
US Department of Labor initiative seeks to protect midwest workers in tank cleaning industry

Region V OSHA, which includes Ohio, issued a press release announcing a Regional Emphasis Program (REP) for Transportation Tank Cleaning Operations (TTCO) hazards in the Workplace. The goal of this REP is to encourage employers to take steps to identify, reduce, and eliminate hazards associated with exposure to tank cleaning. The enforcement directive was issued on August 2, 2021. Prior to the initiation of enforcement, a three-month period of education and compliance assistance to the public will be conducted to support the efforts of the Agency in meeting the goals of the REP. During this period, OSHA will continue to respond to complaints, referrals, hospitalizations, and fatalities. Enforcement related to this REP will begin on November 2, 2021.

Workers employed in the transportation tank cleaning industry face many hazards that can lead to serious injury, illness, and death, including fire, explosions, hazardous atmosphere, and hazardous chemicals, rendering workers incapacitated and unable to self-rescue from the interior of a tank.

The intent of this Regional Emphasis Program is to encourage employers to take steps to address hazards, ensure facilities are evaluated to determine if the employer is following all relevant OSHA requirements, and to help employers' correct hazards, thereby reducing potential injuries, illnesses, and death for their workers.

If you have questions or would like to review in more detail, please contact Jim Wirth at 614.546.7331 or jim.wirth@sedgwick.com