OSHA Inspection FAQs

Are OSHA Fees going to increase?
Likely... A new provision signed into law by President Obama as part of last November’s bipartisan budget deal will allow the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to increase the maximum penalty for employers who are found to have violations with their current safety and health programs. The increase is expected to take effect on August 1, 2016. OSHA has not adjusted their penalty structure since 1990. The new act allows for “catch-up adjustment” period to align with the federal consumer price index (CPI). The catch-up increase is capped at 150% of current OSHA penalty levels.

What Can I expect from an OSHA Inspection?
There is an initiative by the Michigan OSHA to inspect marinas around the state. If you have not already been visited by an officer, please prepare your facility and staff. These inspections will likely continue for years to come because of limited OSHA staff. Here are some more comments we’ve collected from members who have been through an inspection -

OSHA inspectors WILL show up unannounced. They will provide you their credentials, and conduct an opening meeting describing their intentions for the day. One of the first things they will do is ask you for your OSHA 300 log (https://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/RKforms.html) (if you have less than 10 employees this is not required). The next thing they will ask you is, where is your MSDS located (they will ask every employee they interview as well). They will also ask detailed questions about your operations, from boat hauling to repairs. They will cite you, fine you, and require you to correct the violation. They will provide you the opportunity to negotiate the fine down. We will provide recent costs per violations below. They will ask to interview specific employees and may try to “trip” people up in different interviews searching for discrepancies. They will also conduct a post inspection meeting with you highlighting some of the issues they have found (if any).

Actual violations that have been reported: V.)=Violation C.)=Corrective action
V.) $2200 - Boat hoist travel lift not having the capacity marked on all four sides.
C.) Stencil the capacity of each lifting block (all four) on both sides.

V.) $500 - No record kept of travel hoist cable inspections.
C.) As per OSHA 1919 inspect wire ropes (cables) monthly and document it.

V.) $500 - Yard forklift not marked with the capacity.
C.) Stencil poundage on both sides of the forklift mast making it visible from both sides.

V.) $1500 - Forklift operators not certified by the company.
C.) Train all employees and provide them with a certificate. You can use this free online training course (http://www.free-training.com/osha/forklift/forkmenu.htm), but you must provide a card stating that you are authorizing them to operate forklifts.

V.) $1800 - No guard on table saw.
C.) Purchase and install guard on saw.

V.) $1200 - Electric cords have earth ground cut off.
C.) Cut off plug, and install new one.

V.) $1000 - No guards on bench grinder.
C.) Install guards on grinder.

V.) $1900 - No cover on an electrical outlet.
C.) install a new cover.

V.) No capture pan under oil storage tank
C.) Install capture pan