

Employee Safety

## Emerging Trends in Workplace Safety

Brought To You by Lydia Baugh, ISEA | Nov 06, 2017

Workplace safety is a growing concern among workers in the United States, primarily because of negative publicity that some incidents have garnered over the past several years. In 2014 alone, a total of 4,821 people were killed on the job, translating to 13 deaths every day.

Many business people believe that some disturbing emerging trends indicate that an increased demand for workplace safety professionals is necessary. These trends include an increased presence or possibly diagnosis of mental illness, problems with drug abuse and addictions, alcoholism and greater exposure to harmful chemical substances.

Traditionally, workplace deaths have been associated with accidents on the job. These have dropped significantly since 1970 but still remain a problem in certain high-risk industries. The four main causes of workplace deaths are falls, electrocutions, getting struck by an object or becoming caught between two objects.

The U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) oversees requirements that make workplaces safer. The challenge, however, remains in changing the approach to workplace safety by emphasizing prevention instead of detection. By establishing positions such as a safety director, a safety manager and a safety coordinator, awareness of safety issues could increase at American companies, creating safer work environments.

To learn more about emerging trends in workplace safety, checkout the new infographic created by Eastern Kentucky University's Occupational Safety program below.

# THE CURRENT STATE OF WORKPLACE SAFETY IN THE U.S.

In 2014, there were 4,821 worker fatalities in the U.S., or 13 deaths every day. From 1990-2014, there were a total of 188,072 nonfatal workplace deaths, with an average of 46 deaths per day. The improvement in workplace safety is discouraging and the time has come to re-evaluate safety performance in America.

## Emerging Trends Causing Increase in Workplace Safety Concerns

### MENTAL ILLNESS

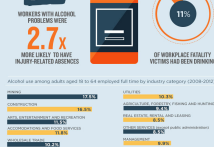


The new Interactive with Disabilities Act requires provisions to be made for an employee with a mental illness. Provisions may include changes in duties, reduced work hours or permission to work from home.

### DRUG ABUSE/ADDICTIONS



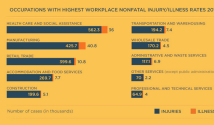
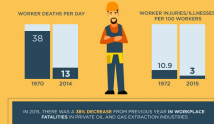
### ALCOHOLISM



### CHEMICAL PRESENCE



## History of Industry-Specific Accidents



### CONSTRUCTION'S FATAL FOUR



## Workplace Safety Standards

### SOME LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

- SAFE WORK AND WORKFORCE OF HEALTHY AND SAFE EMPLOYEES.
- PROVIDE OF CLEAR SIGNALS, LABELS, SIGNS OR PICTURES TO WARN OF POTENTIAL HAZARDS.
- DO NOT TRAIN OR TEST EMPLOYEES IN HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS UNLESS EMPLOYEES ARE TRAINED TO HANDLE THEM.
- CONDUCT SAFETY ASSESSMENTS OF ALL NEW EQUIPMENT AND PROCESSES TO IDENTIFY HAZARDS.
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## Challenges for Workplace Safety

HISTORICALLY, THE VIEW OF WORKPLACE SAFETY HAS BEEN BASED ON DETECTION, NOT PREVENTION, AND THE BELIEF THAT "TACKLING" ACTIONS CAN BE HELP ACCIDENTS BY MORE.

### METHODS OF IMPROVING WORKPLACE SAFETY

- DO DESIGNER TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR WORK AND DESIGNING SAFE WORKPLACES?
- DO DESIGNERS DESIGN WITH SAFETY IN MIND?
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THE DESIGNER'S RESPONSIBILITY IS TO DESIGN SAFE WORKPLACES AND TO MAKE SURE THE EMPLOYER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE A SAFE WORKPLACE.

## WORKPLACE SAFETY JOB PROFILES

SAFETY DIRECTOR	SAFETY MANAGER	SAFETY COORDINATOR
<p>Responsible for the development of a safety strategy and will be able to manage the department and budget. They are also responsible for the design and implementation of safety programs and policies.</p> <p><b>JOB REQUIREMENTS:</b> BACHELOR'S DEGREE, VARIOUS PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS</p> <p><b>SALARY RANGE:</b> \$117,000 - \$145,000</p>	<p>Responsible for developing and implementing standards to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. They are also responsible for the design and implementation of safety programs and policies.</p> <p><b>JOB REQUIREMENTS:</b> BACHELOR'S DEGREE, VARIOUS PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS</p> <p><b>SALARY RANGE:</b> \$85,000 - \$115,000</p>	<p>Responsible for supervising the safety of employees. They are responsible for the design and implementation of safety programs and policies.</p> <p><b>JOB REQUIREMENTS:</b> BACHELOR'S DEGREE, VARIOUS PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS</p> <p><b>SALARY RANGE:</b> \$65,000 - \$85,000</p>

As workplace safety procedures increase, so do the opportunities to obtain safety certifications that can help you accomplish your safety objectives.

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