

Safety Matters

State of Delaware

Insurance Coverage Office

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Welcome to National Protect Your Hearing Month!

The Center for Disease Control and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health want to raise awareness about noise-induced hearing loss in October. Here's what you can do to protect hearing at work:

- Conduct noise hazard assessments
- Identify areas exceeding 85 decibels
- Post "Hearing Protection Required" signs in identified areas
- Review mandatory hearing protection equipment and proper usage
- Complete your hearing conservation program annual requirements
- Educate and motivate employees
- Replace worn equipment and PPE

Learn more at [CDC.GOV](https://www.cdc.gov)

Fire Prevention Week™

October 4–10, 2026

**"Charge Into Fire Safety™:
Safe Charging Is a Superpower"**

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is spotlighting lithium-ion battery safety this year. Everyday charging habits can significantly reduce the risk of battery-related fires at home and in the workplace. NFPA Guidance:

- Follow manufacturer's instructions
- Keep batteries at room temperature
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire
- Purchase and use devices listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device

Access all NFPA resources online [NFPA](https://www.nfpa.org)

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Keep Kids Visible

Give glow sticks, reflective tape & flashlights. Choose bright costumes.



Supervise Walking Routes

Plan safe, well-lit paths. Guide kids across streets.



Check Costumes for Safety

Ensure safe, well-fitting costumes.



Inspect Treats Before Eating

Check all candy carefully. Discard any unsafe treats.



Stay Together

Always go with young kids. Set rules for older children.



KEEP KIDS SAFE & HAVE A HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



Safety Focused

This Month's Safety Myth

"If it's only a small fire; I can handle it myself."

FACT: Even small fires can grow out of control rapidly. Fire extinguishers are only effective when the fire is containable, the air is breathable, and you have a clear escape route away from the fire. A small 2 to 5 pound extinguisher will be empty in less than 15 seconds, a standard 10 pound extinguisher will be empty in 21 seconds, you have only seconds to act—either extinguish the fire safely or evacuate and call for help.

National Crime Prevention Month

The National Crime Prevention Council—creators of McGruff the Crime Dog—reminds us that October is the perfect time to review workplace crime prevention strategies.

- Access control
- Visitor management
- Lighting and visibility in parking lots, entranceways, and stairwells
- Digital and cyber security
- Workplace violence
- Emergency response plans
- Communications
- Lone and solo worker plans
- Employee assistance programs
- Hazard identification and review

Why Your Everyday Glasses Aren't Safety Glasses

Prescription eyeglasses sold in the United States are impact tested. Federal rules have required it since 1972. The test is specific: a 5/8-inch steel ball weighing about half an ounce, dropped onto the lens from a height of 50 inches. The lens must not crack, chip, or break.

That is a genuine test, and it is the reason modern lenses rarely shatter when a pair of glasses hits a tile floor. It is not a workplace test.

Safety eyewear clears a different bar. For a basic impact rating under the ANSI/ISEA Z87.1 standard, the lens takes a one-inch steel ball -- more than four times the weight -- from that same 50 inches. For a high-impact rating, a quarter-inch steel ball is fired at the lens and frame together at about 102 miles an hour, at 20 separate points on the assembly.

OSHA does not allow ordinary glasses to stand in. Under the agency's eye and face protection rule, an employee who wears prescription lenses around eye hazards has to be given protection that either builds the prescription into the design or fits over the everyday glasses without pushing either pair out of position.

Prescription safety eyewear carries its own marking: Z87-2 on the frame, or Z87-2+ when it is rated for high impact. If the glasses at your workstation do not have them, they are eyeglasses, not protection.

Upcoming Webinar

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

Please join our monthly webinar on "Hazard Recognition and Corrective Actions" October 15 at 9:00 a.m. Search the title in the DLC, or register using the link below.

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)



**Preventing Crime in the Workplace
Is Everyone's Business**



Stay Alert



Report Concerns



Secure Your
Workspace



A Safe Delaware Workplace Starts With You.