



**SAFETY**

Nebraska Building Chapter

## AGC Safety Initiative E-News

June 9, 2022

**OUR Safety MISSION:** Help each other enforce safety rules to ensure that every person on construction site goes home safe and healthy at end of the workday.

**Calendar of Events** – [Learn more](#)

**OSHA withdrew its [Vaccination and Testing Emergency Temporary Standard](#)** and will focus on a permanent [COVID-19 Healthcare Standard](#)

### **Safety Initiative Goals:**

As an AGC Nebraska Building Chapter member, are you participating with:

- 100% of all AGC members and other contractors on AGC jobsites enforcing OSHA standards as they apply to falls, electrical safety and possible another topic.
- 100% of all AGC members will have set their own company goals to improve safety in their firm and have a way to measure progress towards the goal.
- 100% of all AGC members will encourage and support all contractors on their jobsites to set their own company goals for improving safety.

### **Be a safety lookout**

Workplace hazards are all around. But the longer they're allowed to exist, the easier it can be to overlook them. When you're at work, take time to stop, look and see the dangers around you. "Once you train yourself to spot hazards, you'll notice them all around you," the National Safety Council says. "They may not always be obvious or immediate concerns, but they can still pose a risk to you and your co-workers."

Spotting small hazards can make a big difference. Here are some ways you can help keep your workplace safe:

1. Avoid distracted walking.
2. Use extra caution in high-traffic areas, around corners and near doorways.
3. Store heavy objects close to the floor and away from walkways.
4. Check workstations for exposed cords.
5. Stack materials in a way that they won't fall.
6. Ensure cups and glasses have lids to prevent spills.
7. Close open file cabinet drawers.
8. Replace burnt-out lighting.

### **Recognize the signs of impairment**

Alcohol, cannabis, prescription drugs, fatigue and mental distress can all cause impairment in the workplace. "Impairment risks are everyone's responsibility," the National Safety Council says.

Stay alert and help keep your workplace safe. Here's how:

1. **Spot the signs.** Are you or a co-worker less focused than usual, or acting differently? Consider taking a break or alerting others to evaluate the situation. Don't jump to conclusions about why someone might be impaired.

2. **Start the conversation.** If you don't feel like yourself, assess your reactions and be honest with how you're feeling. For others, ask how they're feeling and if they need to take a break. It's not always easy to have this conversation but ignoring it could put you or your co-workers at risk.
3. **Ask for assistance.** If you can't work safely, ask for assistance from your supervisor or a nearby co-worker. Do the same for any co-workers showing signs of impairment.
4. **Know your policies.** You can help prevent impairment-related hazards by learning more about your workplace's policies. Ask your supervisor or human resources department about available employee assistance programs. Don't be afraid to seek help when you need it.

### **Guidance on mental health leave**

The U.S. Department of Labor has published [updated guidance](#), an [FAQ](#) and a [fact sheet](#) for employers on how to comply with the Family Medical Leave Act when eligible employees require leave because of a serious health condition due to mental health conditions.

### **Positive drug tests are up**

Reaching the [highest rate since 2001](#), positive drug test results among U.S. workers are up more than 30% compared to their all-time low in 2010-2012.