



# WisCon Words of Wisdom

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## April Awareness Topics

April 2: [National Walking Day](#)

April 6-12: [National Window Safety Week](#)

April 7: [World Health Day](#)

April 7-13: [National Public Health Week](#)

April 21-25: [National Work Zone Awareness Week](#)

April 28: [Worker's Memorial Day](#)

All Month Long:

[Distracted Driving Awareness Month](#)

[National Youth Sports Safety Month](#)

## Upcoming Webinars

Stay tuned! No Webinars are currently scheduled.

### We want to hear from you!

What content would you like to see in an upcoming newsletter? Let us know [here](#).

## National Work Zone Awareness Week Emphasizes Road Safety

National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW), an annual campaign spearheaded by the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) in collaboration with state and federal agencies, is dedicated to promoting safety in roadway work zones. This year's theme, "Respect the zone, so we all get home. Actions behind the wheel can last forever," underscores the critical need for driver vigilance.

The urgency of this message is highlighted by sobering statistics: In 2022, 891 people lost their lives in work zone accidents, and 94 highway worker occupational fatalities occurred at road construction sites, as reported by the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse.

NWZAW aims to reduce these numbers by urging drivers to slow down, stay focused, and exercise extreme caution when navigating work zones. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), through its Roadway Work Zone Safety and Health Partners National Alliance, actively supports the event and encourages widespread participation. Resources such as promotion guides, planning guides, and posters are available at [nwzaw.org](http://nwzaw.org).

Adding to the week's significance is the annual National Stand-Down to Prevent Struck-By Incidents, timed to coincide with NWZAW. This event, sponsored by the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) and CPWR— The Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR), with support from the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Construction Sector Council, including OSHA, addresses the leading cause of nonfatal injuries in construction and the primary cause of death among heavy and civil construction workers: struck-by incidents. These include hazards involving falling and flying objects, vehicles, heavy equipment, and crane swing.

To enhance awareness and prevention, CPWR will host [The National Stand Down to Prevent Struck-By Incidents Webinar: Work Zone Technologies Webinar](#) on Monday, April 21st at 2:30 p.m. ET. Educational materials, including infographics, toolbox talks, and webinar recordings, are accessible [online](#), providing valuable resources for workplaces to reinforce safety protocols and training.



# Understanding OSHA SHARP and VPP: A Guide to Workplace Safety Excellence

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) offers two programs that recognize and promote exceptional workplace safety and health practices: the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) and Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP).

**SHARP** is specifically designed for small businesses with 250 or fewer employees at a single location and fewer than 500 employees nationwide. To qualify, a company must maintain total recordable case (TRC) and days away, restricted or transferred (DART) incidence rates below the industry averages for their NAICS code, have at least one year of operating history at their current physical location, establish a safety and health management system that incorporates employee involvement and adherence to OSHA standards, implement corrective actions to eliminate identified safety hazards, and successfully complete a comprehensive consultation visit, which involves hazard identification and solution recommendations. As a result, members will be recognized as a SHARP company, demonstrating a commitment to employee safety, reducing workplace injuries and illnesses, leading to lower workers' compensation costs, and access to guidance and technical assistance to establish a sustainable safety culture.

**VPP** is open to businesses of all sizes, but it's typically more suitable for larger companies with well-established safety programs. To be considered for VPP, a company must have a documented safety and health management system in place, meet or exceed OSHA standards and consistently demonstrate a proactive approach to preventing workplace hazards, maintain DART and TRC rates below the industry average for their NAICS, and undergo a rigorous on-site evaluation by OSHA or an authorized consultant. As a result, members will be recognized as a VPP worksite, placing the company among a select group of safety leaders, access to more advanced safety resources and best practices from OSHA, opportunities to network with other VPP participants for shared safety and health strategies, and reduced OSHA inspections throughout the VPP participation period.

## Additional resources:

To learn more about SHARP, please visit <https://www.osha.gov/sharp>.

To learn more about VPP, please visit <https://www.osha.gov/vpp>.

We hope this article has helped you understand the differences between two of OSHA's cooperative programs, SHARP and VPP. If you have any questions, please contact us.

## Key Differences between SHARP and VPP

Feature	SHARP	VPP
Target Company Size	Small businesses (250 or fewer employees and fewer than 500 nationwide)	All sizes (including federal workplaces)
Application Process	One-on-One consultation assisted process	Employer drive application, self-supported
Recognition and Benefits	Nationally recognized, reduced inspections	Nationally recognized, reduced inspections
Consultation or OSHA Enforcement	On-site consultation evaluation to help meet program requirements	Rigorous on-site evaluation for compliance verification by OSHA Enforcement or an authorized

Wisconsin Safety and Health Consultation Program

Phone: (800) 947-0553 | Email: [wiscon@slh.wisc.edu](mailto:wiscon@slh.wisc.edu)

<http://slh.wisc.edu/wiscon>

WisCon Public Sector Consultation

Phone: (608) 262-6763 | Email: [publicsectorconsulting@slh.wisc.edu](mailto:publicsectorconsulting@slh.wisc.edu)

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