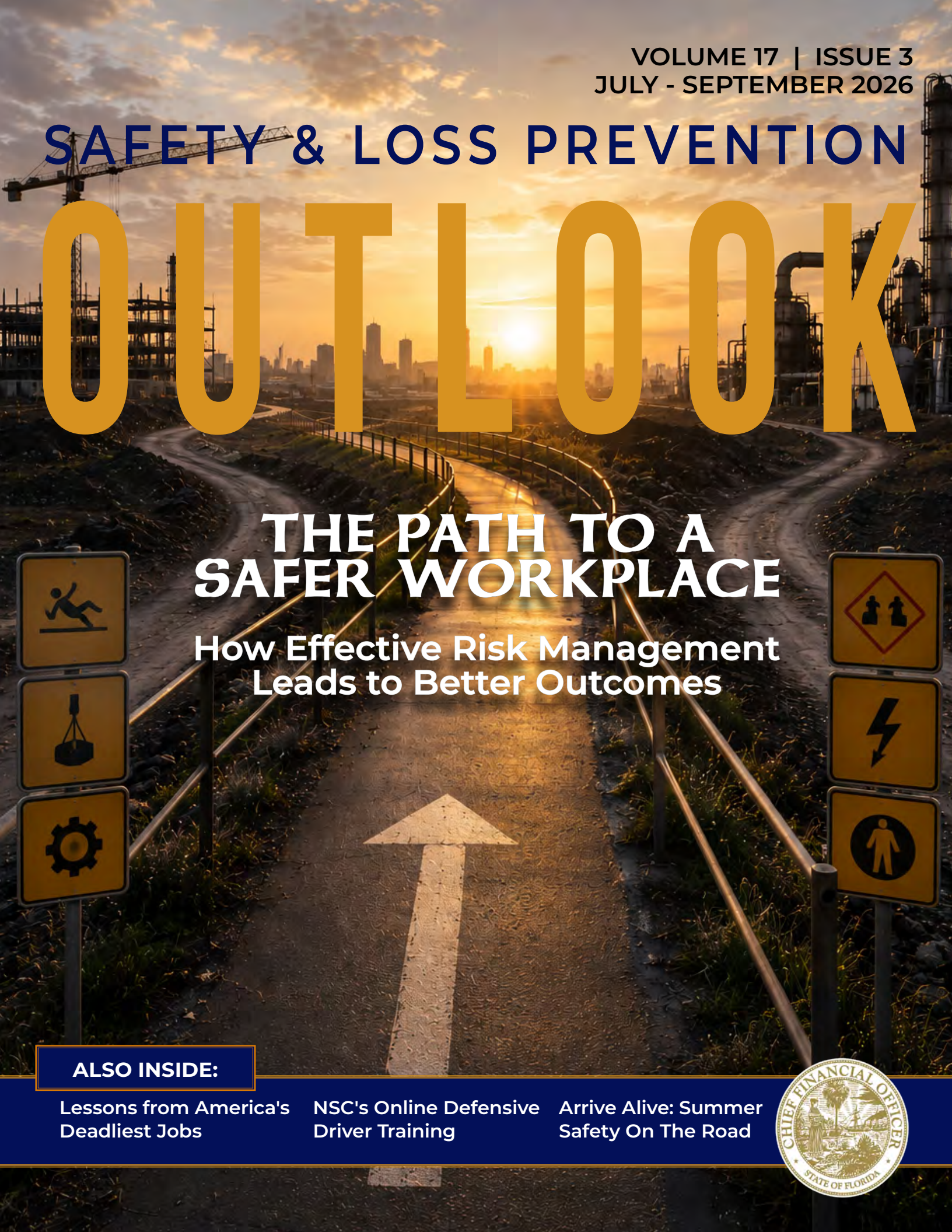
VOLUME 17 | ISSUE 3
JULY - SEPTEMBER 2026

# SAFETY & LOSS PREVENTION OUTLOOK



## THE PATH TO A SAFER WORKPLACE

### How Effective Risk Management Leads to Better Outcomes

**ALSO INSIDE:**

# OUTLOOK

Issue 3, Volume 17
July - September 2026

## A Message from the Editor

*"Hoping for the best, prepared for the worst, and unsurprised by anything in between."*
*-- Maya Angelou*

For those of us whose job it is to think about workplace safety, it can be tempting to give precedence to past incidents. Injury reports, workers' compensation claims, and lost time statistics provide valuable information, but they only tell part of the story. The most effective safety programs look beyond past outcomes to identify emerging risks, evaluate exposures, and implement controls before an injury or fatality occurs.

In this issue, we highlight occupations that experience the highest fatality rates -- not to call out certain industries as dangerous, but to help us determine the greatest risks in our own organizations and benefit from proven methods for managing those risks. Every incident in every workplace offers an opportunity to learn valuable lessons in safety. In fact, relying solely on your own organization's record is risky: Having a workplace free of injuries could mean risks are low or well-controlled -- or it could simply mean your organization has been lucky so far.

As summer travel increases and roadways become more crowded, the same mindset applies behind the wheel. Anticipating hazards, recognizing changing conditions, and making safe decisions can help us all arrive safely, wherever we are going.

