

OSHA Publishes Proposed Rule on Emergency Response Standard

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has published a [proposed rule](#) to implement a new safety and health standard for emergency response workers. The proposed rule would replace OSHA's existing Fire Brigades standard, 29 CFR 1910.156, which was originally promulgated in 1980. The current standard covers only a subset of present-day emergency responders (firefighters).

According to OSHA, the focus of the newly proposed Emergency Response rule is to provide workplace protections for workers who respond to emergencies as part of their regularly assigned duties. Notably, the scope of protected workers under the proposed rule would be expanded to include workers who provide emergency medical service and technical search and rescue.

The proposed rule includes changes in protective clothing and equipment requirements and would require employers to obtain baseline medical screening for all emergency responders and ensure continued medical surveillance for responders when they are exposed to the byproducts of fires and explosions more than 15 times annually.

NDA is currently reviewing and analyzing the proposed rule to determine its impact on the demolition industry. NDA will be prepared to submit comments to OSHA on the proposed rule when the comment period ends on May 6, 2024.