



HEALTHIER WORKPLACES | A HEALTHIER WORLD

AIHA NATIONAL UPDATE

Bradley King, PhD, MPH, CIH – AIHA President

Lawrence Sloan, MBA, CAE, FASAE - AIHA CEO

January 22, 2026

Yuma Pacific Section

51st Annual Meeting

AIHA STRATEGIC PLAN: 2025-2027

Our Core Values

Prevent | Empower | Advocate | Collaborate | Respect



Strategic Domains

A. Pursuit
of Knowledge

B. Advancing the
Profession

C. Member & Vol
Engagement

D. Impact &
Awareness

A. PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE

Develop and disseminate cutting-edge educational and career enrichment OEHS resources.

SAVE THE DATE

June 1-3, 2026
New Orleans, LA

 **AIHA**
CONNECT™
2026

 **AIHA®**

aihaconnect.org

aiha.org | 4



Submissions due
January 14, 2026:
— Education Pop-ups
— Silica Symposium

March 11, 2026:
Student Presentations
Student Posters

**AIHA National
Members save
over \$450**



CURRENT CONTENT PRIORITIES

How AIHA is channeling future trends and changes.

Big Data, AI & Sensor Technologies

Total Worker Health®

Changing Work Dynamics

Enhancing OEHS Communication Skills

Total Worker Health® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Participation by AIHA does not imply endorsement by HHS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

FEATURED NEW/UPDATED RESOURCES (2025 RELEASES)

IH/OH PROFESSIONALS

Guidance Documents

- [Aerosolized Transmissible Diseases](#)
- [FAQs about Spore Trap Air Sampling](#)
- [Spanish Version of Construction Health: COVID-19](#)
- [Using AI to Enhance OEHS](#)

White Papers

- [Recommended Skills and Capabilities for Silica Competent Persons](#)
- [Recognition, Evaluation, and Control of Waste Anesthetic Gases in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit \(Update\)](#)
- [Update of Workers Rights](#)
- [Young Worker/Child Labor in US](#)

Fact Sheets

- [Sound Level Meters](#)
- [Engineered Nanomaterials in the Workplace](#)

Publications

- [AIHA IH/OH Professional Pathway](#)
- [Chemical Protective Clothing, 3rd edition](#)
- [Core Competencies for the Practice of IH/OH](#)
- [Technical Guide for Wildfire Impact Assessments for the OEHS Professional, 2nd edition](#)

B. ADVANCING THE PROFESSION

AIHA will identify, develop, improve, and promote excellence in OEHS practices, research, and applied science.



AIHA[®]

ADVANCING OEHS SCIENCE & PRACTICE



**Defining
the Science**



**Principles
of Good
Practice**



**State of
the Art vs.
Practice**



**Improving
Exposure
Judgments**

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

DEFINING THE SCIENCE



- Latest version of the **Research Agenda** was released 3/17/25.
- **Looking ahead to 2026:** Next version will be published early in the year and include these topics:
 - Use of 3-D Printing in Construction
 - Exposure Assessment Methods for Bone Conducting Headphones
- New version of the Members Guide, including Dermal and Surface Sampling brainstorming ideas
- An updated **Barriers to Practice** list

PRINCIPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

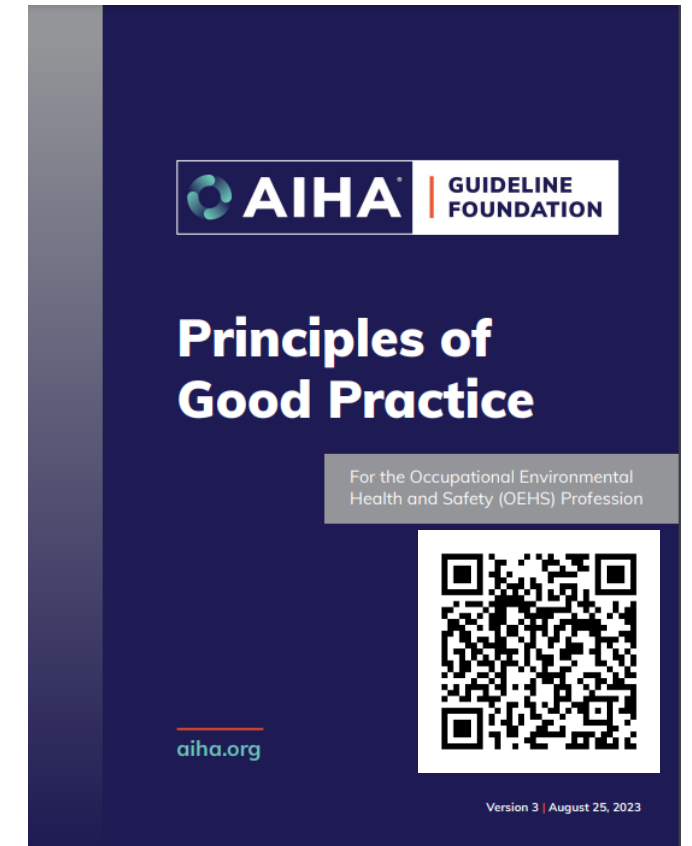
Purpose

- Document vital OEHS professional practices that reliably and effectively protect workers and communities from unacceptable risks
- Elevate the performance of OEHS programs by providing a set of uniform program and performance targets that can be used in continuous improvement activities.