**With appreciation for your dedication to safety,**

Lori Taylor

Managing Editor

## INTERAGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**The next Interagency Advisory Council meeting will take place online via GoToMeeting on:**

**AUGUST 11, 2026 at 2:30 pm**

Council Members:
Check your email soon for details & login instructions

**Do you know a state employee, agent, or volunteer who has made exceptional contributions to the reduction and control of employment-related accidents?**

Ask your agency's safety coordinator to submit a nomination for our:

SAFETY & LOSS PREVENTION EXCELLENCE AWARD

Safety coordinators should submit nominations to the Division of Risk Management's Loss Prevention section at least two weeks prior to an upcoming quarterly IAC meeting. Nominee approvals will be made by IAC members during the meeting.

# IN THIS ISSUE

# DEFINING THE DANGER

## DETERMINING WHICH WORKERS ARE AT MOST RISK

## Measuring The Risks

**What decides which jobs are the most dangerous? The answer depends on how risk is defined within an organization.**

Hazard exposure, near-misses, injury reports, fatality statistics -- each metric is a tool that safety professionals can use to help build their safety program and decide where attention is most needed. It starts with knowing what and where the biggest risks are, acknowledging program strengths and weaknesses, and learning how to make effective improvements. The "best tool" is the one that works for you and your organization.

**LAGGING VS. LEADING INDICATORS** Lagging indicators allow us to look back on incidents that have already occurred, typically through the use of data such as injury rates and claim reports. Leading indicators use information such as hazard identification, near-miss reporting, and safety inspections to predict and prevent incidents before they occur. This is particularly important in high-risk industries, where incidents have the most catastrophic outcomes.

Using lagging and leading indicators together can help organizations prioritize efforts and allocate resources where they are needed the most. Leading indicators can help identify areas where improvements are needed, while lagging indicators can help identify trends and provide information about the effectiveness of those improvements.

**USING INCIDENT DATA** Measuring the raw number of fatalities shows which industries have the most employee deaths overall, but it does not take into account the size of the workforce. Adjusting the measurement by looking at the number of deaths per 100,000 workers in a given occupation gives a better idea, but it ignores nonfatal injuries, which are far more common. Unfortunately, many nonfatal injuries go unreported, and the number of injuries shows only the frequency of the type of injury, not the severity. Using the number of workdays lost or restricted due to workplace injuries can help in distinguishing which industries are at risk for more serious (nonfatal) injuries.

**USING THE HAZARD PROFILE** Danger can't truly be determined using data alone -- job hazards must also be considered, including environmental exposure (heat, heights, chemicals, etc.), tools and equipment (working with sharp objects, heavy machinery, or electricity), human factors (fatigue, distraction, other people), and organizational controls (training, policies, supervision).

**USING THE COMPOSITE METHOD** Reducing risk requires looking at all the metrics at once -- while incident data can bring attention to a potential job safety issue, the hazard profile sheds light on why that issue exists and can help lead to solutions.

### THE MOST DANGEROUS INDUSTRIES

**Work-related "danger" can be measured in many different ways. The U.S. Bureau of Labor & Statistics reported the following data for 2024:**

- **AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING, & HUNTING** had the highest death rate per 100,000 workers
- **CONSTRUCTION** experienced the highest number of workplace deaths
- **TRANSPORTATION & WAREHOUSING** had the highest rate of injuries and illnesses involving days away from work per 10,000 workers
- **STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS** experienced the highest number of nonfatal injuries and illnesses

## What Each Metric Can Tell Us

**Determining which metrics on which to focus depends on what your organization is trying to prevent, manage, or improve.**

| EVALUATION GOAL | USEFUL METRICS |
|---|---|
| Prevent deaths and catastrophic events | • rate and/or number of deaths<br>• rate and/or number of serious injuries<br>• high-potential near misses |
| Reduce everyday injuries | • Total Recordable Incident rate (TRIs)<br>• rate and/or number of nonfatal injuries |
| Reduce productivity loss | • Days Away From Work (DAFW)<br>• Days Away, Restricted, or Transferred (DART) |
| Lower workers' compensation costs | • Claim severity<br>• average claim cost<br>• indemnity cost |
| Identify operational weaknesses | • injury type trends<br>• department-specific injury rates<br>• root cause analysis |
| Benchmark against peers | • incident rates per number of workers (depending on size of industry/organization) |
| Measure safety culture | • reporting of near misses, hazards, and other safety concerns<br>• implementation of corrective actions by management<br>• employee "buy-in" of safety rules (PPE use, safety program participation, etc.) |
| Evaluate leadership effectiveness | • number of repeat incidents<br>• timeliness of corrective actions after incident reports<br>• implementation of safety training for employees<br>• safety compliance enforcement |

**HAZARD**

A source, condition, activity, or situation with the potential to cause injury, illness, or damage

*Example: High temperature, high humidity, direct sunlight*

**EXPOSURE**

Contact with, proximity to, or time spent around a hazard

*Example: Working outdoors for several hours in direct sun in summer heat & humidity*

**RISK**

The likelihood of an incident occurring after exposure to a hazard and the potential severity of the outcome

*Example: High risk of heat illness & heat-related injuries*

**OUTCOME**

The result of the exposure to the hazard

*Example: Heat exhaustion requiring medical treatment & expenses, loss of productivity*

### THE TAKEAWAY

Some jobs may seem inherently more dangerous than others, but the danger lies in the combination of workplace conditions.

