



# Safety+Health

Newsletter



NATIONAL  
**IMMUNIZATION**  
AWARENESS MONTH

**LiTH**  **UM**  
**BATTERY**  
**SAFETY**

Training-Recurrent Training

House Proposes Budget Cuts for OSHA

**GOT BED BUGS?**

August 2024

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PPE Roadshow





# ZERO IN ON RED

**N**ational Stop on Red Week is an important campaign that aims to raise awareness and mobilize efforts to eliminate all fatalities and severe injuries due to red-light running.

Between 2008 and 2021, an estimated 11,296 people were killed in crashes related to red-light running according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

## **2022 trends in Red-Light Running**

- Nearly 1.3 *million* red-light running violations occurred during the hours of 1-5 pm.
- *Independence Day Weekend* was the highest-ranked holiday travel period for red-light running.
- Nearly 4.4 *million* drivers ran red lights in 2022.

For the people who experience crashes and for the loved ones of those who are killed and injured from red-light running, the safety issue behind these numbers is very real.

The ultimate goal is to honor the lives lost and illustrate the danger of red-light running. Remember every fatality represents a life cut too short, family and friends left too soon, and the harsh reality that red-light running can affect anyone on the roadways if more action isn't taken to prevent reckless driving.

Safety is the responsibility of everyone — not just during Stop on Red Week, but every day and every time someone takes to the road. Together, we can protect our communities, families, and children by always stopping on red. □



# NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

**A**ugust is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). NIAM raises the awareness about why vaccines are important for people of all ages and how they can help prevent serious, sometimes deadly, diseases and illnesses. NIAM is now more important than ever with the emergence of diseases such as COVID-19.

Immunizations play an important role in keeping your family and your community healthy. Vaccinations are important because they not only protect the person who is receiving the vaccine, but they also help to keep diseases from spreading to others such as your family, neighbors, classmates, coworkers, and other members of the community.

Immunization helps protect those who are the most vulnerable to illness, such as infants, elders, and those with weakened immune systems.

Vaccines are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing disease and death.

In the United States, vaccines have greatly reduced infectious diseases that once routinely caused severe illness and death. According to the CDC, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic approximately 50,000 adults died every year from vaccine-preventable illnesses. During NIAM, we encourage you to talk to your doctor, nurse, or healthcare professional to ensure that you and your family are protected against serious diseases by getting caught up on routine vaccinations.

## **Why are vaccines important?**

They help provide protection from infectious diseases and can lessen the severity of illness. If you are immune to a disease, you can be exposed to it without becoming sick.



Simply put, because of advances in medical science, vaccines can help protect us against more diseases than ever before. Some diseases that once injured or killed thousands of people have been eliminated primarily due to vaccines.

Although no vaccine is 100% effective, it is the first step in protecting yourself, your family, and others from serious illness.

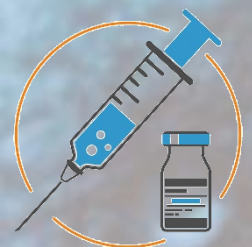
When it comes to immunizations, it's important to remember three things:

1. FDA authorizes or approves vaccines based on rigorous evaluation and analysis of data.
2. COVID-19 and FLU vaccines save lives.
3. Be smart when considering your source of information.

Getting the right information about immunization in the digital age, however, can be challenging.

There is a growing dissemination of misinformation and disinformation, which has eroded trust in societal institutions, science, medicine, and the FDA. This is putting patients and consumers at risk, especially when people are being distracted and misled.

For accurate information about immunizations, look for information from our U.S. government partners, such as the CDC and your local health authority. It's okay to have questions about vaccines, so if you do, talk to a healthcare professional. □



Frances Perkins  
Building



United States  
Department  
of Labor

## House Proposes Budget Cuts for OSHA

**T**he House is seeking budget cuts for OSHA and other workplace safety agencies, according to separate bills published on the website of the chamber's Appropriations Committee.

The Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill allocates around \$557.8 million to OSHA. That's a nearly 12% reduction from the agency's \$632.3 million budget for FY 2024.