Appendices

- Exposure Assessment Strategies
- Noise/Hearing Loss Prevention
- Respiratory Protection Programs
- Protective Clothing and Equipment *
- Indoor Env Quality – Waterborne Pathogens *
- Thermal Stress *
- Ergonomics *

*** Topics under Development; will be featured in the 2026 edition**



STATE OF THE ART VS. PRACTICE

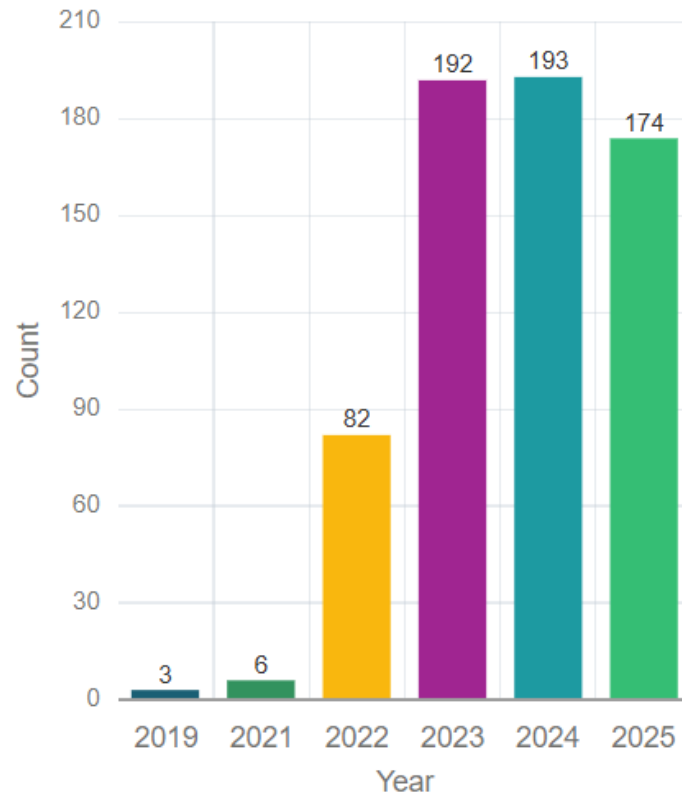


- Two (2) surveys completed to date on:
 - Airborne Chemical Exposure Assessment
 - Noise & Hearing Loss Prevention
 - Respiratory Protection
- **Looking ahead to 2026**
 - Key Findings Document from the 2nd survey will be published on the AIHA website
 - These findings will inform our new **Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP)**
 - A third survey will be launched

IMPROVING EXPOSURE JUDGMENTS



Number Passing EDA Registry Exam (1st Time)



As of December 9, 2025

Activities for 2025

- Year 3 of 3 of a specially funded **Communications Project**
- Continue offering 9 hours of FREE webinars

Align the IEJ-AG Project Initiatives with the CIP

- Collaborate with Academic Faculty
- Advance the Use of Modeling
- Outreach to Local Sections and Student Local Sections
- Develop a new Self-Assessment Tool
- Create a Users Group

Looking ahead to 2026: Continued communications and outreach. Tie-in with **Grand Challenges** initiative.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)

Looking ahead to 2026:

- Complete the 2025 Exposure Assessment CIP Goals.
- Review and refresh the Exposure Assessment CIP Goals for 2026.
- Develop the CIP for Noise and Hearing Loss Prevention and Respiratory Protection CIP for Q4 implementation.

Questions on any of the Advancing OEHS Science & Practice Initiatives?

Contact Michele Twilley, DrPH, CIH

AIHA's Chief Science Officer

mtwilley@aiha.org

AFFILIATED BUSINESS UNITS



**GUIDELINE
FOUNDATION**



- Established 2009
- 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- Program areas include:
 - *NEW!* Development of **AIHA Occupational Exposure Limits (OELs)** for chemical agents (formerly WEELs)
 - Development of community exposure guidelines for chemical agents (**Emergency Response Planning Guidelines or ERPGs**)
 - Oversight of AIHA's involvement in **consensus-based standards development**
 - Leading research to **advance the profession** (including our Principles of Good Practice and Defining the Science initiatives)



The AIHA Guideline Foundation is a proud sponsor of TRANSCAER, which serves as a resource for free hazmat and emergency response training.



American
Industrial
Hygiene
Foundation



- **Mission:** To advance the profession by **awarding education and professional development scholarships** in industrial hygiene and related disciplines.
- Over the past 40 years, AIHF has awarded more than **1,092 scholarships totaling nearly \$3.1 million** to students studying IH and/or OEHS.
- In 2025, AIHF awarded **\$199,950 in scholarships to 53 students**.
- AIHF is governed by a Board of Trustees.
- **New Capital Fundraising Campaign: Strategic Advisory Group OPEN CALL 2026**



LAP is a group of laboratory accreditation programs whose primary mission is to establish high standards of performance for laboratories that promote the production of quality data for use in evaluating exposures.