Risk can vary based on hazards, exposure, and controls -- ***even within the same job.***

# From Hazard To Outcome: Choosing Your Risk Management Approach

**HAZARD EXPOSURE RISK OUTCOME**

**THE NIOSH METHOD** Developed by the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health **(NIOSH)**, this approach gives practitioners a framework for evaluating levels of risk by identifying hazards and exposures, assessing risks, and implementing controls before incidents occur. Rather than focusing solely on injury statistics, the NIOSH approach emphasizes the causal relationship between Hazards, Exposures, Risks, and Outcomes **(HERO)** to better understand why injuries and illnesses occur.

| | WHAT IT DOES | QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER | EXAMPLES (USING HEAT-RELATED INJURY RISK) | OVERVIEW |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **HAZARD IDENTIFICATION** | Identifies conditions, activities, or situations with the potential to cause harm | • What hazards exist?<br>• Where could workers be injured or become ill?<br>• What tasks present the greatest danger? | • High temperatures<br>• High humidity<br>• Radiant heat<br>• Direct sun exposure | This step focuses on recognizing sources of harm before evaluating worker exposure. |
| **EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT** | Determines who is exposed, how often, for how long, and to what degree | • Which workers are exposed?<br>• How frequent is the exposure, and for how long?<br>• Under what conditions does the exposure happen? | • Grounds crews working outdoors for six hours during peak heat times<br>• Workers inside an unair-conditioned space with machines that give off radiant heat | This step moves beyond the hazard itself to examine how workers are affected by it. |
| **RISK ASSESSMENT** | Evaluates the likelihood and severity of potential harm (tool: RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX)<br>**(SEE PAGE 9)** | • How likely is an incident to occur?<br>• How severe could the outcome of such an incident be?<br>• Which risks deserve priority? | • High likelihood of heat exhaustion and dehydration<br>• Moderate likelihood of heat stroke<br>• Likelihood of other injuries indirectly related to heat stress | This step combines information about hazards and exposures to determine risk levels. |
| **RISK MANAGEMENT** | Implements controls to reduce or eliminate risk (tool: HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS)<br>**(SEE PAGE 7)** | • What controls are available?<br>• Which controls are most effective?<br>• How can exposures be reduced? | • Elimination: Reschedule work for cooler times<br>• Engineering: Provide shade and cooling stations<br>• Administrative: Implement acclimatization and work-rest schedules<br>• PPE: cooling towels, etc. | This step applies the Hierarchy of Controls to reduce risk before injuries occur. |
| **OUTCOME EVALUATION** | Measures whether controls are effective and identifies opportunities for improvement | • Did exposures actually decrease?<br>• Have incident rates improved?<br>• Are controls being properly implemented and enforced?<br>• Are additional controls needed?<br>• Have there been any unintended consequences? | • After implementing above controls:<br>• determine whether workers have experienced fewer heat-related illnesses and lost workdays<br>• uncover any weak spots and offer solutions | This step uses outcomes and performance indicators to verify that risk management efforts are working. |

## HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS

This risk management tool identifies safeguards to protect workers from hazards and is arranged in a pyramid from most to least effective.

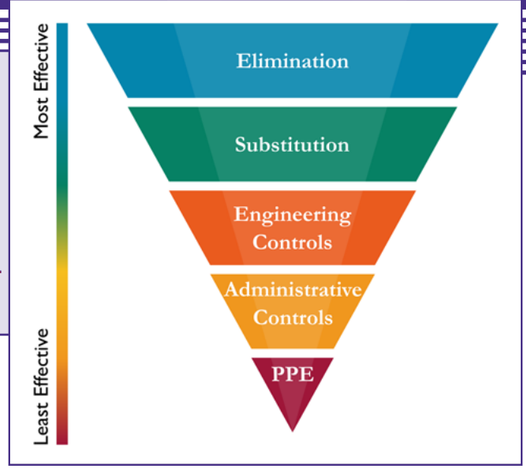
**ELIMINATION:** physically removing the hazard

**SUBSTITUTION:** replacing equipment with something less hazardous

**ENGINEERING CONTROLS:** isolating people from the hazard

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS:** changing work processes and/or behaviors to be less hazardous

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE):** using clothing or other equipment as a physical barrier against the hazard




As you move down the pyramid, controls become more dependent on worker behavior and less reliable. The chart below gives an example of the hierarchy of controls in practice to control one common workplace hazard -- heat stress.

