

Government Affairs Update September 2026
From Kory Bakenhaster

OSHA Update

OSHA's Big Picture

At the Big Sky Labor and Employment Conference, OSHA Assistant Secretary David Keeling shared the agency's goals for working more closely with employers, listening to stakeholders, and emphasizing prevention for businesses.

Read more here: [September 8, 2026 | Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#)

EPA Update

Ohio EPA's Recycle Ohio Grant Application Open

Start: Monday, September 14, 2026 End: Saturday, November 7, 2026

The Recycle Ohio grant program provides funding for local governments, nonprofits, schools, universities, and businesses looking to enhance recycling and landfill diversion efforts. The program is moving up the application period for Ohio EPA's Recycle Ohio grant program. Applications for 2027 will be accepted from Sept. 14 to Nov. 6, 2026.

The project will start April 1, 2027. Please reach out to recycle@epa.ohio.gov if you have any questions about the Recycle Ohio grant program.

Read More Here: [Recycle Ohio grant website](#)

Ohio BWC Update

Governor DeWine applauds approval of \$1 billion dividend for Ohio employers

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine applauded the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Board of Directors today for approving his request to issue a \$1 billion dividend to Ohio employers. This dividend brings the total amount sent to private and public employers to \$10.2 billion during the DeWine administration.

Read More Here: [Governor DeWine applauds approval of \\$1 billion dividend for Ohio employers | Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation](#)

NFPA Update

"Fatal Firefighter Injuries in the U.S." report shows 83 on-duty deaths in 2025, a 17 percent increase over 2024

The National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) released its "Fatal Firefighter Injuries in the U.S. in 2025" report today, which showed that a total of 83 U.S. firefighters died while on-duty, or as a result of heart attacks, strokes, or medical conditions within 24 hours of duty, in 2025. This number reflects a 17 percent increase over the 69 fatalities reported in 2024, with the majority of the on-duty fatalities (65, or 78 percent of the total) resulting from traumatic injuries, heart attacks, or medical conditions.

Read More Here: [NFPA Releases Fatal Firefighter Injuries in the U.S. in 2025 Report](#)

NIOSH Update

Twenty-Five Years After 9/11 — Lessons from the World Trade Center Health Program

The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) today published "Twenty-Five Years After 9/11 — Lessons from the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program," a

paper by Program staff that demonstrates robust outcomes in preventive care and chronic disease management in the quarter century since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Read More Here: [Twenty-Five Years After 9/11 — Lessons from the World Trade Center Health Program | CDC Newsroom](#)