Current Programs

- Industrial Hygiene Laboratory Accreditation Program (IHLAP)
- Environmental Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELLAP)
- Environmental Microbiology Laboratory Accreditation Program (EMLAP)
- Food Laboratory Accreditation Program (FoodLAP)
- Unique Scopes Laboratory Accreditation Program
- Beryllium Field/Mobile Accreditation Program (Be Field/Mobile)

Future Planning 2026

- More mobile lab accreditation across all LAP programs
- Standalone Sampling Accreditation
- Pilots for Sensor Testing Accreditation
- Improved training for site assessors
- Web and self-paced training for accredited labs

Current Programs

- **Bulk Asbestos** Proficiency Analytical Testing (BAPAT) Program
- **Beryllium** Proficiency Analytical Testing (BePAT) Program
- Environmental **Lead** Proficiency Analytical Testing (ELPAT) Program
- **Environmental Microbiology** Proficiency Analytical Testing (EMPAT) Program
- Industrial Hygiene Proficiency **Analytical Testing** (IHPAT) Program

New Programs

Launched New **IHPAT** Programs:

- **Airborne Particulates** by NIOSH 0500, NIOSH 0600, NIOSH 5000, etc.
- **Mercury** by NIOSH 6009, OSHA ID-140, etc.

Launched On-Demand PTs

- **International** (ION)
- **Current Participants** (On-Ramp)



Promotes the recognition of individuals who have demonstrated competency in a specialized area of industrial/occupational hygiene practice.

- Asbestos Analysts Registry
- SDS & Label Authoring Registry
- Exposure Decision Analysis Registry (free)
Designed as a stepping-stone for those who have not yet earned their CIH and a valuable add-on credential for those who have!

D. IMPACT & AWARENESS

AIHA will promote the practice of OEHS.

ADVISORY GROUPS



MISSION:

To ensure AIHA provides a consistent messaging that the OEHS profession is the right partner to support EPA and our external stakeholder community in Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) occupational risk assessments and management as mandated by the Lautenberg Act of 2016.



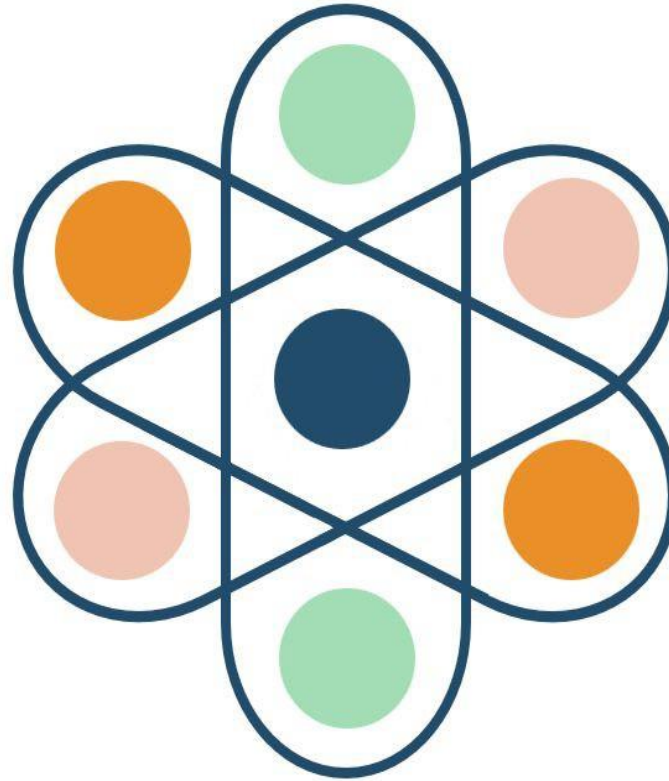
MISSION:

To serve in a liaison capacity between AIHA's Volunteer Group network and ASHRAE and strengthen communication and coordination of activities that foster enhancing Indoor Air Quality (IAQ).

ADVOCACY UPDATE

ADVOCACY UPDATE

UPDATED JANUARY 20, 2026



WHAT WORKS INSTITUTE

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & SAFETY™

AIHA's **Government Relations Contractor**
CIH Staff Support + Deep-Bench Advocacy in OEHS

AIHA is a member of the Workplace EHS Coalition*

01 Business-Driven Practice: Standards and Worker Well-Being

02 Beyond Compliance: Embracing Risk and Safety Management Systems

03 Leading Indicators: Revolutionizing Recordkeeping for Predictive Insights

*Informal group of 30 OEHS nonprofits. Its primary purpose is **shared advocacy.**

Driving Business Growth and Profitability Through Modern Occupational Environmental, Health and Safety Practices

Modern occupational environmental, health and safety (EHS) practices are key to driving economic growth. This document, developed by the Intersociety Forum (ISF), a coalition of organizations dedicated to safeguarding worker safety and health, highlights the many ways safety practices create a strategic advantage that powers enduring business success while fostering innovation and protecting workers.

Despite advancements, workplace injury and fatality rates remain stagnant. By adopting proactive, risk-based safety strategies, businesses can unlock greater productivity, reduce costs and strengthen their global competitiveness.

al EHS as a foundation of economic
leader in safety, innovation and workforce well-

The Intersociety Forum Supports These Principles



1. AAOHN
2. ABSA International, The Association of Biosafety and Biosecurity
3. ACGIH
4. American Industrial Hygiene Association
5. American Society of Safety Professionals
6. Board of Certified Safety Professionals
7. Board for Global EHS Credentialing (BGCE)
8. CHEMA
9. Institute of Hazardous Materials Management
10. International Safety Equipment Association
11. National Safety Council
12. NECA
13. NEHA
14. VPPPA

The Human Cost Is Staggering



In the U.S., one worker died on the job every 99 minutes in 2023, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The cost per worker death in 2022 was \$1.39 million, according to National Safety Council's (NSC's) Injury Facts.