| HAZARD: HEAT STRESS | WHAT IT DOES | EXAMPLES | STRENGTHS | LIMITATIONS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **ELIMINATION** | Removes exposure entirely | • Relocate work indoors to a climate-controlled environment<br>• Automate task to remove worker from heat | • Most effective control<br>• Eliminates risk at the source<br>• Does not rely on worker behavior | • Often impractical or impossible<br>• High cost or operational constraints<br>• Not feasible for outdoor work |
| **SUBSTITUTION** | Reduces heat generated by equipment / process | • Replace high-heat equipment (e.g., gas-powered tools) with lower heat alternatives (e.g., battery, electric) | • Reduces radiant & ambient heat load<br>• Can improve overall work environment<br>• Does not rely on worker behavior | • Limited impact on environmental heat<br>• May involve cost or performance tradeoffs<br>• Not always applicable |
| **ENGINEERING CONTROLS** | Reduces environmental heat exposure | • Install shade structures, ventilation, and/or fans to work area<br>• Set up cooled rest areas with access to water | • Directly mitigates hazard<br>• Consistent and reliable<br>• Minimal reliance on worker behavior | • Requires installation and maintenance<br>• May not fully offset extreme heat / humidity<br>• Limited mobility (controls fixed to location) |
| **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS** | Limits duration and intensity of exposure | • Schedule rest breaks<br>• Implement hydration protocols<br>• Shift timing of work to cooler days / times of day<br>• Acclimatize workers | • Directly reduces physiological strain<br>• Flexible and low-cost<br>• Effective with consistent application | • Requires supervision and compliance enforcement<br>• Can impact productivity and/or scheduling<br>• Dependent on worker behavior |
| **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT** | Improves heat dissipation and personal comfort | • Use of cooling towels, cooling vests, and clothing made from breathable fabrics | • Easy to deploy quickly and easily<br>• Portable and low-cost<br>• Consistent protection throughout work and breaks | • Does not reduce heat source<br>• Limited impact on core temperature (especially in high humidity)<br>• Highly dependent on worker behavior |

**ANTICIPATE**
**RECOGNIZE**
**EVALUATE**
**CONTROL**
**CONFIRM**

**THE ARECC METHOD** Originally created by the American Industrial Hygiene Association **(AIHA)**, this approach provides another structured risk management process that encourages practitioners to focus not just on outcomes, but on managing the hazards and exposures that exist before those outcomes occur. The chart below shows how the ARECC method can be put into place for your organization.

| | WHAT IT DOES | QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER | EXAMPLES (USING HEAT-RELATED INJURY RISK) | OVERVIEW |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **ANTICIPATE** | Proactively predict and/or identify potential hazards before exposure | • What are the dangers?<br>• What new hazards might emerge?<br>• What working conditions might increase the risk? | • Forecast heat exposure periods<br>• Identify high-exertion tasks<br>• Consider which workers are most susceptible | This step looks beyond compliance and focuses on design. |
| **RECOGNIZE** | Identify and document current hazards and exposure pathways | • Where is exposure occurring?<br>• Who is being exposed?<br>• How are workers interacting with and reacting to the hazard? | • Identify work areas that are in direct sun and/or highly humid environments<br>• Take note of any reflective surfaces, heat-generating equipment, or physically demanding tasks | This step pinpoints the who, what, where, when, and how of the hazard. |
| **EVALUATE** | Assess the likelihood and magnitude of harm from the effects of the hazard (tool: RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX)<br>**(SEE PAGE 9)** | • How much are workers being exposed to the hazard?<br>• How likely are workers to experience injury or illness?<br>• How severe might the outcomes of injury or illness be? | • Assess the worksite: Measure the temperature / heat / humidity; identify water and shade access<br>• Calculate the workload intensity, including stress created or mitigated by PPE<br>• Analyze injury trends | This is the phase where risk metrics are compiled and analyzed to determine where controls are most needed. |
| **CONTROL** | Implement measures to reduce or eliminate hazards (tool: HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS)<br>**(SEE PAGE 7)** | • Can the hazard be eliminated completely?<br>• What changes can be made to the worksite or work processes to mitigate the hazard?<br>• How can the workers protect themselves individually from the hazard? | • Elimination: Automate high-heat tasks<br>• Engineering: Add or increase shade and ventilation to the work area<br>• Administrative: Implement work-rest schedules<br>• PPE: cooling towels, etc. | This step gives preference to controls that eliminate or mitigate the hazard, reduce the workers' exposure to the hazard, and rely less on human behavior to be effective. |
| **CONFIRM** | Verify that implemented control measures actually work to reduce risk | • Did exposures actually decrease?<br>• Are workers following safety procedures (i.e., taking breaks and using cooling stations)?<br>• Are supervisors enforcing new protocols?<br>• Have incident rates improved?<br>• Have there been any unintended consequences? | • After adding cooling stations and implementing more frequent breaks:<br>▪ determine whether reports of incidents (including near-misses) have decreased<br>▪ find out whether protocols are being followed and enforced | Installing controls does not guarantee a positive outcome; see where improvements can be made. |

## 5x5 RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX

| PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE | SEVERITY OF OUTCOME (IMPACT): INSIGNIFICANT (1) | MINOR (2) | SIGNIFICANT (3) | MAJOR (4) | SEVERE (5) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FREQUENT (5) | MEDIUM (5) | HIGH (10) | VERY HIGH (15) | EXTREME (20) | EXTREME (25) |
| LIKELY (4) | MEDIUM (4) | MEDIUM (8) | HIGH (12) | VERY HIGH (16) | EXTREME (20) |
| OCCASIONAL (3) | LOW (3) | MEDIUM (6) | MEDIUM (9) | HIGH (12) | VERY HIGH (15) |
| REMOTE (2) | VERY LOW (2) | LOW (4) | MEDIUM (6) | MEDIUM (8) | HIGH (10) |
| IMPROBABLE (1) | VERY LOW (1) | VERY LOW (2) | LOW (3) | MEDIUM (4) | MEDIUM (5) |

**THE RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX** This chart is used by organizations during the risk assessment and evaluation stages to help prioritize potential risks based on their level of probability and impact of hazards and exposure. It provides a simple visual tool for rating future risks whenever a new hazard is identified.

