



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS NORTH FLORIDA CHAPTER

AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER

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Who Can Wear Shorts to Work?

If you are in Florida right now, you know it's hot outside. And if you're someone who has authority or is part of a decision-making group, you may get questions regarding the wearing of shorts in production areas, warehouses, etc. In particular,

you may be asked what OSHA has to say about such things. If so, you're reading the right article.

Q: Is the wearing of shorts in a parts warehouse permitted by OSHA?

A: Wearing shorts in a parts warehouse is not expressly prohibited by OSHA, but a safety professional should take the following considerations into account.

Under OSHA's general requirements for personal protective equipment (PPE) (29 CFR 1910.132), employers are required to assess the workplace to determine if hazards are present that necessitate the use of PPE, including protective clothing. However, under 29 CFR Appendix B to Subpart I of Part 1910, OSHA instructs that PPE devices alone should not be relied on to provide protection against hazards, but should be used in conjunction with

guards, engineering controls, and sound manufacturing practices.

Common threats include chemical hazards, environmental hazards from machinery or sharp materials, radiological hazards, and irritants. Safety professionals should use common sense and their expertise to assess the hazards present in the workplace and address them appropriately. This can be done through the use of PPE or through a dress code. Consequently, if wearing shorts presents a safety hazard in the parts warehouse, or anywhere else for that matter, they should be prohibited under a facility dress code.

Additionally, under the OSH Act's General Duty Clause, Section 5(a)(1), employers are required to provide a workplace "free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause



death or serious physical harm....” Employers violate this clause if they fail to keep the workplace free of a hazard to which employees are exposed.

So in this particular situation, if wearing shorts in the warehouse, or anywhere else, would create a hazard that could cause death or serious physical harm to workers, they should not be permitted.

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The Odds of Becoming Deceased

Fear is natural and healthy; most of us experience it on a regular basis for a variety of reasons. Fear can help us respond to danger more quickly or avoid a dangerous situation altogether. It can also cause us to worry about the wrong things, especially when it comes to estimating our level of risk.

If we overestimate our risk in one area, it can lead to anxiety and interfere with carrying out our normal daily routine. Ironically, it also leads us to underestimate real risks that can injure or kill us.

Unfortunately, it can be difficult to accurately assess the biggest risks that we face. Plane crashes, being struck by lightning, or being attacked by a dog are common fears; but what about falls, the danger inside of a bottle of pills, or your daily commute to work?

As with many things, knowledge is power. So knowing the odds is the first step in beating them.

Take a look at the table, created by the National Safety Council, on the right. It could literally change your life, or perhaps your lifespan.

National Safety Council

Injury Facts

[National Safety Council](#)

Lifetime Odds of Death for Selected Causes, United States, 2016

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Heart Disease | 1 in 6 |
| Cancer | 1 in 7 |
| Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease | 1 in 27 |
| Suicide | 1 in 91 |
| Motor Vehicle Crash | 1 in 102 |
| Opioid pain killers | 1 in 109 |
| Fall | 1 in 119 |
| Gun Assault | 1 in 285 |
| Pedestrian Incident | 1 in 561 |
| Motorcyclist | 1 in 846 |
| Drowning | 1 in 1,086 |
| Fire or Smoke | 1 in 1,506 |
| Choking on Food | 1 in 3,138 |
| Bicyclist | 1 in 4,050 |
| Accidental Gun Discharge | 1 in 8,305 |
| Sunstroke | 1 in 8,976 |
| Electrocution, Radiation, Extreme Temperatures and Pressure | 1 in 14,630 |
| Sharp objects | 1 in 27,407 |
| Hornet, wasp and bee stings | 1 in 54,093 |
| Hot surfaces and substances | 1 in 56,316 |
| Cataclysmic Storm | 1 in 62,288 |
| Lightning | 1 in 114,195 |
| Dog attack | 1 in 132,614 |
| Railway passenger | 1 in 178,741 |
| Passenger on an airplane | 1 in 205,552 |



Mold Spores in the Air and Human Health

Mold spores are tiny structures produced by molds for the purpose of reproduction. Essentially, they can be thought of as seeds; but unlike plant seeds, mold spores do not contain a preformed embryo.

Health Effects Associated With Mold Spores

Mold spores are very common in household and workplace dust. Also, due to their light weight, they are often floating in the air; this includes outdoors and indoors. Inhaling mold spores may cause allergic reactions in sensitive individuals. Allergic responses can include hay fever-type symptoms, such as sneezing, runny nose, red eyes, and skin rash (dermatitis). Moreover, allergic reactions to mold spores are common; and such reactions can be immediate or delayed. And unfortunately, mold spores can also cause asthma attacks in

people with asthma who are allergic to mold.

As we go about our lives, we breathe in mold spores and fragments every day, both indoors and outdoors. Usually these exposures do not present a health risk. However, health problems may result when people are exposed to large amounts of mold, especially indoors.

In about 20 percent of people, the immune system overreacts and causes the allergic response resulting in symptoms such as runny nose, scratchy throat and sneezing. Most of us know this allergic illness as hay fever or allergic rhinitis.

If you suffer from an allergy that does not end when seasons change, you may be allergic to mold spores. And as you may already be aware, allergic symptoms from outdoor mold spores are most common in summer.

How do I get rid of mold spores

It is quite impossible to get rid of all mold spores indoors;

some spores will be found floating through the air and in house dust. However, we can reduce the amount of spores in our homes by controlling mold growth as mold spores will not grow if moisture is not present. Therefore, indoor mold growth can and should be prevented or controlled by regulating moisture indoors. If there is no mold growth indoors, then the only source of spores would obviously be outdoors.

