

Section 2 General Requirements

This section sets forth the general requirements of Reclamation Safety and Health Standards. The section applies to all operations on Reclamation facilities and lands.

2.1 General Duty Requirements

2.1.1 Organization Duty. The operating organization must provide employees a safe and healthful work environment. This responsibility includes, but is not limited to, implementing and enforcing all applicable program elements and provisions of these standards. Equipment and facilities must conform fully with the standards contained and referenced in these standards.

2.1.2 Employee Duty. Employees must observe all safety and health regulations and comply with instructions issued to them by their supervisors. Employees must promptly correct unsafe working conditions or report them to their supervisor or other proper authority.

2.2 Other Codes and Statutes

In addition to the standards and requirements set forth in these standards, operators of Reclamation-owned facilities and equipment must comply with applicable provisions of Federal, State, and municipal safety, health, and sanitary statutes and codes. If there is a difference between the provisions of these standards and the safety and health regulations promulgated by the U.S. Department of Labor in Title 29 CFR, Parts 1910 and 1926, Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, or approved State plans, the more stringent provision will prevail.

2.3 Variances

No variance to the provisions of these standards must be approved that endangers the health and safety of any person, is not consistent with the intent of the provisions of these standards, or would be a variance to Federal or State regulations. If a literal application of a Reclamation provision of these standards is impractical or creates conflicts, the appropriate office head or contracting officer (CO), in consultation with safety and health professionals, may authorize a variation to the provision. All requests for a variance must be in writing and directed to the appropriate office head or contracting officer's representative (COR). The written request must include: (a) a reference to the specific provision of the standard, (b) an explanation as to why the provision is considered impractical, and (c) the proposed adaptation to the standard. The request must contain pertinent technical data, drawings, material or equipment specifications, and other information that will enable the office head or CO to make a decision. The operation in question must not proceed until the Reclamation office head or CO provides written approval.

2.4. Requirements for Accident, Injury, and Illness Investigation and Reporting

2.4.1 Reclamation. Investigate and report accidents and incidents using the Department of the Interior Safety Management Information System. Any accident involving a fatality must be reported to the appropriate Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) office within 8 hours.

2.4.2 Non-Federal Operators of Reclamation Facilities. Operators must report to the appropriate Reclamation office all third party injuries, deaths, or substantial property losses that result or could result in claims against the Government.

2.4.3 Contractor. Contractors must report and investigate injuries and incidents in accordance with the section entitled, "Contractor Requirements."

2.5. Alcohol, Drugs, and Firearms

Using intoxicating beverages and narcotics on Government property is not permitted. No one under the influence of alcohol or narcotics is permitted on the jobsite. Employees using medication(s) must ensure that their performance will not be impaired. Unauthorized firearms are not permitted on Reclamation property.

2.6. Public Safety

Reclamation facilities must be operated and maintained in a manner that poses no excessive risk to the public.

2.7 Training

2.7.1. General. All employees must receive training about hazards and hazard control methods specific to their jobs. The employer is responsible for providing these instructions, together with ensuring that employees possess the necessary qualifications, licenses, and permits required to perform such work.

2.7.2 Employee Orientation. All employees must receive an orientation on provisions of the safety and health program. The orientation must include applicable requirements of safety and health policies, reporting accidents and injuries, first aid and medical care, emergency response, applicable safety and health standards, and sources of information on safety and health questions.

2.7.3 Documentation. Document all training with, at least, the title, date, and length of training, instructor or provider, and names of employees completing the training.

2.8 Work Site Requirements

All work sites and areas must be maintained to avoid potential hazards introduced by poor housekeeping and shoddy work practices.

2.8.1 Housekeeping. Good housekeeping, including provisions for routine scrap and debris removal, must be maintained in all areas.

2.8.2 Environmental Stewardship. Handling, storing, using, and disposing of waste must not contaminate or pollute water, air, or ground. Disposal must comply with Federal, State, and local regulations.