It's important to remember that the effectiveness of the risk management matrix depends on first accurately identifying hazards and understanding worker exposures to determine risks.

### HOW TO USE (Example -- Heat Stress):

**STEP 1: Establish Risk Probability**

- Environmental conditions: 95°F, heat index 105°F (4-5)
- Exposure duration: 6 hours outdoors (4-5)
- Physical exertion: Heavy (4)
- Shade availability: Limited (3-5)
- Water access: Readily available (1)
- Acclimatization: Several new or returning workers (3-4)

**Risk Probability: LIKELY (4)**

**STEP 2: Establish Risk Severity**

Heat stress could lead to:
- minor heat illness requiring medical treatment (1-3)
- serious heat illness or fatality (5)

**Risk Severity: MAJOR (4)**

**STEP 3: Calculate Risk**

Use the formula: *PROBABILITY x IMPACT = RISK LEVEL*

**Risk Score: 4 x 4 = 16 (VERY HIGH)**

**STEP 4: Apply Controls**

Make corrective actions based on the Hierarchy of Controls
- reschedule work to earlier hours
- increase rest breaks
- acclimatize new workers
- add shade

**STEP 5: Reevaluate & Recalculate**

- Probability drops from 4 to 2
- Severity remains 4

**New Risk Score: 4 x 2 = 8 (MEDIUM)**

### PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE

**IMPROBABLE (1):** nearly impossible (<5% chance to occur)
**REMOTE (2):** possible but unlikely (6-20% chance to occur)
**OCCASIONAL (3):** moderately possible (21-50% chance to occur)
**LIKELY (4):** probable (51-80% chance to occur)
**FREQUENT (5):** almost certain (>80% chance to occur)

### SEVERITY OF OUTCOME (IMPACT)

**INSIGNIFICANT (1):** unlikely to result in injury or illness
**MINOR (2):** possibility of minor injury or illness
**SIGNIFICANT (3):** possibility of minor to severe injury or illness
**MAJOR (4):** possibility of minor, severe, or permanent injury or illness
**SEVERE (5):** significant possibility of injury, illness, or fatality

### PROBABILITY x IMPACT = RISK LEVEL

**1-4: LOW RISK:** very low statistical likelihood of occurrence and/or minor impact
- **Action:** No immediate action needed; maintain existing control measures

**5-9: MODERATE:** low to moderate statistical likelihood of occurrence and/or impact
- **Action:** May be considered for further analysis of incident data and trends

**10-16: HIGH:** statistically significant likelihood of occurrence and/or serious impact
- **Action:** Analysis and implementation of improvement strategies (such as engineering or administrative controls) should be completed as soon as possible

**17-25: EXTREME:** high statistical likelihood of occurrence and/or catastrophic impact
- **Action:** Activities must cease immediately; corrective actions required before activities may resume; reevaluate outcome to verify successful improvement

LOGGING

FISHING & HUNTING

ROOFING

WASTE COLLECTION

SMALL-CRAFT AVIATION

CONSTRUCTION HELPERS

TRUCK TRANSPORTATION

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

AGRICULTURAL WORK

IRON & STEEL WORK

# AMERICA'S DEADLIEST JOBS

*Lessons From The Country's Highest-Risk Occupations*

According to the most recent data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), an American worker dies on the job every 104 minutes -- around **5,000 workers** each year, at an average of **3.3 fatal injuries per 100,000 full-time workers.** Certain occupations come with more dangers than others -- some with fatality rates almost **30 times higher** than the national average.

- BLS recorded 5,070 fatal work-related injuries in 2024, 1,146 of which were roadway incidents. Transportation-related incidents account for 38.2% of all workplace fatalities across all occupations.
- While the construction industry has the highest number of deaths, logging workers are at the most risk with the highest percentage of fatal injuries.
- Nearly 15% of all workplace fatalities are caused by workers falling from heights -- almost three-quarters of those being falls from 30 feet or higher.

These statistics can be a valuable piece of the risk management puzzle, offering organizations insight in identifying risks before tragedy strikes their own workforce. The jobs on the "deadliest" list are there due to common hazards and exposures -- not because such fatalities are inevitable. Understanding those risks is the first step in preventing them.

## LOGGING

**98.9 deaths per 100k workers**
**30.0x national average in 2024**

**PRIMARY HAZARDS:** Struck-by or caught in/between injuries (truck rollovers, falling trees and limbs, heavy equipment incidents), falls from heights, remote locations

**PREVENTION:** Enforce minimum distance spacing protocols -- all workers remain at least two tree lengths away from any active felling operation (i.e. the "two tree lengths rule"). Ensure all vehicles and machines have safety features (seatbelts, rollover & falling-object protective guards, chainsaw brakes, etc.). Perform regular maintenance on all equipment. Mandate the use of PPE and having first-aid kits at every job site.