Spores originating from outdoors may not be in amounts that would present a health problem. But if there is mold growth in your home, you must clean up the mold and also eliminate the source of it. If you clean up the mold, but don't eliminate the source, then it is quite likely that the mold problem will return.

Common Allergy Causing Mold Spores

Although there are many types of molds, only a few dozen are known to cause allergic reactions in humans. Alternaria, Cladosporium,



Aspergillus, Penicillium, Helminthosporium, Epicoccum, Fusarium, Mucor, Rhizopus and Aureobasidium are the main culprits. And fortunately, some common mold spores can be identified easily in a laboratory when viewed under a microscope.

Mold spores Release

Mold spores can be actively released or passively released; this depends on the type of mold. The release of spores is also influenced by environmental conditions. Some spores are released in dry, windy weather. Others are released with the fog or dew when humidity is high.

Air Sampling For Mold Spores

Indoor air sampling for mold is important for several reasons. Mold spores are not visible to the naked eye. Consequently, the only way to determine whether the air is contaminated and what with is through laboratory analysis of air samples. Having air samples analyzed can also help provide evidence of the scope and severity of a mold

problem, as well as aid in assessing human exposure to mold. After mold removal efforts have taken place, new air samples are typically taken to help ensure that the amount of airborne mold spores has been successfully reduced.

Should you find yourself in a situation where you suspect the presence of mold spores inside of a building, it is good practice to contact a specialist or industrial hygienist. They can provide the needed knowledge and experience to help you with this type of situation. As part of the investigation process, they will typically take air samples using a pump that forces air through a collection device, where the spores are trapped. The sample(s) is then sent off to a laboratory to be analyzed. At that point, you'll have data to validate or reject your theory. And in the end, data speaks much louder than theories and opinions.

Mold Spores

Dr. Jackson Kung'u

[Mold & Bacteria Consulting Labs](#)

OSHA NEWS

OSHA Alert: The Revised Injury Tracking Rule has Cleared the OMB

OSHA's proposed revisions to the 2016 final rule to Improve the tracking of workplace injuries and illnesses have cleared the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). This means that a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is likely to be published in the Federal Register soon.

OSHA released a prepublication copy of the rule on July 26. As expected, the proposal seeks to remove the requirement for establishments with 250 or more workers to electronically submit data from the OSHA 300 Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses and OSHA 301 Injury and Illness Incident



Report, while retaining the requirement that covered establishments submit data from the 300A Annual Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses. OSHA announced its intention to make this revision in the Spring 2018 regulatory agenda. And although the initial deadline for the submission of calendar year 2017 Form 300 and 301 data was July 1, 2018, OSHA is not enforcing this requirement while rulemaking is ongoing and has not accepted Form 300 or 301 data.

OSHA's primary rationale for removing the Form 300 and 301 reporting requirement was employee privacy concerns. OSHA also reconsidered the time and cost of effectively using the data, which the agency characterizes as having "uncertain enforcement benefits."

In this new proposal, OSHA is also seeking comment on whether to add a requirement for employers subject to electronic recordkeeping requirements to include their

Employer Identification Number (EIN) in these submissions. OSHA believes that the inclusion of the EIN would permit easier cross-referencing with data collection performed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and potentially avoid duplicative reporting.

Absent from the proposal, however, are any revisions to the employee involvement and anti-retaliation provisions at 29 CFR 1904.35 and 1904.36. Those provisions, which require employers to have reasonable procedures for employees to report work-related injuries and illnesses and prohibit employers from disciplining or retaliating in any way against employees for reporting injuries, have been interpreted by OSHA to limit certain kinds of post-accident drug testing policies, safety incentive programs, and disciplinary policies. OSHA has not proposed to change any of these particular provisions in this rulemaking.

The preproposal copy of the rule is available at [OSHA.gov](https://www.osha-slc.gov).

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Job Market Links

[ASSE](#)

[BCSP General Safety Jobs](#)

[BCSP Construction Safety Jobs](#)

[BCSP Industrial Hygiene Jobs](#)

[EHS Careers](#)

ASSE Chapter Links

Find us on the web at:

[ASSP NFL](#)

Find us on Facebook at:

[ASSP NFL](#)

Local Chapter Officers and Chairs

Elected Officers

- President - Steve Brown
- President Elect - Bob Dooley
- Secretary - Steve Wilson
- Treasurer - Yaniv Zagagi
- Delegate - Dave Bedsole



Appointed Chairs

- Membership Chair - Eric Gray
- Program Chair - Tom Drygas
- Newsletter Chair – Bob Dooley
- Social Chair – Ben Yancy
- SPY Awards Chair – Ben Yancy
- Social Media Chair - Vernon Adams
- Past President - Dan Hempsall

email, please email the [secretary](#).

Local Chapter

Meeting Schedule

The local chapter is currently on summer break. Please attend our next meeting when we resume in September, meeting details to be shared in upcoming issues.

Local Chapter Information

The North Florida Chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals, formerly the American Society of Safety Engineers, was chartered in 1952 and currently has more than 165 members.

Professional meetings are held nine times per year in the Jacksonville area.

Meeting notices are distributed and RSVP's are returned by email. If you are a member of ASSP and are not receiving notices by

Most meetings are held at:

Northeast Florida Safety Council
1725 Art Museum Drive
Building B, Classroom D
Jacksonville, FL 32207
11:30 Lunch & Networking
Noon Technical Session
904-399-319