

# Safety Matters

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April 28, 2026, is Workers Memorial Day, take some time to remember and honor the many lives lost each year due to workplace incidents, accidents, illnesses, and disease.



**Recent weather highlights the need to know what to do when tornados are possible.**  
Are you prepared?

Know the difference:

*Tornado Watch*-issued when conditions are favorable for tornado development.

*Tornado Warning*-issued when a developing tornado has been reported or detected by National Weather Service doppler radar. If you are in the warning area, seek shelter immediately.

Follow these safety rules in the event of a tornado:

- Get low! Go to the basement or lowest floor. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Stay clear of windows!
- Don't wait until you see a tornado, it may be obscured by rainfall or darkness.
- Seconds matter, don't waste time opening or closing windows and doors.
- Whether at home or in public buildings, get to the lowest level, go to a small interior room such as a closet or bathroom, or an interior hallway.
- Think about flying debris. Cover your head, put on shoes and thick clothing, use mattresses, pillows, and blankets to protect yourself from flying objects and glass.
- If you are in a mobile home, have a plan and activate it early, give yourself time to get to a stronger building or shelter.
- If you are caught outside or in a vehicle, find a low spot, ditch, or culvert. Lie flat and do your best to cover your head, if you have a helmet or hard-hat, keep it on.

Go to the National Weather Service website for more information at: [Weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov).



# Safety Focused



**Did you know?** OSHA regulation 29 CFR 1910.242(b) requires that compressed air used for cleaning purposes must be reduced to less than 30 psi to prevent serious injury. It also requires effective chip guarding and personal protective equipment to protect against flying debris and potential air embolisms. Whether directly under OSHA jurisdiction or not, these regulations are the “Gold Standard” for worker safety.

## April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

In 2023, there were 3,275 people killed and nearly 325,000 people injured in traffic crashes involving distracted drivers. Consider these tips for safe driving:

- If you have to text, pull over to a safe location and park your car — only then should you read or send the text message.
- Distracted driving isn't just texting, scrolling through social media or messaging while driving is distracted driving too.
- Appoint your passenger as the “designated texter” to respond to calls or messages.
- Activate your phone's “Do Not Disturb” feature, silence notifications, or put your phone away in the trunk so you won't be tempted to respond.
- Speak up if you see someone texting and driving and ask them to put their phone away.

Go to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration to get the facts: [NHTSA.Gov](https://www.nhtsa.gov).



## EV Charging essentials for the older home:

Switching to an electric vehicle (EV) offers eco-friendly perks and fuel savings, but if your home predates the 2000s, charging setup demands careful planning to avoid safety hazards.

Homes built before the 1980s typically have 60-100 amp panels, insufficient for a 40-50 amp EV charger. Consult a certified electrician early and avoid the temptation to do-it-yourself.

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## Upcoming Webinar

The ICO conducts monthly webinars on various safety topics open to all employees.

Please join our monthly webinar on “General Safety Guidelines (Housekeeping)” April 23, at 9:00 am, search the title in the DLC or

click this link: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)