### ***How does this affect you?***

The OSH Act requires employers to provide workers with a safe workplace, and it created an agency—the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)—to enforce the law and issue rules about specific workplace hazards.

***OSHA has faced severe opposition from businesses since before its creation, which is the main reason it is seriously underfunded.***

You would think that companies would welcome the opportunity to improve workplace safety: to operate, a business needs workers who are (a) healthy and (b) alive. But you would be wrong.

Business opposition to OSHA has always seemed odd, though; what CEO wants to go to bed at night or face their children in the morning knowing they've caused workers to be maimed or killed?



Nonetheless, constant push back from businesses has also led to exceedingly long spans of time (seven years on average) for OSHA to enact rules (known as “standards”) on specific workplace dangers.

Now, OSHA started a rule-making on heat in 2021, but it will likely be years before this rule is finalized and takes effect.

The requirements for protecting workers from the heat are almost embarrassingly basic: rest, shade, water, and gradual acclimatization to high temps. (Any parent could tell you that.)

The good news is that some states aren’t waiting for OSHA and have passed workplace heat rules of their own.

The first step to making workplaces safer is to understand that we still have a problem, and that new dangers abound.

We need to take our collective heads out of the sand and realize that the problems of workplace death, injury, and illness weren’t solved in the early 1900s, or during the New Deal, or when the OSH Act was passed over 50 years ago.

We need stronger state and federal laws that give enforcers more effective tools and that respond to new workplace hazards. We also need to adequately fund OSHA so the agency can do its job. State and local leaders can act, too, passing laws and funding enforcement within their own jurisdictions. And our outdated labor laws should be updated so workers can more easily form unions; they serve as on-site safety monitors and help keep workers safe.

America’s working people deserve so much more. Everyone should be able to go to work at the start of the day and return home at the end, safe and healthy and whole. □

*A residential fire is sparked by lithium-ion batteries charging in the garage. The home suffered heavy damage, as well as the car.*

*While battery-powered equipment such as vehicles, lawn mowers, bikes, and power tools are good for the environment and reducing emissions, everyone must understand the dangers associated with lithium-ion batteries.*

*These devices and equipment, when charged in your home, can pose dangers and should be monitored closely. Fires resulting from lithium-ion batteries intensify significantly and quickly, leaving little time for anyone to react.*





# LITHIUM BATTERY SAFETY



*Lithium-ion battery fires are a growing public safety concern.*



Lithium batteries power countless items that support everyday life, from portable computers, cordless tools, mobile telephones, watches, to wheelchairs, aircraft, and motor vehicles. Our society has come to depend on lithium cells and batteries for an increasingly mobile lifestyle.

Today's lithium batteries are more energy dense than ever, bringing a steadily growing number of higher-powered devices to market. With the increased energy density comes greater risk and the need to manage it.

Despite the many advantages of lithium-ion batteries, a significant safety drawback is the possibility that these batteries can overheat, catch fire, and cause explosions.

Fires involving various lithium-ion battery products have increased at an alarming rate, resulting in numerous injuries and fatalities. Even when the initial cause of a fire was not the lithium-ion powered device, the involvement of these batteries can increase the intensity and magnitude of the fire.

Lithium batteries are generally safe and unlikely to fail, but only so long as there are no defects, and the batteries are not damaged or mistreated.

Experts warn anyone with a lithium-ion battery should follow proper charging and battery usage guidelines.

According to researchers at the University of Michigan, any device with this kind of battery should be charged and stored in a cool, dry place, and not left charging for too long or while you're asleep.

Elevated temperatures can accelerate degradation of almost every battery component and can lead to significant safety risks, including fire or explosion.



If a laptop or cellphone is noticeably hot while it's charging, unplug it.

Batteries should also be routinely inspected to make sure there is no cracking, bulging, or leaking, and everyone should always use the charger that came with the device or use one from a reputable supplier.

