



A Guide to OSHA Violations on the Construction Jobsite

2025 Edition





Introduction

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is the primary federal agency responsible for workplace safety in the United States. In high-risk industries like construction, compliance with OSHA standards is essential for protecting workers and avoiding costly penalties.

This guide covers:

- The most common OSHA violations on construction sites (2024–2025)
- Violation types and penalties for 2025
- Key prevention strategies
- The business and safety impacts of non-compliance

The user is solely responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal rules, regulations, and laws regarding the storage of flammable materials and the use of flammable storage cabinets. The information provided herein does not constitute legal advice and should not be relied upon as a substitute for independent verification of compliance obligations.

Most Common OSHA Violations in Construction (2024–2025)

Construction sites consistently face violations in the following areas:



Fall Protection (29 CFR 1926.501)

This is the most cited OSHA standard, with over 6,200 violations reported in 2024. Common issues include a lack of guardrails, safety nets, or personal fall arrest systems when working at heights of 6 feet or more.



Respiratory Protection (29 CFR 1910.134)

Common issues include lack of a written respiratory protection program, missing fit testing and improper use of respirators.



Hazard Communication (29 CFR 1910.1200)

There were more than 2,900 violations. Common violations include improper labeling, missing Safety Data Sheets (SDS), and inadequate chemical training.



Lockout/Tagout & Machine Guarding

Frequent violations occur when servicing heavy machinery without following proper protocols.



Ladders (29 CFR 1926.1053)

Over 2,500 violations were recorded. This includes the use of damaged ladders or unsafe positioning and practices.



Training Violations

Inadequate training in areas such as fall protection, hazard recognition and personal protective equipment (PPE) use.



Scaffolding (29 CFR 1926.451)

Violations often involve unsafe assembly, missing guardrails, or improper usage of scaffolding.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Issues related to PPE include missing eye, face, or head protection and improper use of PPE.

The user is solely responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal rules, regulations, and laws regarding the storage of flammable materials and the use of flammable storage cabinets. The information provided herein does not constitute legal advice and should not be relied upon as a substitute for independent verification of compliance obligations.

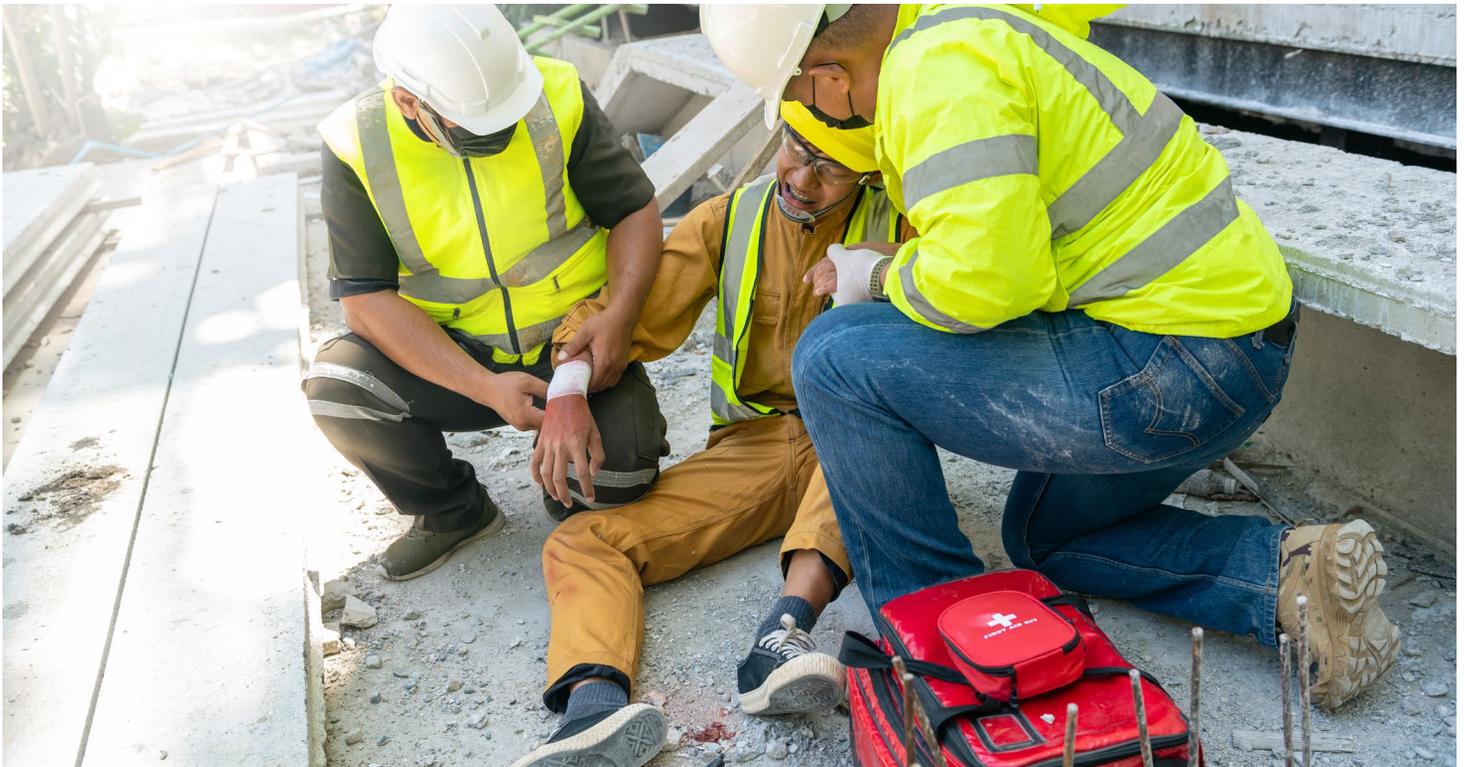
2

OSHA Violation Types and Penalties (2025)