## FISHING & HUNTING

**86.9 deaths per 100k workers**
**26.3x national average in 2024**

**PRIMARY HAZARDS:** Transportation incidents (capsizing, falls overboard, truck rollovers), equipment incidents (crush injuries, blunt force trauma, lacerations, entanglement), firearms, remote locations, rough terrain, extreme weather

**PREVENTION:** Re. fishing: Implement and enforce a "Zero-Tolerance PFD Policy" (Personal Flotation Devices) at all times on deck; invest in automated weather alert systems and emergency position-indicating radio beacons (EPIRBs). Re. hunting: Mandate hunting safety education and strict firearm discipline, wear "hunter's orange" garments, scout the area for other hunting groups and communicate with your team.



## ROOFING

**51.8 deaths per 100k workers**
**15.7x national average in 2024**

**PRIMARY HAZARDS:** Falls from heights, slips on degraded or slick surfaces, equipment incidents (cut/scrape, struck-by, or caught in/between injuries), heat stress

**PREVENTION:** Mandate 100% tie-off for all workers working at heights -- every worker, every time -- even for small or quick tasks. Mandate PPE and train workers in proper use of all equipment. Implement protocols to prevent primary injuries (heat illness) and secondary injuries caused by heat stress (e.g., falls caused by symptoms of heat illness, etc.).

## WASTE COLLECTION

**41.4 deaths per 100k workers**
**12.5x national average in 2024**

**PRIMARY HAZARDS:** Transportation incidents (struck by motorists, falls from vehicles, etc.), machinery incidents (crush/caught in/between injuries), curbside slips/trips/falls, contact with hazardous waste, heat stress

**PREVENTION:** Mandate high-visibility (Class 3) safety vests and other PPE (such as hand, foot, and headwear), caution cones, and road signs. Train workers in "defensive loading" techniques and prohibit rear-step riding (workers must sit in the cab during transit). Routinely inspect and maintain vehicle safety features (cameras, sensors, alarms, etc.). Prohibit cell phone use. Implement heat stress protocols.

## SMALL-CRAFT AVIATION

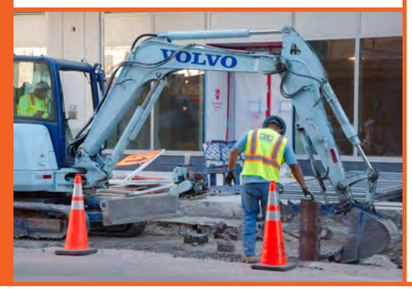
**31.3 deaths per 100k workers**
**9.5x national average in 2024**

**PRIMARY HAZARDS:** Transportation incidents (small aircraft crashes) due to mechanical failure or weather, remote locations

**PREVENTION:** Mandate strict adherence to pre-flight checklists regardless of experience level. Conduct thorough safety inspections of equipment at regular intervals. Empower pilots to cancel flights due to marginal weather without fear of penalty. Invest in weather monitoring systems that integrate directly with dispatch.

## CONSTRUCTION HELPERS

**27.4 deaths per 100k workers**
**8.3x national average in 2024**




**PRIMARY HAZARDS:** The "Fatal Four" -- Falls from heights, struck-by incidents, caught in/between incidents, and electrocution; exposure to harmful substances; transportation incidents (heavy equipment accidents, struck-by vehicles)

**PREVENTION:** Daily pre-task meetings remind workers how to work safely. Because trade helpers often lack role-specific training, pair novice workers with more experienced and safety-conscious veterans -- doing so has been shown to reduce incident rates by nearly 40%.

## TRUCK TRANSPORTATION

26.8 deaths per 100k workers
8.1x national average in 2024

**PRIMARY HAZARDS:** Transportation incidents (roadway collisions) due to other motorists, mechanical failure, inclement weather, or driver fatigue; pedestrian contact in loading zones

**PREVENTION:** Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs) help to prevent drowsy driving by ensuring drivers take necessary breaks. Establish firm policies against unsafe behaviors (particularly cell phone use). Implement defensive driver training emphasizing space cushioning in high-traffic corridors.

## GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

20.5 deaths per 100k workers
6.2x national average in 2024

**PRIMARY HAZARDS:** Transportation & heavy machinery incidents, contact with equipment or debris (struck-by or caught in/between injuries), falls from ladders or truck buckets, electrocution, heat stress, exposure to harmful substances, dangerous wildlife encounters

**PREVENTION:** Enforce Lock-out/Tag-out procedures during equipment maintenance (such as clearing lawnmower blades). Enforce proper usage of PPE (gloves, helmets, harnesses, etc.). Perform regular equipment maintenance and training. Use non-conductive tools when trimming branches around power lines. Enforce heat stress protocols.

