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with regards to their employer's failure to have an effective pandemic prevention program. Such complaints may not be universal as to the company, but rather may be focused only on an individual location. Frequent complaints have been tied into the employer's failure to enforce the proper use of face coverings, maintaining social distancing, and the availability of handwashing and or sanitizing stations on individual jobsites. Now that the January 29, 2021 OSHA guidance document has been issued, your performance may be scrutinized by your employees for many of the additional elements stated in the guidance document. You need to ensure that all portions of your program are being effectively implemented at every job location. Whether you do this by in person audits or implementation reports from your various locations, be sure you keep a written record at your corporate headquarters that demonstrates the effectiveness of your pandemic protection program and your enforcement of it. Typically, employee complaints to OSHA in these situations result in either an informal complaint letter from the local area office of OSHA or a

rapid response investigation. In both cases response time is usually limited to 5 business days. Do not forget that your response to OSHA will be passed by the complainant, and if he/she challenges any of the assertions you made in your response, you will most likely receive either a follow-up inquiry from the OSHA area office or a formal OSHA inspection.

The preceding comments may just be the "tip of the proverbial iceberg." Remember, President Biden's Executive Order is titled "Executive Order on Protecting Worker Health and Safety." While the Executive Order focuses much of its direction to protecting employees from COVID – 19, I believe we can expect to see an increase in OSHA's enforcement activities as well as the proposal of new standards and the issuance of final rules concerning those issues currently in a formal rulemaking process. We will attempt to keep you up to date on these matters as they develop as well as any new developments concerning COVID – 19 and OSHA.

BX Dayton Holds EM 385 Fall Protection Training

In January, Shearer Safety Services is joined forces with The Dayton Builders Exchange and their Partners to offer the EM 385 Fall Protection Training Course.

This 24-hour (3-day) training course is designed for those individuals who will be or are responsible for being a Fall Protection Competent Person, Site Safety and Health Officer (SSHO), or are involved with working at heights on an Army Corps of Engineers project or facility as prescribed by EM385-1-1. Topics and content included: inspecting fall protection systems prior to use; installation of fall protection systems; fall protection component compatibility; estimating free fall distances; total required fall clearance; fall protection systems dismantling and storage; the common hazards associated with each system component; and fall protection rescue plan and procedures development. The training also included physical demonstrations by the individual(s) trained on how to properly select, inspect, anchor, assemble, and use the fall protection equipment.



Need to set up a Safety Training for your Company?
Contact Emily Mandich at 937-278-5723 or emandich@assnsoffice.com.