February 2025 | Intersociety Forum

2025-26 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES



1. Preventing Heat-Related Injuries, Illnesses, & Deaths*



2. Disaster Preparedness, Response, & Recovery*



3. Strengthening the OEHS Pipeline*



4. Noise/Occupational Hearing Protection*



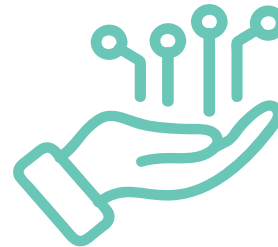
5. Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Reform*



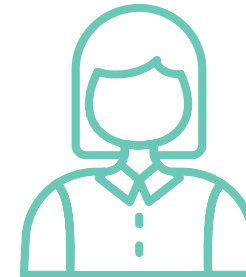
6. Indoor Environmental Quality



7. Vulnerable, Contingent, & Temporary Workers



8. AI & Automation



9. Child Labor Protections



10. Professional Title Protection

AGENCY LEADERSHIP



Department of Labor (oversees OSHA & MSHA)

Secretary:

Lori Chavez-DeRemer

Confirmed Mar 11, 2025

Pushing agency-wide deregulation
and budget restraint



OSHA

Assistant Secretary:

David Keeling

Confirmed Oct. 3, 2025

Broad deregulation package,
managing heat rule timeline



Deputy Assistant Secretary:

Amanda Wood Laihow



MSHA

Assistant Secretary:

Wayne Palmer

Confirmed Oct 3, 2025



EPA

Administrator:

Lee Zeldin *Confirmed Jan 29, 2025*



Deputy Administrator:

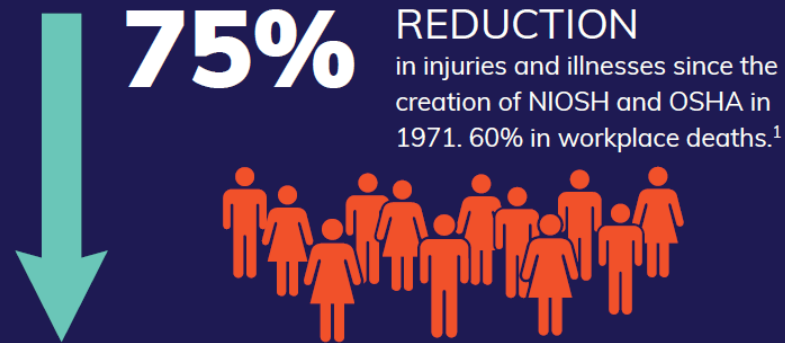
David Fotouhi *Confirmed Jun 10, 2025*

- **Office of Air & Radiation, Asst Administrator:**
Aaron Szabo *Confirmed 7/24/2025* (Wildfire smoke policy)
- **Office of Chem Safety & Pollution Prevention, Asst Administrator:** **Douglas Troutman** *Confirmed 12/18/2025* (TSCA)

Grassroots Advocacy Campaign: RESTORE NIOSH (2025)

NIOSH Programs

- ✓ Make Businesses Successful
- ✓ Drive Economic Growth
- ✓ Save Costs
- ✓ Keep Workers Safe



\$93

MILLION
SAVED
annually from
reduced medical
expenses and
increased productivity
of firefighters.²

\$167

BILLION COST
annually in workplace
injuries and deaths.³



\$363
MILLION

NIOSH Budget, FY24.

Our ASKs:

1. [Submit a letter](#) through our automated VoterVoice system.
2. Schedule time with your elected officials. Visit the [campaign page](#) for talking points and background info.



US HHS Reverses Deep Cuts to CDC Safety Research Agency Niosh



Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Photographer: Stefani Reynolds/Bloomberg

✦ Takeaways by Bloomberg AI

Hide ^

- The Trump Administration is reversing its deep staffing cuts to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, reinstating hundreds of employees.
- Niosh conducts or funds most research into US workplace health and safety, including evaluating the risks of new chemicals and testing the effectiveness of N95 masks.
- Employees who had received layoff notices were told that those were "hereby revoked", allowing "life-saving research" to continue, but major challenges remain ahead for the agency.

By: Josh Eidelson

Updated on January 13, 2026 at 8:05 PM EST

Grassroots Advocacy Campaign: SUPPORT FULL FUNCTIONALITY & FUNDING OF CORE OSH INSTITUTIONS