## AGRICULTURAL WORK

20.2 deaths per 100k workers
6.1x national average in 2024

**PRIMARY HAZARDS:** Transportation incidents (tractor rollovers, struck-by injuries), silo entrapment, contact with heavy machinery (struck-by or caught in/between injuries), exposure to harmful substances, heat stress, injuries caused by animals

**PREVENTION:** Ensure all machinery is properly equipped with safety guards & Roll-Over Protection Structures (ROPS); provide equipment training and enforce proper PPE use. Implement heat stress protocols.

## IRON & STEEL WORK

19.8 deaths per 100k workers
6.0x national average in 2024

**PRIMARY HAZARDS:** Falls from heights, heavy equipment incidents, struck-by incidents (swinging heavy loads), caught in/between incidents, electrocution, eye & skin burns (welding injuries), heat stress

**PREVENTION:** Focus on Leading Edge Training; ensure workers are trained specifically on how to transition between safety lines when moving across horizontal beams at height. Schedule routine fall protection audits and require documented lift plans for every rigging operation. Mandate and regularly inspect PPE and other safety equipment. Implement heat stress protocols.



# Jobsite safety is everyone's responsibility


Photo: boonchai wedmakawand/gettyimages

Safety Tips | S+H Staff
April 20, 2026

Maintaining a safe workplace is a shared responsibility. That's why it's important that each worker has the skills and knowledge to play their part.

"Bring a level of awareness to the worksite each day that is appropriate to the potential hazard posed," the National Safety Council says.

To do that:

- **Learn the safest way to do your job.** Complete all job-specific training and read the materials supplied by your employer, including information from equipment manufacturers. If you have questions or concerns, talk with your supervisor.
- **Always think and act safely.** Check for hazards throughout the workday. Be aware of your surroundings and the work going on around you.
- **Obey safety rules and regulations.** Follow all OSHA standards, other regulatory/municipal requirements, and your employer's safety and health rules and policies.
- **Wear proper personal protective equipment.** The PPE should be designed for the specific task you're performing and in good working condition. It also needs to fit.
- **Take your job seriously.** Don't engage in horseplay or take shortcuts.
- **Operate only the equipment you're authorized to use.** Don't operate a piece of equipment if you haven't been trained on its proper use.
- **Inspect tools and equipment before use.** Visually inspect all work items for defects before each shift. If an item is damaged, remove it from service.
- **Communicate unsafe conditions or practices.** If you identify a potentially unsafe situation, report the hazard to your supervisor.
- **Report injuries or property damage immediately.** Investigation into a minor incident may prevent a larger incident from occurring.
- **Support your workplace safety program.** Take an active role in on-the-job safety activities, discussions, committees and training.

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nsc National Safety Council

DEFENSIVE DRIVER TRAINING

**NSC's online Defensive Driver Training course is available to a select number of state of Florida agency and university employees.**

**New Users: (not yet registered)**

1. Click the button above to go to the website (*training.nsc.org/myfloridacfo*) and click **NEW USER**.
2. Type in your Access Code (provided by your agency or university) and click **REGISTER**.
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- The session will time out after five minutes. ALWAYS click SAVE AND EXIT in the course, then logout on the upper right side of your account page to save your progress.
- Do not login to your account on more than one browser/tab/device at a time or you will lose your progress.

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# SAFETY ON THE ROAD

Florida summer means heavier traffic, distracted drivers, and unpredictable weather -- a risky combination for everyone on the road. Florida's public safety agents will be promoting safety on our roads with various events and observances throughout the summer months.

## JULY 2026

### VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION MONTH: JULY

DID YOU KNOW? **In the U.S., a vehicle is stolen every 32 seconds.**

Sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), this campaign focuses on educating drivers about proactive security measures to keep themselves and their vehicles safe from would-be thieves. Keep yourself safe by following these steps:

- Always close windows and lock doors, no matter where you are or how long you will be leaving your vehicle -- even if you are just sitting in it.
- Hide or remove electronics, bags, or other valuables.
- Never leave your car running or your keys inside the vehicle.
- Park in well-lit areas or attended lots whenever possible.
- Use anti-theft devices such as alarms, steering wheel locks, and GPS tracking systems.

### OPERATION SAFE DRIVER WEEK (NATIONAL): JULY 12-18

Law enforcement personnel will have an increased presence on our roads, on the lookout for reckless, careless, and dangerous drivers. Research has shown that interactions with law enforcement does alter drivers' actions.

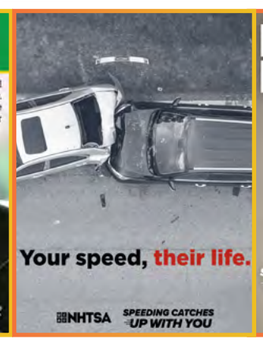
### OPERATION SOUTHERN SLOW DOWN (REGIONAL): JULY 13-18

Law enforcement agencies will partner with the FDOT and the NHTSA to reduce the number of speed-related crashes during the peak summer travel season by spreading this year's message: *Speeding Catches Up With You*.

Speeding is a form of aggressive driving behavior -- one that has reportedly increased in recent years. Speeders cause more than one-quarter of all traffic-related fatalities nationally (2024 had 39,254 deaths from traffic crashes, 11,288 of which were speed-related).

Speeding is dangerous on all roads, not just highways. Each posted speed limit has been designed with the conditions of that road in mind. Even a few miles over can make a difference.

