

## **OSHA Announces National Emphasis Program on Workplace Falls**

This week, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced the agency has begun a [National Emphasis Program](#) to identify and reduce hazards which are causing or likely to cause serious injuries and fatalities from falls while working at heights. The emphasis program will focus on reducing fall-related injuries and fatalities for people working at heights in all industries.

The program establishes guidance for locating and inspecting fall hazards and allows OSHA compliance safety and health officers to open inspections whenever they observe someone working at heights. An outreach component of the program will focus on educating employers about effective ways to keep their workers safe. If a compliance officer determines an inspection is not necessary after entering a worksite and observing work activities, they will provide outreach on fall protection and leave the site.

## **OSHA to Issue Proposed Rule on PPE in Construction**

The White House's Office of Management and Budget recently reviewed and approved a draft [proposed rule](#) by OSHA clarifying the requirements for the fit of Personal protective equipment (PPE) in construction. As of now, the proposed rule has not been published on the Federal Register but NDA expects the rule to be released shortly. Once the proposed rule is published, NDA will be prepared to respond to OSHA on behalf of the demolition industry.

## **U.S. Government Could Hit Debt Ceiling on June 1**

On Monday, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen sent a [letter](#) to Congress announcing that the federal government could hit its debt ceiling by June 1, 2023. According to Secretary Yellen, this estimate is based on currently available data, as federal receipts and outlays are inherently variable, and the actual date that Treasury exhausts extraordinary measures could be a number of weeks later than these estimates. Congress must pass legislation in the coming weeks to increase the debt ceiling to avoid defaulting on its debt obligations.

House Republicans passed legislation last week to raise the debt ceiling through next spring while capping government spending growth at 1% for the next ten years. Democratic leadership in the Senate opposes the plan and President Biden has threatened to veto it. President Biden has called a meeting at the White House for next Tuesday with Republican and Democratic leaders to negotiate a path forward on debt ceiling legislation. NDA is closely tracking negotiations and will keep members updated on the latest developments.