Occupational Safety & Health Administration



National Advisory Committee
on Occupational Safety & Health



Occupational Safety
and Health Review
Commission

Occupational Safety & Health Review Commission



National Institute for
Occupational Safety & Health

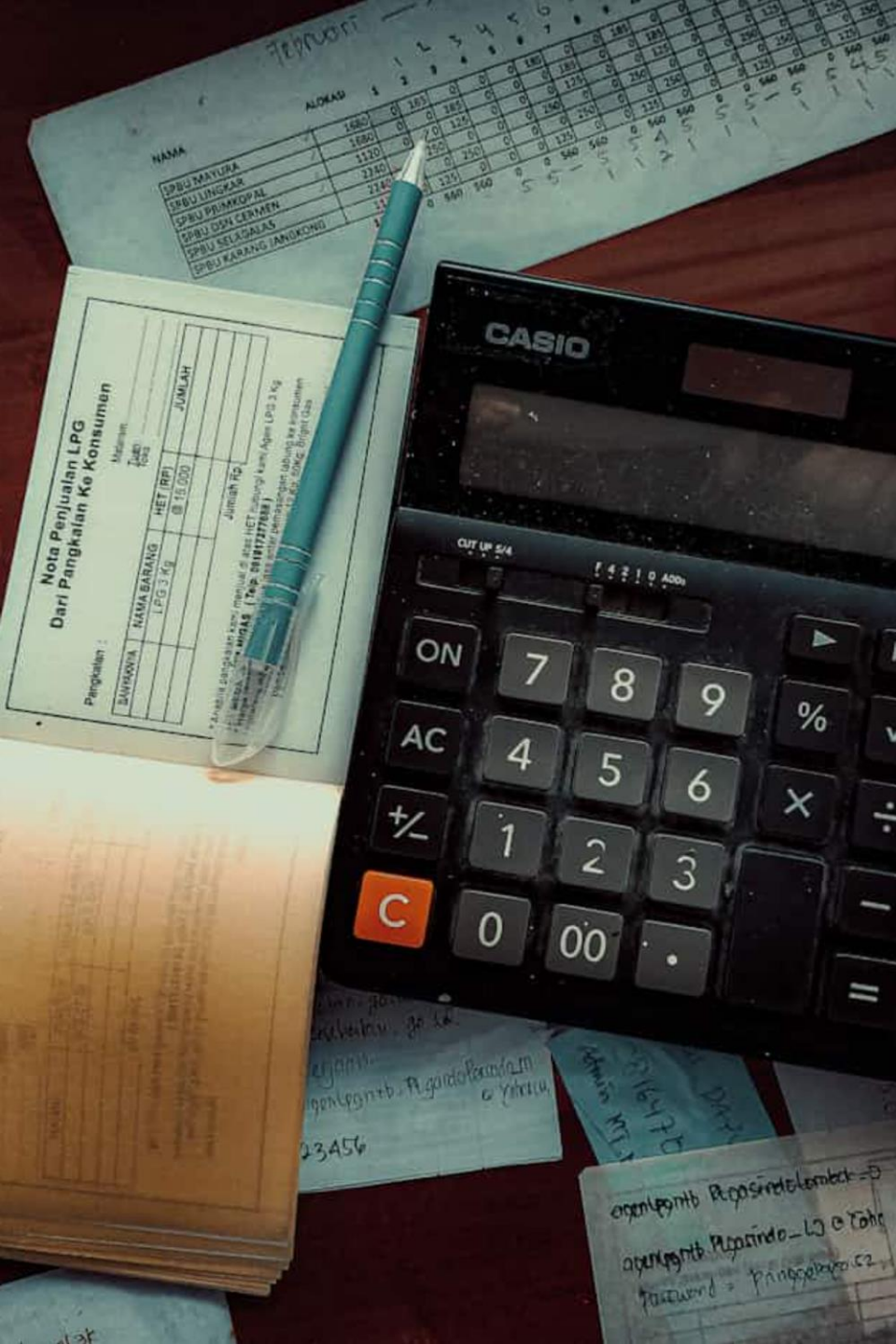


U.S. Chemical Safety & Hazard Investigation Board



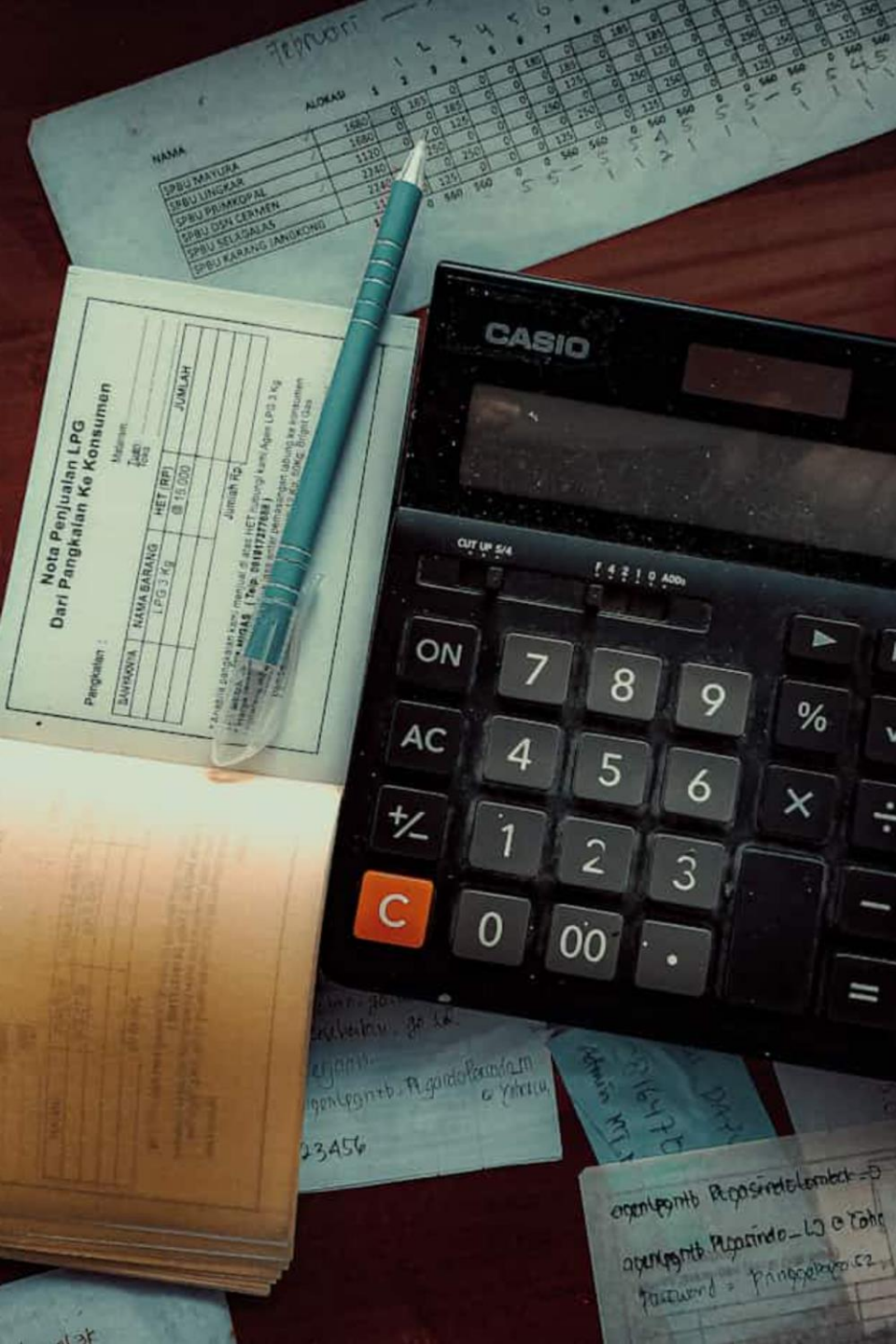
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Federal Budget Battle:

- Federal government reopened as of **11/13/25**.
- Lawmakers' most difficult government funding work lies ahead. The deal that broke the impasse included passage of just three of the 12 necessary annual full-year appropriations bills.
- Congress has until **Jan. 30, 2026**, to strike an agreement on FY26 before another potential shutdown.
- **Departments of Labor, HHS, and Interior** must still be approved. These are the agencies whose budgets cover the "OHS ecosystem". They are last in the queue.
- Concerns remain that the Executive Branch will continue to undermine Congressional power of the purse by refusing to spend federal funds as appropriated.
- Multiple lawsuits pending re HHS firings. AIHA filed an amicus brief on one - *State of New York et al v. RFK*
- **LATEST NEWS: NIOSH workers reinstated effective 1/13/26.**



Federal Budget Battle: Senate vs. House Positions

Senate: Labor-HHS Mark-Up

- OSHA: **\$632.3M** (level funding)
- MSHA: **\$387.8M** (level funding)
- NIOSH: **\$363.8M** (slight increase)
- OSHRC: **\$14.5M** (approximate)