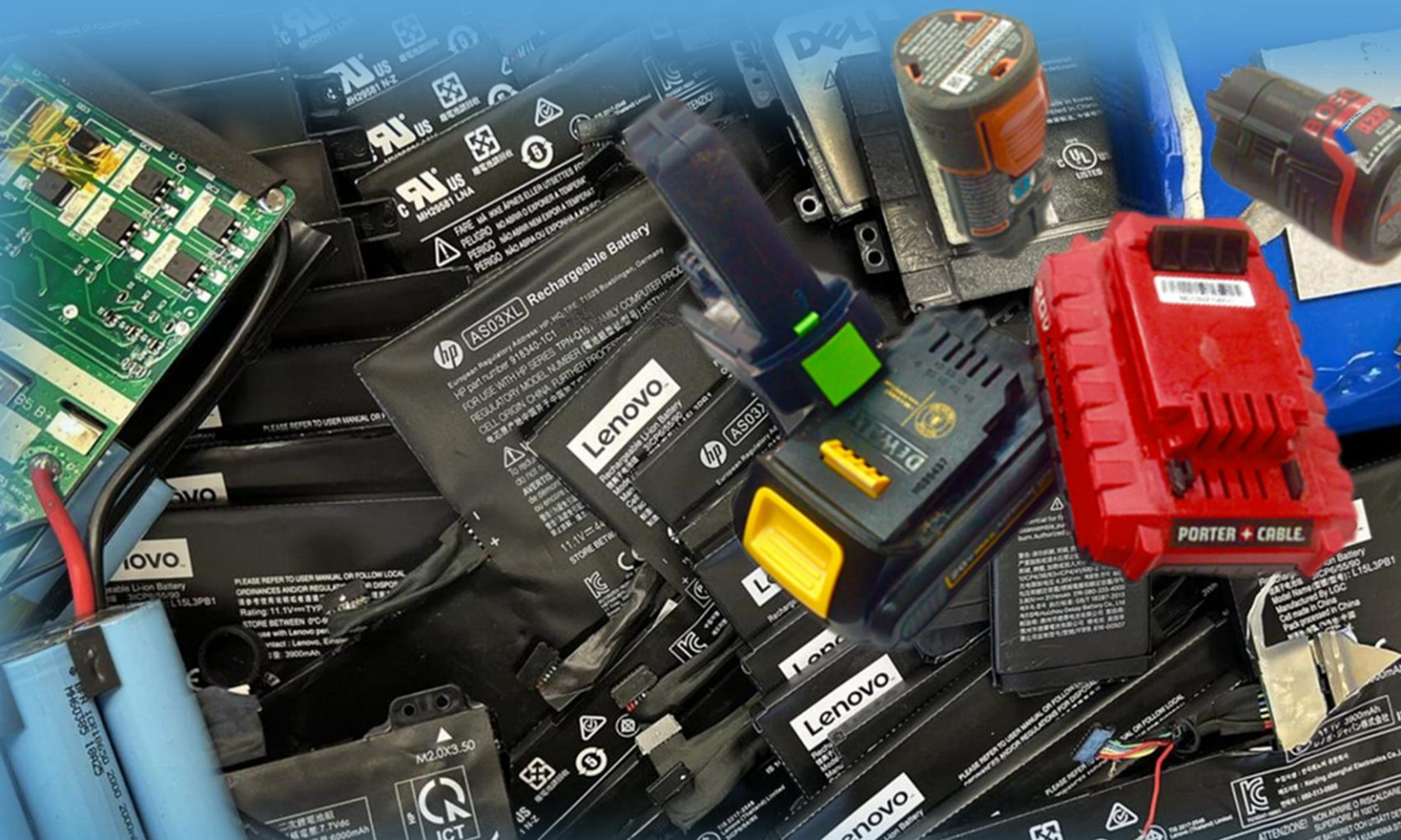
Future battery technologies are in development, such as sodium-ion or solid-state batteries, and are expected to address some of the safety issues of lithium-ion.

