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Introduction to OSHA

Topic: OSHA

Introduction: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, more commonly known as OSHA, is a vital topic for those in industries where health and safety are of utmost importance. Established in the United States, OSHA sets and enforces safety standards to protect workers in the workplace.

This lesson provides an introduction to OSHA, its history, its purpose, and an overview of the OSHA Act.

Key Point 1: Understanding what OSHA is OSHA, established by Congress under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, is a federal agency under the Department of Labor. Its primary goal is to ensure that employers in the United States provide their employees with safe and healthful working conditions.



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OSHA achieves this by setting and enforcing standards and by providing training, outreach, education, and assistance. For example, OSHA sets safety standards for construction sites, requiring the use of hard hats and safety harnesses to protect workers from job-related injuries.

Key Point 2: History and Purpose of OSHA Before OSHA's establishment, there were numerous work-related accidents, injuries, and fatalities in the United States. In response to this, President Richard Nixon signed the OSHA Act into law on December 29, 1970. This marked the beginning of OSHA, which has since worked to reduce workplace hazards and improve the safety and health of workers. The purpose of OSHA is not only to set and enforce standards but also to provide training, outreach, and education to ensure safer workplaces. For instance, in the late 1980s, OSHA introduced new regulations to limit exposure to harmful substances like asbestos, significantly reducing related health issues.

Key Point 3: Overview of the OSHA Act

The **Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970** is a landmark U.S. legislation created to reduce workplace hazards and improve the overall safety and health of employees. It empowers OSHA to:





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retaliation.

For example, an employee who reports blocked fire exits or missing protective gear cannot be legally penalized under the OSHA Act.

Summary:

OSHA plays a vital role in maintaining workplace safety across the United States. It was created in response to rising workplace injuries and deaths. By setting safety standards, conducting training, and enforcing compliance, OSHA ensures that employees work in environments that are safe, secure, and legally protected. Understanding the OSHA Act helps highlight the importance of a healthy workplace for all.



Summary

This lesson will introduce learners to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), a federal agency in the United States that ensures safe and healthy working conditions for employees by enforcing standards and providing training, outreach, education, and assistance. We will discuss the history and purpose of OSHA, as well as its role in maintaining workplace safety. We will also give an overview of the OSHA Act, which established the agency and its responsibilities.



Key Points

- Understanding what OSHA is
- History and purpose of OSHA
- Overview of the OSHA Act



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