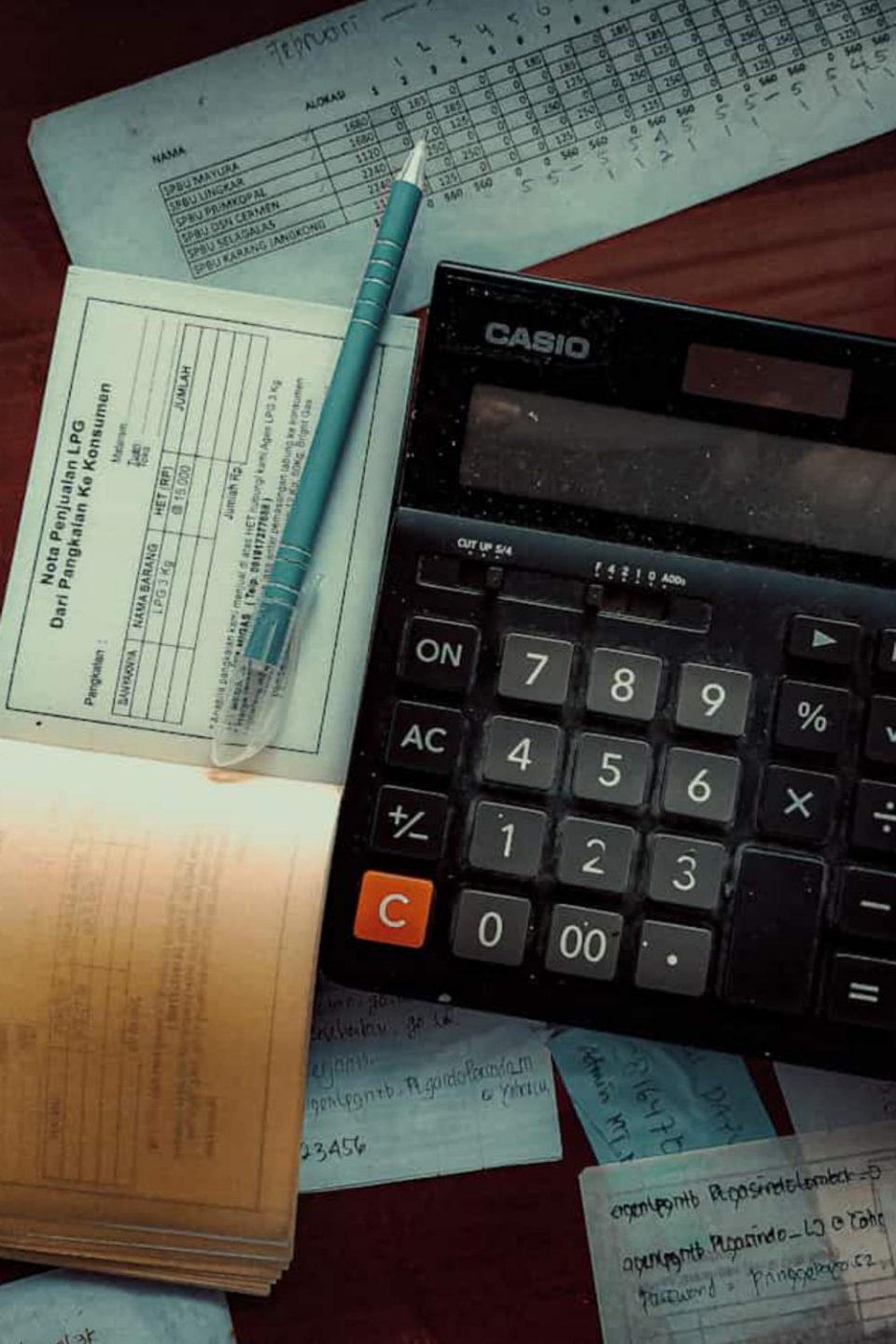
Maintains
Current Agency
Capacity

House: Labor-HHS Mark-Up

- OSHA: **\$582M** (-\$50M cut)
- MSHA: **\$348M** (-\$40M cut)
- NIOSH: **\$312.7M** (smaller cut)
- OSHRC: **\$14.2M** (approximate)

Reduces
Federal
Oversight

Funding gap between chambers reflects different priorities on worker safety enforcement and research capabilities. **Senate** positions align more closely with maintaining current agency capacity, while **House** proposals suggest reduced federal oversight resources.



Federal Budget Battle: OSHRC Future State

New Chair Sworn In

Jonathan Share sworn in as OSHRC chair (Nov. 24, 2025).
While the Commission still lacks a quorum (2), ALJ decisions often become final, absent directed review

Tenure/Independence Risk

Recent D.C. Circuit decision on removals may create a pathway to challenge OSHRC commissioners' for-cause protections.

For the Occupational Safety & Health Review Commission, the issue is not so much the budget as **appointments and the ability to maintain neutrality**; passage or non-passage of the budget bill will not have significant direct future implications.



Federal Budget Battle: CSB Future State

Senate Interior/Env Mark-Up

- Funding; **\$14.4M** (*level with prior year*)

House Interior/Env Mark-Up

- Funding: **\$14M** (*higher than House-committee reported amount and aligns with the Senate negotiated level*)

UPDATE: The House & Senate passed bill funding CSB at **\$14M**. On its way to the President.

Note: CSB issued interim safety recommendations urging U.S. Steel to take action after a fatal August 2025 explosion.

AIHA's Response to OSHA De-Regulatory Rule Package (July 1, 2025)

1

General Duty: Clarify without Weakening

Ensure General Duty Clause limitations don't inadvertently undermine hazard recognition and control implementation for "inherently risky" work where feasible protective measures exist.

Multiple states have urged OSHA to withdraw the proposed rollback.

2

Substance-Specific: Avoid Program Fragmentation

Maintain clear, enforceable connections between substance-specific exposure controls and 1910.134 general requirements to prevent dangerous program drift and regulatory gaps.

Stakeholders split; major health orgs warn removal elevates risk.

3

Respirators: Protect Proven Protection

Exercise caution against eliminating medical evaluations for FFRs and loose-fitting PAPRs w/o scientific justification, and appropriate guardrails for vulnerable worker populations.

Cal/OSHA has voiced strong opposition to this measure.

Heat Standards

Federal

- Proposed OSHA National Heat Standard, introduced in August 2024, **remains under active development.**
- Public hearings took place in June (*attended by AIHA*).
- Timeline remains subject to adjustments based on stakeholder engagement and administrative priorities.
- Companies should begin developing heat illness prevention frameworks that can accommodate various regulatory scenarios while ensuring worker protection during extreme weather events.

State

- State programs continue advancing independent of federal action, creating a complex regulatory landscape for multi-jurisdiction employers.
- States with their own heat standards:
 - CA
 - CO
 - MD
 - MN
 - NV
 - OR
 - WA
- TX: **House Bill (HB) 128** (comprehensive framework) versus **HB 91** (local preemption) represent opposite regulatory approaches with significant compliance implications for multi-site employers operating across jurisdictions.
- Advocates are pushing **Virginia and Pennsylvania** to act next.



Workplace Violence Prevention in Healthcare Settings

Federal Delay

OSHA has moved workplace violence prevention in healthcare to **long-term actions** without a specific proposal date, creating **regulatory uncertainty** for healthcare facilities nationwide.

