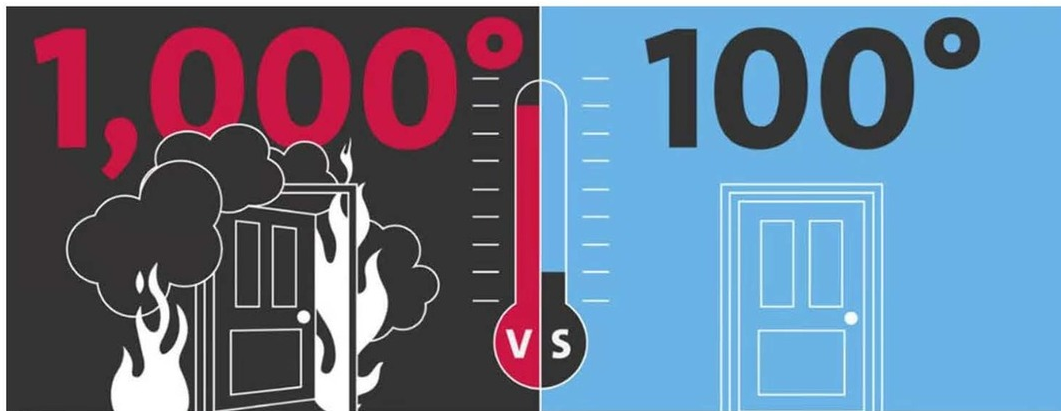




# Weekly Safety Tip

## Close Before You Doze



### MAKE A 900 DEGREE DIFFERENCE

During a fire, a closed door can mean the difference between **1,000 degrees** and **100 degrees**.



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*'Close Before You Doze' focuses on straightforward actions and simple behavioral changes that can provide critical help in delaying the spread of fire. This doesn't require major effort or going out and buying anything...  
Steve Kerber, Vice President and Executive Director, FSRI – Fire Safety Research Institute*

FSRI research analyzed the effect of doors and windows on a fire's spread.

Bedrooms on the first and second floor of a home were tested during the scenario.

Using thermal imaging cameras, researchers found that:

- **Closed-door rooms on both floors during the fire's spread had average temperatures of less than 100 degrees Fahrenheit versus 1000+ degrees in the open-door rooms.**
- **Gas concentrations were markedly different as well. The open-door bedroom measured an extremely toxic 10,000 PPM CO (parts per million of Carbon Monoxide), while the closed had approximately 100 PPM CO.**

**If there is a fire "there is no time to act,"** is something that came up again and again in FSRI's fire safety research.

The simulated occupant was just so much safer when they were behind a closed door.

"If you are a parent with children in the home and that smoke alarm goes off", advises FSRI Director Kerber, "potentially you cannot get to your children's room because you're cut off by smoke. If you close their door before you go to bed, if you've already put that safety barrier in place, then you know your children have longer to survive in that situation."

**'Close Before You Doze'** encourages those both trapped in a room during a fire as well as those who can safely leave a home to close as many doors as possible. "People think, 'Well, there's smoke in my house. I want to let the smoke out,'" says Kerber.

# **Weekly Safety Share**



## **Top 10 Violators with the Biggest OSHA Fines of 2024**



# SAFETY & HEALTH SHARE

## Top 10 Violators with the Biggest OSHA Fines of 2024

Over the fiscal year 2024 (October 2023 – September 2024), OSHA has issued thousands of fines to employers with unsafe work practices. The costs of safety violations can snowball, especially after [OSHA increased the maximum penalty amounts in January of 2024](#).

**Introductory Note from DaveV:** *Those of you who have heard our OSHA Area Director Todd Jensen speak better understand that OSHA is really not about being punitive and heavy handed with companies on OSHA citations, but is compelled to respond to the small percentage of truly bad actors out there. So, when you read this and react with "this really doesn't match up with how we do business," it is still worth remembering these.*

### Jindal Tubular USA LLC's \$536,262 Fine

This pipe and tube manufacturer triggered an investigation after a fatality occurred. One worker died, and another lost both his legs after a steel pipe rolled over both workers. OSHA concluded that Jindal Tubular failed to establish safe practices for storing and stacking pipes.

In addition to the hefty fine, the company was required to hire a third party to develop a new safety program and perform monthly audits to be shared with the agency.

### Legacy Cooperative's \$536,965 Fine

Following a complaint filed against this grain cooperative, OSHA found that the employer allowed the flammable grain dust to accumulate in housekeeping areas. The dust had notably built up in the bottom belt of the elevators, where friction could have easily ignited it and resulted in destructive fires or explosions.

OSHA also found the dust collection systems were improperly maintained. Duct tape had been placed in the bottom belt tunnel, which was ineffectively collecting dust.

### CJ TMI Manufacturing America LLC's \$551,719 Fine

OSHA was referred in the wake of an employee suffering an amputation. The agency discovered that the frozen food manufacturer continuously exposed staff to lockout / tagout hazards (the release of energy during maintenance, repair, or other non-operational tasks), which led to their injuries.

CJ TMI Manufacturing America was placed in OSHA's [Severe Violator Enforcement Program](#) in 2021 after several repeated violations.

### Qualawash Holding LLC's \$810,703 Fine

After a fatality occurred on-site, OSHA investigated the tank cleaning contractor. They found the company failed to complete atmospheric testing before the employee entered the tank, who died from inhaling hazardous gasses.

Qualawash Holding LLC had previously received citations for the same safety violations in 2020. Two employees died in 2019 from exposure to toxic fumes, prompting OSHA to give a more penalizing fee.

### Adrian Construction Group LLC's \$1,017,248 Fine

During a routine inspection of the framing contractor, OSHA handed the company multiple citations for its unsafe practices. Adrian Construction Group LLC failed to provide or ensure the usage of fall protection, eye protection, and hard hats.

On top of the million-dollar fee, the company was subsequently placed in the Severe Violator Enforcement Program.





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