

Minnesota Department of Public Safety State Fire Marshal Division

Top OSHA Violations for Fire Departments

The following are the 16 most commonly cited OSHA violations written to Minnesota fire departments.

1. Conditions of employment and an environment free from hazards that could cause death or injury. — **Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 182.653 Subd. 2**
2. Written employee right-to-know program with specific hazards to the fire station. — **CFR 5206.0700 (1)(b)**
3. Hazard communication written program and training. — **CFR 1910.1200**
4. Written plan for blood borne pathogen exposure and exposure control plan. — **CFR 1910.1030 (c)(1)(i)**
5. Annual inspection of firefighting equipment (with some needing monthly inspection). — **CFR 1910.156 (d)**
6. Respiratory protection program. — **CFR 1910.134 (a)(2)**
7. Fall protection. — **CFR 1910.28 (FKA .23)**
8. Rails on open floors and platforms over 4 feet. — **CFR 1910.23 (c)(1)**
9. Eye flush stations. — **CFR 1910.151 (c)**
10. Procedure for response to hazardous substance release and training. — **CFR 1910.120 (q)**
11. Overhead door crush protection. — **CFR 5205.0675 (2)**
12. Grounding of equipment. — **CFR 1910.304 (g)**
13. Switchboards with exposed live parts. — **CFR 1910.305 (d)(1)**
14. Compressed air for cleaning. — **CFR 1910.242 (b)**
15. Exit signs. — **CFR 1910.037 (b)(2)**
16. Attachment plus for flexible cords energized from an outlet. — **CFR 1910.305 (g)(1)(iii)**

More information

Minnesota OSHA has a consultation service to help you assure a safety work environment and avoid OSHA violations. For more information, contact MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation via e-mail at OSHA.Consultation@state.mn.us or phone at 800-657-3776.



Frequently Asked Questions

How often do I need to replace structural turnout gear?

- The quick answer? Replacement varies from garment to garment and person to person.
- Firefighting ensembles and ensemble elements shall be retired no more than 10 years from date they were manufactured.
- Radiant reflective outer shells shall be replaced at a maximum of five years.
- Exposure to heat, fire, chemicals, ultra violet light and other elements may require gear to be replaced more frequently.

What makes up structural turnout gear?

A structural firefighting protective ensemble is defined as:

- Multiple elements of compliant protective clothing and equipment that when worn together provide protection from some risks, but not all risks of emergency incident operations.
- A structural firefighting protective ensemble includes, but is not limited to:
 - Garments, helmets, hoods, gloves and footwear.

Can a firefighter not entering a structure fire wear gear beyond its life expectancy?

- Retired structural firefighting ensembles and ensemble elements, and proximity firefighting ensembles and ensemble elements shall be destroyed or disposed of in a manner ensuring that they will not be used in any firefighting or emergency activities, including live fire training.
- For training that does not include live fire, providing the ensembles and ensemble elements are appropriately marked as being for non-live fire training only.

The information above is from National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1851 regarding selection, care and maintenance of protective ensembles for structural firefighting.