Remember, if a fire occurs, evacuate and call 911 immediately rather than trying to put out the fire. Fire spreads incredibly fast and a fire extinguisher is not effective. □



## Lithium Battery Safety Tips

- *Only use the charger that came with your device. If you need to buy a new one, make sure the replacement is recommended for the use of your device by the manufacturer. Just because a charger fits in your device doesn't mean that it is safe to use.*
- *Do not overcharge your device. It is recommended that once your device is fully charged, you should unplug it.*
- *Keep your device out of extremely high or low temperature locations. Do not place the battery in direct sunlight or store the battery inside cars in significant hot or cold weather.*
- *Do not expose the battery to water or allow the battery to get wet.*
- *Do not use your device if you notice any damage to the battery after dropping it. If you suspect damage to the battery, take your device to a service center for inspection.*
- *Do not carry or store the batteries together with metals, nails, or anything metallic.*
- *Do not disassemble or modify the battery in any way as this significantly increases the risk of explosion.*
- *Only transport your items with lithium-ion batteries in containers that are specially designed and follow D.O.T guidelines.*



# GOT BED BUGS?

**W**e all know bed bugs are bad, they multiply, and feed on humans. But did you know that bed bugs aren't always necessarily found in your bed? They can be found in high traffic areas such as most public places, hotels, and even aircraft.

Bed bugs can easily be introduced onto aircraft by passengers, luggage, crew, and ground personnel. Anyone can get them and managing bed bugs onboard aircraft is one of the most challenging issues.

Aircraft Maintenance Technicians and other aircraft employees are typically reluctant to work onboard an infested aircraft. Widespread fear of bed bug exposure, coupled with the perceived

risk of infesting their own homes, limits employee cooperation and is usually assigned to an outside PMP (Pest Management Professional) vendor.

The complex nature of the aircraft interior limits both visual inspection and treatment ability. In many cases it is not possible to access deep harborage on the airframe without dismantling the aircraft interior. This allows infestations to go unnoticed for considerable periods of time and make treatment efforts very challenging.



Aviation is one of the world's most highly regulated industries. Not surprisingly, the pest management options that are acceptable for use on an aircraft are quite limited and these options must fit within the aviation regulatory framework.

In addition, all pesticides used for insect control must meet the AMS1450a specifications (SAE International, 1995) and carry cabin



approval (local restrictions also may apply). Consequently, any new or innovative control technologies that might be used on aircraft must be reviewed, evaluated and go through an often-lengthy approval process before they can be applied.

Some airlines have attempted to use modified methods based around the WHO guidelines for aircraft disinsection. Disinsection treatments involve pyrethroid aerosols. These applications have been observed to agitate and disperse bed bug populations. In addition, it has been well documented that aerosols are ineffective for controlling bed bugs.

## IMPROVING PROTOCOLS

Current pest management methods on aircraft need to be improved. As bed bug populations continue to proliferate throughout the world, consumer complaints will no doubt drive efforts toward improving eradication methods.

Most recently, a four-phase approach has proven to be the most effective for treating bed bugs on a variety of aircraft. This sequential protocol involves using a vacuum to reduce the number of bed bugs immediately, then using steaming to kill additional bed bugs and their eggs. Steaming is followed by the application of a desiccant dust to provide residual activity.

The success of these control measures is determined by re-inspection of the aircraft for survivors at weekly intervals following the initial treatment.

It's important to note that steam alone cannot effectively kill these pests. Also, steam velocity exiting the steamer head needs to be limited to minimize the risk of blowing live bed bugs around inside the aircraft.

So, the next time you go running out to that aircraft to address the issue, think about the consequences and do not attempt to take care of it yourself. Attempting any unapproved method may end up making them scatter throughout the aircraft including hitching a ride on you. This can turn a concentrated problem into a bigger problem especially if you end up bringing them home with you.