This delay leaves healthcare employers relying on state-level requirements and voluntary industry standards to address growing workplace violence concerns.

State Action Filling Gaps

Continued state legislative and regulatory activity mandating comprehensive workplace violence prevention programs in healthcare facilities, including policies, training, incident response, and detailed recordkeeping requirements.



IH Integration Opportunities

Hazard assessment protocols, indoor air quality and egress considerations, post-incident exposure and stress management, coordination with existing HAZCOM and bloodborne pathogen training programs.



Federal Legislation: Heat & Wildfire Smoke Protection

1

HR 4844 (House) / S. 2571 (Senate)

Introduced July 31-August 1, 2025, these companion bills would establish **immediate minimum protections** for farmworkers facing wildfire smoke and excessive heat exposure.

2

Key Requirements

N95/N100 respirator availability and mandatory use at extreme smoke levels, water and cooling access, shaded rest areas, multilingual training programs, and strong anti-retaliation provisions.

3

OSHA Mandate

Requires OSHA to issue permanent standards **no less protective than top state rules**, effectively creating a federal floor based on most stringent state programs.

✓ **IH Strategy:** Standardize threshold triggers and align training documentation to highest state requirements now to minimize future retrofit costs and compliance gaps.

State Legislative Priorities Watchlist



Texas Heat Legislation

HB 128 (comprehensive framework) versus **HB 91** (local preemption) represent opposite regulatory approaches with significant compliance implications for multi-site employers operating across jurisdictions.



Illinois Anti-Rollback Protections

Illinois **SB 1976** now enacted into law, establishing permanent protections at federal baseline levels or higher, preventing future regulatory rollbacks during political transitions.



California Silica Controls

SB 20 advancement combined with heightened Cal/OSHA enforcement posture creates immediate compliance pressure for stone fabrication operations statewide. **Ban on >1% silica engineered stone proposed; Cal/OSHA has 6 months to decide.**



Maine Public Sector IAQ Standards

Maine indoor air quality standard development process is underway, potentially setting precedent for other states to address ventilation and air quality in government facilities.

New Bills to Watch in Early 2026



Federal HR6597 “LET’S Protect Workers Act”

Broad proposal to increase civil monetary penalties across multiple worker-protection statutes, including higher OSHA penalty minimums/maximums, and increases tied to child labor and wage/hour violations.



New Hampshire HB1340 Regulatory Rollback

Would require occupational regulations to be “demonstrably necessary,” and triggers a broad agency review and petition/judicial challenge pathways; potentially a state-level deregulatory model that could affect OSH licensing/requirements.



Washington State HB2228 Scissor Lift/Stair Updates

Directs a technical advisory process to recommend IBC amendments, with public safety/cost considerations; useful to know for built environment/life-safety stakeholders.

Get Involved

- **AIHA [Grassroots Campaigns](#)**
 - Send letters through VoterVoice
 - Schedule time with elected officials in your home districts
- **Access Catalyst ([AIHA Member Center](#))**
 - Monthly legislative trackers
 - Weekly news highlights on federal/state activities
 - Work within your local section to identify state issues we should be monitoring. Submit using [this form](#).
- **Join our [Government Relations Email List](#)**
 - Open to all **AIHA National** members

[Home](#)[Communities](#) ▾[Directory](#)[Events](#)[Browse](#) ▾

AIHA Member Center

Latest Discussions



International Affairs Committee Annual Town Hall - ...

By: [Melissa Jota Espinoza](#) , 5 days ago

Interested in learning more about AIHA's global work? Join us for the International Affairs Committee Annual Town Hall. This ...



Week of Jan 5, 2026 - AIHA Government Relations Newsletter ...

By: [John Dony](#) , 6 days ago

Good morning and Happy New Year! We're pleased to share this week's AIHA GR Newsletter, covering Federal, State, and EPA updates, ...



OHTA Training Courses and Resources for Spanish-Speaking ...

By: [Melissa Jota Espinoza](#) , 6 days ago

Dear South, American National Association Leaders, On behalf of OHTA We are pleased to introduce OHTA courses and extensive ...



December Talking Points Video Recap

By: [Melissa Jota Espinoza](#) , 27 days ago

Our December video recap is now available. It highlights key opportunities and upcoming deadlines, including 2026 Fellow nominations, ...

CLOSING THOUGHTS

THREATS

Regulatory Rollbacks

Changing Political Climate

JOEH Impact

Public Rejection of Science

Industry Pushbacks

AIHA Connect Attendance

Technical Expertise

Staff Bandwidth/Burnout

Organizational Finances

Member Engagement

Academic Research/Funding

Pipeline Sustainability

Gaps in Govt Agency Programs

OPPORTUNITIES

**Improved Public Awareness
of the Profession**

Relationship-Building with Govt Leaders

**Increased Financial Support for
Faculty & Students**

Enhanced State Govt Affairs

Global Efforts to Address “Grand Challenges”

**Deeper Collaboration with
Allied Associations**

Inspiring Member Engagement

**Strategic Scientific Leadership
(Tools/Training/Programs to Fill Gaps)**

Training Allied Professionals



HEALTHIER WORKPLACES

A HEALTHIER WORLD

Thanks for listening!