Speeding makes it more difficult and takes longer to stop. At 30 mph, a typical car needs around 150 feet to come to a stop from 30 mph; at 40 mph, that distance becomes 225 feet. The difference is even greater in heavy vehicles and in wet, slippery conditions.



## AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

### NATIONAL TRAFFIC AWARENESS MONTH: AUGUST

This initiative focuses on reminding everyone on the road of traffic safety rules in order to prevent accidents. These include:

- **Move Over Laws:** Motorists are required to slow down or change lanes for stopped emergency vehicles, law enforcement, tow trucks, and road maintenance crews.
- **Distracted Driving:** Florida law prohibits the use of cell phones while driving. Drivers should also avoid other distractions and keep their eyes on the road.
- **Work Zone Safety:** Maintain lower speeds and high awareness in construction zones to protect workers on the road.
- **School Zone Readiness:** School resumes in late summer, and drivers need to watch for children, school buses, and crossing guards. Under Florida law, all vehicles in all lanes must stop when approaching a school bus displaying a stopped signal, flashing red lights, and an extended stop arm, except for vehicles traveling on the opposite side of a road separated by a raised median, physical barrier, or at least 5 feet of unpaved space.
- **Seatbelt Compliance:** Drivers are legally responsible for securing themselves and all passengers under 18. Seatbelt use is mandatory by Florida law for all drivers and front seat passengers.

DID YOU KNOW? **On average, 41% of those killed in crashes on Florida's roads had the option but chose not to wear their seatbelts.**


### NATIONAL STOP ON RED WEEK: AUGUST 2-8

STOP ON RED WEEK
ZERO BEGINS WITH YOU.

This week-long event honors the lives lost to red-light running crashes and commits to building safer intersections for everyone.

Red light safety tips:

- Always obey traffic lights -- yellow means SLOW DOWN. Do not try and beat the light.
- Watch carefully for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Check both ways before going into an intersection: left, right, left, go.
- Be patient when waiting at a light. Just because yours is green does not mean the intersection is clear. Waiting a few seconds could save lives.

### BRAKE SAFETY WEEK (CVSA): AUGUST 23-29

The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) sponsors this week-long initiative to ensure commercial motor vehicles are operating with properly maintained and functioning braking systems. This event highlights the need for proactive vehicle maintenance in reducing crashes.

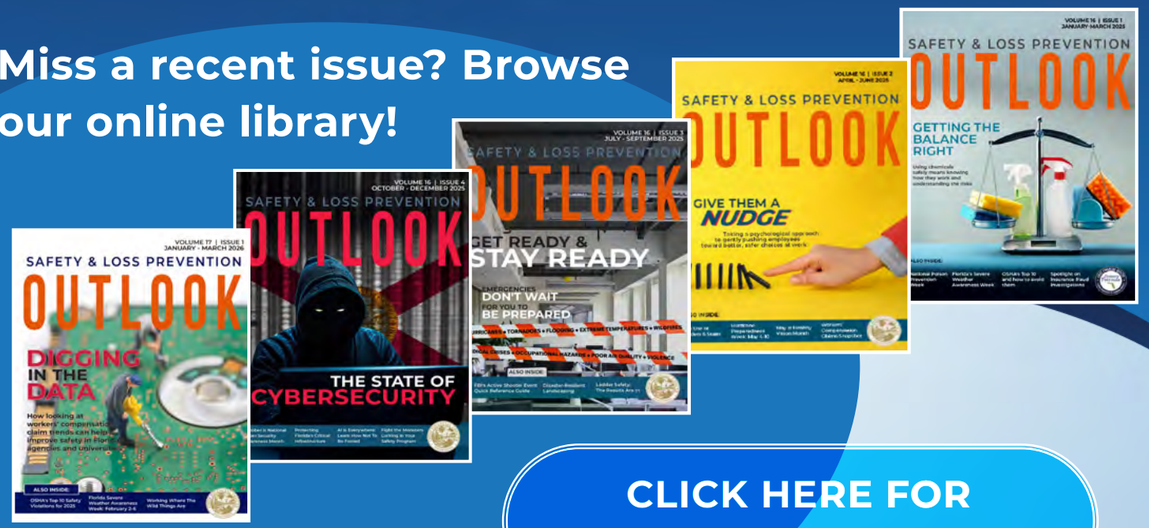
### DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER: AUGUST 19- SEPTEMBER 7

This national campaign led by the NHTSA aims to combat drunk and drugged driving during the peak summer holiday travel period when impaired driving crashes spike. Florida's law enforcement personnel will increase saturation of patrols and run checkpoints along major routes.

### FLORIDA DROWSY DRIVING PREVENTION WEEK (FHSMV): SEPTEMBER 1-7

This initiative takes place the first week of September each year to honor 8-year-old Ronshay Dugans, who was tragically killed in 2008 by a fatigued commercial driver. Florida's law enforcement personnel use this opportunity to educate the public that drowsy driving IS impaired driving -- it slows down your processing and reaction time, affects your judgment and vision, impairs your senses, and causes micro-sleeps (nodding off).

## Miss a recent issue? Browse our online library!

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