It's always a good practice to request a pest management professional that is trained and certified to handle pests. □

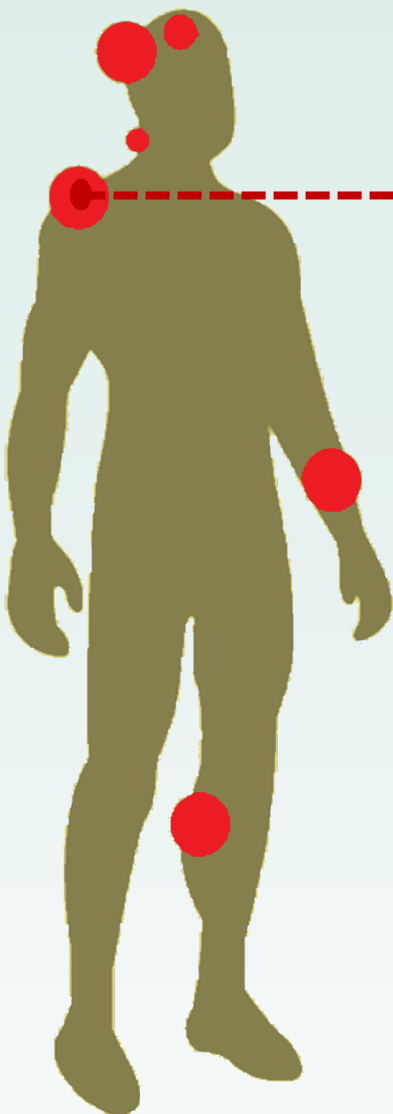
### What do bed bugs look like ?

*Reddish-brown oval or elongated body and about the size of an apple seed.*



### Where do bites usually appear ?

*Areas exposed usually are the head, neck, shoulders, arms, and legs.*



### What do bites look like?

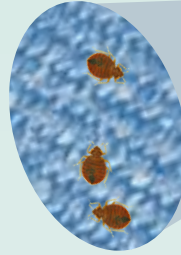
*Red bumps or welts on the skin, papules, or even blisters. The red bumps may have a dark pinpoint center and a lighter surrounding area. Bites most of the time are in clusters of three or more.*





## How do I treat bed bug bites?

Use an anti-inflammatory cream such as a topical cream, a non-medicated anti-itch cream like calamine lotion, or those containing menthol. If it gets worse, see a doctor.



## Are there bed bugs on my Aircraft seat?

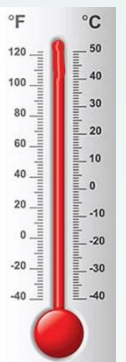
Look out for little maroon or dark colored spots usually in crevices.



## What about clothing?

Keep clothes separate from other laundry and wash it in water that's at least 140° F.

# 140°F



# Training-Recurrent Training

*Although you may have been working in the aviation industry for a number of years, perhaps for the same company and on familiar equipment, situations may arise where changes have occurred to company procedures, modifications have been made to equipment and/or systems, and/or there have been additions to the fleet with similar equipment.*

*Often, we rely on our past knowledge and experience, unblemished record, or peer pressure, and continue on “business as usual.” Instead, maybe we should say “I don’t know,” stop, and get help or get training.*

*This may be a good time to take a moment and evaluate if you meet the training requirements needed to accomplish the task at hand. In fact, any time you start a new task, ask yourself that question.*

***Don't let ego or peer pressure get in the way of safety!***



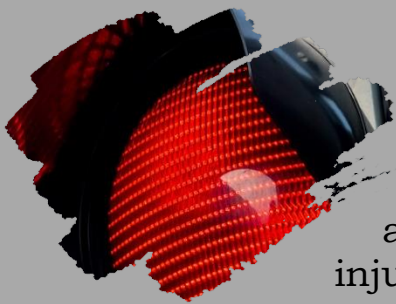


# Upcoming Events

## August 12th thru 18th



**Safe + Sound Week** is a nationwide event held each August that recognizes the successes of workplace health and safety programs and offers information and ideas on how to keep America's workers safe.



## National STOP on Red Week

National Stop on Red Week, August 4<sup>th</sup> thru the 10<sup>th</sup> is an important campaign that aims to raise awareness and mobilize efforts to eliminate all fatalities and severe injuries due to red-light running.

# STOP

– Running Red Lights and Stop signs!



## PPE ROADSHOW

- IAH – August 7<sup>th</sup>
- DEN – August 13<sup>th</sup>



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**Safety+Health  
Matters!**

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Suggestions on Safety topics in upcoming Newsletters?

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