



# Hudson River Valley Chapter Newsletter

July 2016

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## Useful & Helpful Links

<http://www.asse.org>

*Link to the National ASSE webpage for information on great topics in EH&S. Drop in and look around.*

<http://hudsonrivervalley.asse.org>

*Link to the Hudson River Valley Chapter web page. Information on the Local items and events as well as good information. Check us out.*

<https://www.osha.gov>

*Link to regulations, guidelines, training information guidelines, interpretations, and contact information.*

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/retail/default.html>

*Link to NIOSH webpage for Young Retail Worker safety information. This is a six page document and is a good source of safety ideas and tips on training.*

## OSHA penalties to be adjusted for inflation

For the first time since 1990 violation penalties are set to increase due to overall penalty adjustments mandated by Congress in 2015. These increases cover several DOL agencies including OSHA, Mine Safety and Health, Wage and Hour. These increases were announced BY DOL in two issued interim rules covering penalty adjustments.

OSHA's new penalty levels take effect after August 1, 2016, when the maximum penalty for serious violations go to \$12,471.00 from the current \$7,000.00; The maximum penalty for willful or repeated violations will go to \$124,709.00 from the current \$70,000.00.

Any citations issued by OSHA after August 1, 2016 will be subject to the new penalties if the related violations occurred after November 2, 2015. OSHA will provide guidance to field staff on the implementation of the new penalties, and update the FOM by August 1, 2016.

Source – OSHA Quick Takes, Volume 15, issue 16; dated July 1, 2016.

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## Young Workers: New Safety Resources

This is the appropriate time to focus on young workers, as they head out of schools and into the workforce. Many of them will find jobs in the retail industry which is the leading employer of young workers in the United States. With this in mind, NIOSH has launched the Young Retail Workers web page. The web page provides basic information, with facts and tips that employees should know for working safely in retail.

Employees should learn from their employer or supervisor all about their job and any potential hazards if it is not performed properly or without appropriate protections. Employees also need to know their rights and responsibilities. There are tips for what an employer should do to ensure employees remain safe and stay on the job. The six pages cover topics such as the following top five hazards reported to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS);

- 1 Being struck by or stuck in equipment or objects
- 2 Overexertion
- 3 Slips, Trips, and Falls
- 4 Driving or riding on the job
- 5 Violence at work
- 6 What you know CAN keep you safe and healthy at work

*If you are an employer of young workers in retail, or provide safety and wellness resources to employers in retail, NIOSH would like to hear from you on how you have worked to keep young workers safe. If you are interested in collaborating with the NIOSH Wholesale and Retail Trade Sector, the contact information is in the document found at this link; <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/retail/default.html>*

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## OSHA's Summer Heat Safety Campaign

OSHA has recently kicked off its summer campaign to inform employers and employees about the dangers of working in the heat. The campaign will continue its annual outreach to highlight how heat-related worker fatalities are entirely preventable. In 2014 alone, (latest figures available), **2,630 workers** suffered from heat illness and **18 died** from heat stroke and related causes on the job. It is noted that a majority of recent heat-related deaths investigated by OSHA involved workers on the job for three days or less. Through a blog, Twitter posts, a new updated heat campaign webpage, and links to a heat safety phone app, #WaterRestShade, the official hashtag of the campaign, OSHA continues to encourage employers to provide their workers with drinking water, ample breaks, and a shaded area while working outdoors.

Source – OSHA Quick Takes, Volume 15, Issue 14; dated June 1, 2016.

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## Buzzed Driving and Buzzed Working

Does this phenomenon exist today? Based on observation, when a worker complains of a hangover and can barely do his or her work in the morning, that person is impaired and working. A federal government survey revealed that the construction industry has some of the highest rates of alcohol and drug abuse. Among full-time construction workers (between the ages of 18 and 49), more than 12 percent reported illicit drug use during the past 30 days, almost 21 percent reported illicit drug use during the past year, and approximately 13 percent admitted to heavy alcohol use. In their 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) defines "heavy alcohol use" as "drinking five or more drinks on the same occasion, on 5 or more days in the past 30 days." Interested in this topic? Sound like something you would like to have more information on? Read the full article at this link;

<https://www.irmi.com/articles/expert-commentary/buzzed-driving-and-buzzed-working>

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## Hudson River Valley Chapter at Safety 2016, Atlanta, GA

Our Chapter, Hudson River Valley Chapter, made its presence known again at the Safety 2016 conference held in June 2016 at Atlanta, GA when it was awarded GOLD Chapter status for the year 2014 – 2015. This award is because of the tremendous amount of work done by the Board led by Past President Mr. Kenneth Eck during that time period. A special THANK YOU to Mr. Eck and his Board Member team, as well as all of those who contributed to that effort by serving on various committees.

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## Hudson River Valley Chapter Executive Board Meeting

The Chapter Executive Board meeting is scheduled for August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ 5:30 P.M., at Quest Offices. The discussion will be the planning and formalizing of the chapters 2016 Calendar of events. So, Executive Board Members, keep the date on your calendars marked for this meeting.