

Michaels shares goals for protecting workers at national safety conference

OSHA Assistant Secretary David Michaels shared the Obama Administration's vision for government agencies that coordinate efforts to benefit people at the National Safety Council's [2010 Congress & Expo](#). Michaels was joined in the Oct. 5 keynote address by National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health Director John Howard. Michaels told the audience of about 10,000 safety and health professionals and industrial hygienists that OSHA and NIOSH believe the key to worker safety and health is focusing on prevention and shifting the burden of worker protection to employers. Michaels also explained how OSHA is achieving the Administration's goal of a more transparent and responsive government by using the Internet and social networking technology. These tools allow OSHA to provide information about the agency's activities and invite workers, employers and the public to provide their perspective on worker safety and health concerns. He gave the example of OSHA's recent online Web forum to seek stakeholder input in identifying hazardous chemicals for which OSHA should develop exposure reduction strategies. Michaels encouraged workers, employers, safety associations and trade organizations to share their ideas with OSHA so the agency can pursue effective rulemaking and bring about a fundamental change in the safety culture of America's workplaces.

Tom Galassi, head of OSHA's Directorate of Enforcement Programs, also shared the [top 10 most frequently cited standards](#) with the Congress attendees. These are Scaffolding, Fall Protection, Hazard Communication, Respiratory Protection, Ladders, Lockout/Tagout, Electrical--Wiring Methods, Powered Industrial Trucks, Electrical--General Requirements and Machine Guarding.