

# Top 10 OSHA fines of 2016

As OSHA increased its maximum fines in August 2016, the number of penalties above \$200,000 increased.

Here are the top 10 OSHA fines we've written about in Safety News Alert in 2016:

1. [Auto parts maker fined \\$3.43M, named severe violator:](#) OSHA investigated after two injuries occurred at this company. The agency found 57 violations.
2. [OSHA fined company \\$2.5M after robot crushes 20-year-old to death:](#) In a case of production over safety, a young woman was killed two weeks before her wedding day.
3. [Ashley Furniture agrees to pay \\$1.75M in OSHA fines; finger amputations triggered case:](#) The furniture manufacturer also agreed to open itself up to more OSHA scrutiny under the settlement.
4. [Workers exposed to dangerous lead levels: \\$1.4M OSHA fine:](#) OSHA found 14 workers at this company had lead levels up to 20 times the maximum exposure limit.
5. ['Worksite of horrors' exposed workers to asbestos, lead: \\$700K fine:](#) Renovations at a former New York psychiatric center exposed workers to lead and asbestos hazards, leading to a huge OSHA settlement for a real estate development company.
6. [Repeat violations add up: Company faces \\$654K in OSHA fines:](#) This company learned the hard way that repeat violations add up quickly.
7. [Worker suffocated by his own lifelines: OSHA issues \\$411K in fines:](#) The worker's lifeline tangled in an unguarded and rotating auger.
8. [Worker complaint leads to \\$342K in OSHA fines for bloodborne pathogen hazards:](#) OSHA inspected the facility following an employee complaint alleging exposure to bodily fluids while handling packages labeled as containing biological materials.

9. [Contractor ignores OSHA, continues work despite hazards: \\$275K](#): After being told by an investigator to protect workers against trench cave-in hazards, this contractor returned to work the next day and exposed the same crew to the same risk.
10. [U.S. Steel fined \\$170K for exposing 7 workers to asbestos](#): Breathing airborne asbestos fibers [can cause lung damage](#) that often progresses to serious health conditions, including lung cancer, that can lead to death.

Reminder: The maximum OSHA fined for a willful or repeat violation is now \$124,709; the maximum for a serious violation is \$12,471.

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