

... Trump record on worker safety

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1-bromopropane, and an update to permissible exposure limits to hazardous substances.

Meanwhile, new rules developed during the Obama Administration have had their enforcement officially delayed, including rules on exposure to silica and beryllium.

Putting business in charge of regulating business

Worker safety doesn't appear to be a priority for the Trump Administration. The administration had been in office six months before it sent anyone at all to lead OSHA. It wasn't until September 2017 that Trump announced a nominee to head the Mine Safety and Health Administration — former coal mine executive David Zatezalo. And it wasn't until the end of October 2017 that he announced a nominee to head OSHA — Scott Mugno, an executive at FedEx who chaired the safety policy committee at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Mugno has yet to be confirmed by the Senate.

Burying the dead — deep in OSHA's web site

Until the Senate confirms Mugno, White House appointee Loren Sweatt — a former adviser to Republican members of the House Workforce Committee — is in charge of OSHA. Thus far, Sweatt has acted in small, revealing, symbolic ways. Two weeks after she took charge of OSHA in July 2017, the agency removed a constantly-updated list of the names and details of workers killed on the job from the home page of its web site, and replaced it with a new feature: "OSHA Working With Employers." The agency also took down a video on how to file a complaint.

Trump's worker safety wish list: cuts to research, training, and accident investigation

In its budget request to Congress, the Trump Administration also called for dramatic budget cuts or the outright elimination of several safety programs:

- **NIOSH** The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is part of

the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). With 1,300 employees and an annual budget of \$335 million, NIOSH is the nation's top source of research on work-related injury and illness. It operates or funds research centers and training programs around the country, including Seattle, Portland, and Spokane. In 2017 and again in 2018, the Trump Administration proposed to cut the NIOSH budget by 40 percent, to \$200 million.

- **U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board** — an independent federal agency with a budget of \$11 million and a staff of 42 — investigates industrial chemical accidents. In 2017 and again in 2018, the Trump Administration proposed to eliminate it, saying it duplicates work by other agencies.
- **OSHA's Susan Harwood Grant program** gives grants to unions, business groups, and other nonprofits to pay for worker safety trainings. It's been around almost 40 years, and its budget is \$10.5 million a year. In Portland, it pays the Voz Workers' Rights Education Project to provide a monthly worker safety training. In Seattle, it recently paid for fall prevention training for 550 Spanish-speaking construction workers. A national grant to the Laborers union has funded training for over 7,300 mostly young, minority, entry-level workers who work as

flaggers in dangerous highway work zones. In 2017 and again in 2018, the Trump Administration proposed to eliminate the Susan Harwood grant program. Why? The administration's official note to Congress says OSHA has no evidence the program is effective, and that it's not clear the trainings wouldn't happen without federal subsidy; the administration proposes to replace it with unspecified training provided by OSHA employees.

"We have to do more with less," Trump's Secretary of Labor Alex Acosta told a Congressional committee last June about the proposed cuts to safety programs. [This is the same administration that asked the Pentagon to do less with more — boosting military spending \$80 billion while drawing down troops in Iraq — and that signed a set of tax cuts that will cost the federal treasury \$2.3 trillion over the next 10 years.]

The Republican-led Congress rejected the Trump Administration's proposed cuts to worker safety budgets, and instead passed omnibus budget bills in 2017 and 2018 that froze federal workplace safety budgets at their previous levels.



America's most dangerous jobs

(most fatal injuries per 100,000 workers)

- #1 Loggers 135.9
- #2 Fishing workers 86.0
- #3 Aircraft pilots 55.5
- #4 Roofers 48.6
- #5 Garbage/recycling collectors 34.1
- #6 Structural iron and steel workers 25.1
- #7 Truck drivers 24.7
- #8 Farmers/ranchers 23.1
- #9 Construction foremen 18.0
- #10 Landscapers 17.4

Figures are deaths per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries for 2016, the most recent year for which statistics are available.

Which Labor Unions have endorsed Val Hoyle for Labor Commissioner?



...ALL of them

*Partial list of endorsements



Val Hoyle for Labor Commissioner