OSHA classifies violations based on severity and intent. Below are the different types of violations along with their descriptions and maximum penalties for 2025:

Violation Type	Description	Maximum Penalty (2025)
De Minimis	Minor issues with no direct safety impact	No fine
Other-than-Serious	May pose a risk, but not likely to cause serious harm	\$16,550 per violation
Serious	High likelihood of injury or death; employer aware	\$16,550 per violation
Willful	Intentional disregard of safety requirements	\$165,514 per violation
Repeated	Same or similar violation in past 3 years	\$165,514 per violation
Failure to Abate	Hazard not corrected by OSHA deadline	\$16,550 per day (until resolved)

Note: Each unprotected or untrained worker may count as a separate violation. Penalties may be reduced for small employers or for good-faith efforts



The user is solely responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal rules, regulations, and laws regarding the storage of flammable materials and the use of flammable storage cabinets. The information provided herein does not constitute legal advice and should not be relied upon as a substitute for independent verification of compliance obligations.

3

Prevention & Best Practices

To maintain compliance and reduce risk, consider the following best practices:

Develop a Written Safety Program

Identify major hazards and outline compliance procedures for all tasks.

Perform Regular Site Inspections

Identify and resolve issues before OSHA does. Use checklists and document your findings.

Provide Ongoing Training

Ensure all employees are trained in hazard recognition, personal protective equipment (PPE), and equipment use.

Maintain Complete Documentation

Keep Safety Data Sheets (SDSs), training logs, inspection records, and incident reports up to date.

Enforce PPE and Fall Protection

Make compliance with safety gear non-negotiable, no exceptions.

Assign Competent Persons

Designate qualified team members to monitor job site safety daily.

Foster a Culture of Safety

Encourage the reporting of hazards, reward safe practices, and involve workers in safety planning.



4

The Impact of OSHA Violations

To maintain compliance and reduce risk, consider the following best practices:

Financial Risk

Penalties for OSHA violations can exceed \$16,000 per incident and may reach up to \$165,000 for willful or repeated offenses. Daily fines can be imposed for hazards that remain uncorrected.

Reputation Risk

Citations are considered public information. Violations can damage a company's reputation and may disqualify it from bidding on contracts.

Safety Risk

The most frequently cited OSHA standards correspond with the leading causes of serious injuries and fatalities.

The user is solely responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal rules, regulations, and laws regarding the storage of flammable materials and the use of flammable storage cabinets. The information provided herein does not constitute legal advice and should not be relied upon as a substitute for independent verification of compliance obligations.

5

Storing Flammable Liquids: Compliance with Cans and Cabinets

Proper storage of flammable liquids is essential for maintaining OSHA compliance, especially on construction sites where fuels, solvents, and adhesives are commonly used.

Use Approved Safety Cans

OSHA and NFPA 30 require that flammable liquids be stored and dispensed using FM or UL-listed safety cans when not in use.

These containers:

- Limit vapor release
- Prevent flashback ignition
- Are equipped with flame arresters and pressure-relief mechanisms



Regulatory Reference:

- OSHA 29 CFR 1910.106(a)(29) – Defines and mandates the use of safety cans
- NFPA 30 – Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code

Store in Flammable Safety Cabinets

When flammable liquids exceeding 10 gallons are not in active use, they must be stored in a flammable liquid storage cabinet that meets the following criteria:

- Constructed of double-walled steel with a 1.5-inch airspace.
- Equipped with self-closing, latched doors (as required by many jurisdictions).
- Properly labeled with “Flammable – Keep Fire Away.”

Regulatory Reference:

- OSHA 29 CFR 1910.106(d)(3) – Storage cabinet construction
- NFPA 30 Chapter 9 – Storage requirements for Class I–III liquids

Why It Matters

Non-compliant storage poses significant fire risks and is a common cause of citations under OSHA’s general flammable liquids and hazard communication standards. Proper use of safety cans and cabinets helps prevent:

- Flash fires
- Explosions
- Regulatory penalties
- Jobsite shutdowns

Best Practices

- Always return flammable liquids to the cabinet when not in use.
- Clearly label all cans and storage locations
- Keep cabinets away from exits and ignition sources
- Train workers on safe handling and storage procedures

The user is solely responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal rules, regulations, and laws regarding the storage of flammable materials and the use of flammable storage cabinets. The information provided herein does not constitute legal advice and should not be relied upon as a substitute for independent verification of compliance obligations.

Conclusion

Achieving and maintaining OSHA compliance is essential for every construction company. It protects your workforce, limits liability, and strengthens your business. With awareness of common violations and a proactive safety program, construction sites can operate more safely and efficiently.

Compliance is more than a legal requirement—it's a commitment to your team's lives and your company's future.

Additional Resources

- [OSHA.gov](https://www.osha.gov) – Federal regulations, tools, and updates
- Your state's OSHA office or authority having jurisdiction
- Certified safety professionals and consultants

Prepared by:

Justrite Manufacturing

Justrite.com

Date: July 2025

The user is solely responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal rules, regulations, and laws regarding the storage of flammable materials and the use of flammable storage cabinets. The information provided herein does not constitute legal advice and should not be relied upon as a substitute for independent verification of compliance obligations.



Justrite[®]

(800) 798-9250 · [Justrite.com](https://www.justrite.com)