24% of our members who are killed at the workplace, 38% of whom were killed in homicides.

OSHA has partnered with the United Support & Memorial for Workplace Fatalities (USMWF) to create a virtual Workers Memorial Wall. To view this wall and to find links to fatality

Members Killed by Region



information, visit <https://www.osha.gov/workers-memorial>. If you are involved in parking or traffic control, use your high-visibility clothing and traffic control devices to stay safe.

SOME REASONS WHY WORKERS AREN'T WEARING PPE

Grainger has an editorial article (<https://www.grainger.com/know-how/safety-health/ppe/kh-4-reasons-workers-wearing-ppe>) outlining some researched opinions as to why workers aren't wearing their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Unsurprisingly, all four reasons' root cause is a management failure. The four reasons they suggest are:

1. Inadequate Safety Supervision
2. Infrequent Safety Training
3. Weak Support for Safety
4. Poor PPE Evaluation

Unfortunately, since Grainger is in the business of selling consumables, the Hierarchy of Controls is not mentioned once. From elimination to administrative procedures, each control tier focuses on taking care of the hazard. When you get to PPE, the hazard still exists, and that PPE is there to protect you. However, most management principles flip the hierarchy over and use PPE as their first and only control measure.

Employer Requirement for PPE

When PPE is used, OSHA and PESH enforce regulations to assure that it is effective and is properly used and maintained. The provision of head, eye and face, body, hand and foot protection is under the OSHA/PESH, General Requirements for PPE regulation (29 CFR 1910.132).

Respiratory and hearing protection are covered under separate regulations 1910.134 and 1910.95 that require the development of separate written plans for their use.

The General Requirements for PPE regulation state that the:

- Employers perform a documented assessment of the workplace that identifies the hazards present that require the use of PPE, the workers that are exposed to that hazard and the PPE provided to protect them.
- Specifications for PPE design are in the eye and face (1910.133), head (1910.135), foot (1910.136), and hand (1910.138) protection standards.
- Employer is required to train the employees on the PPE they are expected to use and how to wear, maintain and store it properly and in the training the employees must be able to show they understood the training provided.
- Employees are expected to properly wear, use and maintain the equipment.
- Employer is to monitor the use of PPE in the workplace.
- Re-training is provided when there is a new hazard requiring a new kind of PPE be worn or PPE is not being used correctly.

SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE!

SOME REASONS WHY WORKERS AREN'T WEARING PPE

(CONTINUED)

- Use of damaged PPE is not permitted and must be immediately replaced.
- PPE must be provided by the employer except for prescription safety glasses (worn home) safety toe footwear (worn home) and logging boots, unless the union contract contains other provisions.

Where can I get more information on this?

Check out our Hazard Controls Fact Sheet

<https://cseany.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Hazard-Control.pdf>

OSHA PPE Page:

<https://www.osha.gov/shpguidelines/hazard-prevention.html>

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/personalprotectiveequipment/index.html>

CDC/NIOSH:

<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/infection-control-assessment-tools.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hierarchy/default.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ppe/default.html>

REACH OUT TO US

What would you be interested in reading about in the Safety Net? Reach out to us!

We love hearing from you!

More importantly, readers truly enjoy and connect with member-submitted content. The Safety Net's mission is to strengthen CSEA's safety network and gain visibility to encourage CSEA members to take part/have a role in improving their workplace conditions. What better way to build a network and inspire each other than to hear from one another and learn in the process? *What's your story? We would love to hear it! Share your content, which could simply be a safety-related quote/slogan, meme, or photo. You may also submit your own written content; tell us about a particular experience, success story, or give a shoutout to a CSEA member/committee/local or unit that deserves some recognition! Please note that all content must be original or attributed to the original source.*

**All participants receive a prize!*

GET INVOLVED

Be an Advocate for Safety: Help Rebuild CSEA's Safety Network!

Print the Safety Net newsletter in bulletin format: cseany.org/safetynet

Show us a photo of the newsletter bulletin posted in your workplace to receive a prize!

*Send photos to osh@cseainc.org.

MEMBER RESOURCES

Materials & Publications

View/download – A-Z list of fact sheets: cseany.org/safety-resources

Request Free Prints – Publications Order Form: <https://tinyurl.com/OSH-publication-form>

Workshop Trainings & Webinars

View/Watch – webinar trainings: cseany.org/osh-webinars

CSEA Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) Specialists

Have a general safety concern?

Contact your OSH Specialist here: cseany.org/member-support

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Hurt at Work? CSEA endorses the law firm of Fine, Olin and Anderman Get started now by visiting <https://www.foalaw.com/csea-members/> or call at 855-637-1207.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Do you have co-workers who might want to subscribe?

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