

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA): Unnecessary or a Life Saver?

Article By:

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While some feel the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) (OSHA) is a necessary agency with its proof of necessity being the lives it has saved since its inception in 1971, others feel that it's just a wasteful regulatory nightmare. [Compliance and Safety](#) breaks it down in infographic form:

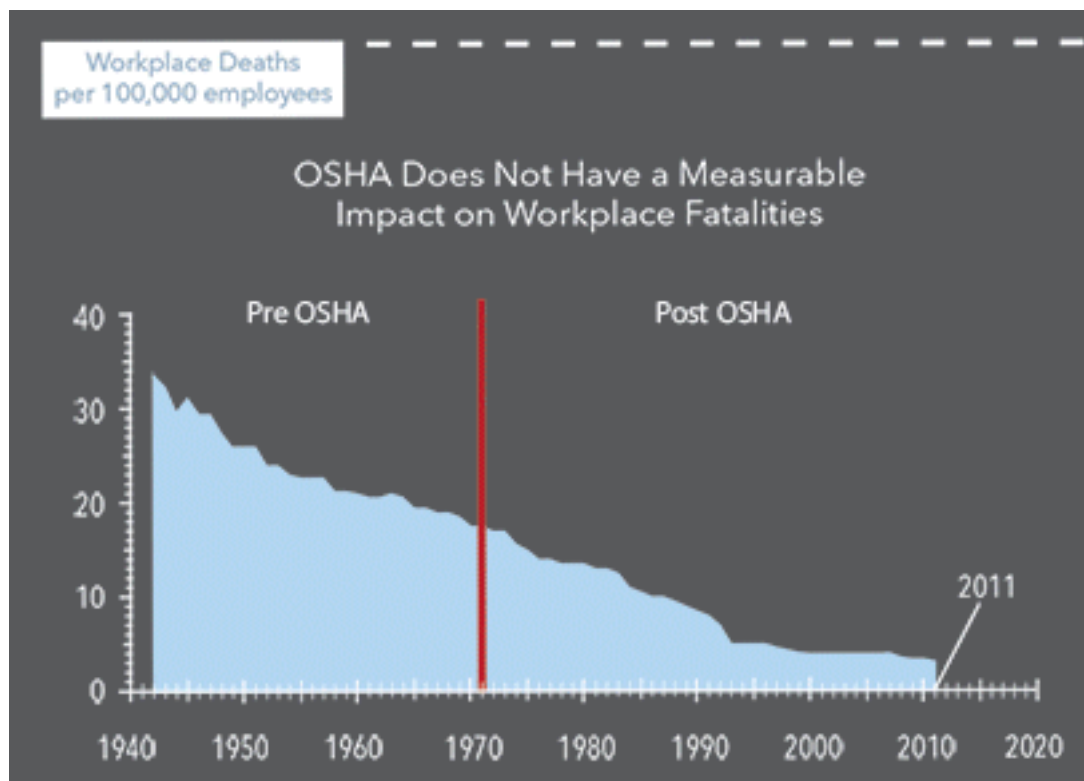
First, the good:



OSHA Regulations Save Lives

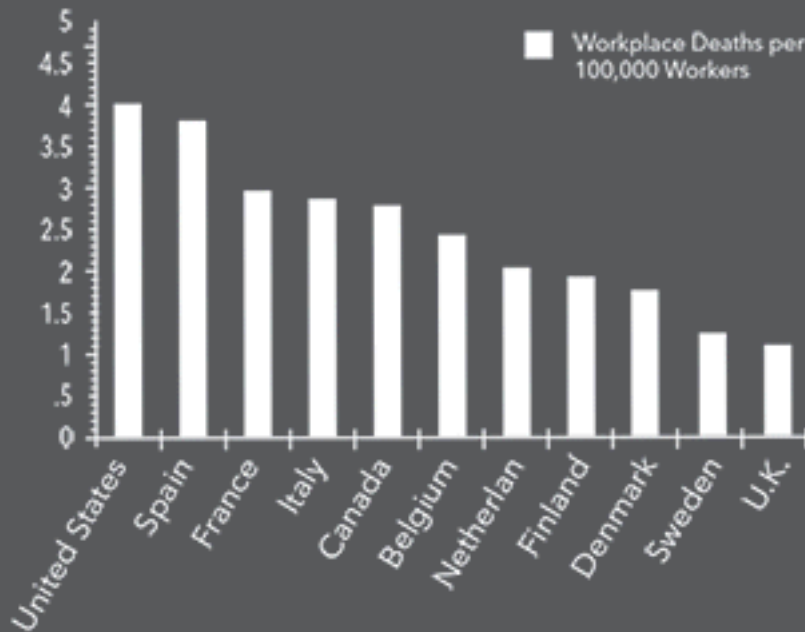
- The **1978 Cotton Dust regulation** virtually eliminated brown lung disease
- The **1987 Grain Handling regulation** reduced grain bin explosions by **42%**
- The **1989 Excavation & Trenching regulation** reduced fatalities by **35%**
- The **1991 Bloodborne pathogens & 2011 needlestick safety & prevention act** reduced Hepatitis B infections in healthcare workers by **90%**

And now, the not-so-good:



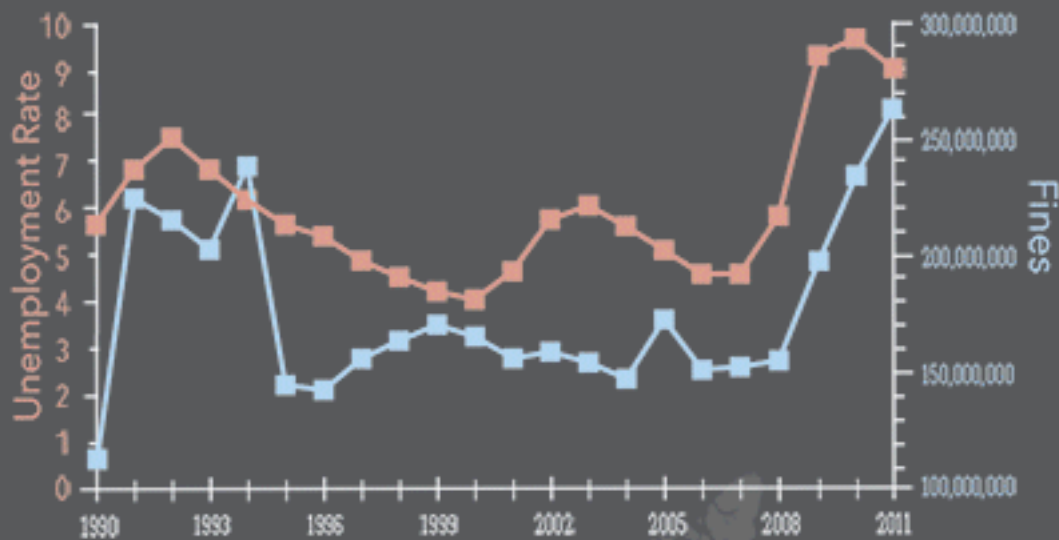
Workplace Deaths per 100,000 Workers

The workplace fatality rate in the U.S is among the highest in the industrialized world.



OSHA's Recession Tax

Under multiple administrations, OSHA has been treated as a revenue generation vehicle. As unemployment goes up, so do OSHA fines.



\$2518

Average OSHA Fine

In BC, Canada, the average fine is just \$125 since less than 1% of inspections result in a fine.

As with everything, there are two sides and, in this case, each side states a strong case. Which side are you on?

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