



WORKPLACE SAFETY

A “FINE” fix

OSHA hikes penalties for workplace safety, prepares to publicize company data

By David O'Connor
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**78%
INCREASE**

The federal agency that enforces workplace safety has assessed more than \$18 million in penalties at Pennsylvania companies since the start of 2015.

Starting Aug. 1, the numbers could go up more quickly, as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is boosting its top penalties for the first time since 1990.

For serious violations, the maximum fine of \$7,000 per violation will increase to \$12,471, a spike of roughly 78 percent.

The penalty also is rising for failure to “abate,” or fix a situation that led to a violation. It too, is jumping from \$7,000 to \$12,471, per day.

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LANCASTER COUNTY

Phone scam puts Amish Experience on hold

By Michael Sadowski
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When you run a small business, you learn to prepare for anything, because it’s likely anything will happen that week, or even that day.

But nothing could have prepared Brad Igou for what his small business went

through July 14. The president of tourist attraction Amish Experience at Plain & Fancy Farm in Lancaster County had no training, no frame of reference and no one to talk to on a day when his business essentially was held hostage for about five hours.

Incoming phone lines were jammed for hours, with angry — sometimes threatening — callers on the other end. No one at Amish

Experience knew why callers were so mad. But as the day wore on, it became clear the business was a victim of a phone scam called “spoofing.”

And there was nothing Igou or anyone at Amish Experience could do about it.

“That was the hardest part,” Igou said. “Just waiting until it was over.”

Spoofing occurs when a scammer steals a

business’s caller identification number and location, and then uses the information to make robocalls. Because the scammer is using another company’s ID, the robocall appears to be coming not from an unknown or unrecognized phone number but from a more trusted number — or at least one a

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Bigger things in store

Brothers look to grow self-storage business in Middletown area

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