

CLOSING SESSION SUMMARY

(GA SAFETY CONFERENCE)

Over the past few years, OSHA has focused much of its resources on protecting workplaces from the spread of COVID-19, but recently the Agency returned to a concentration on the “traditional” workplace safety and health issues that many employers may have let fall off of their radar. Along with this shift in focus has come the expected swing under the Biden Administration toward more aggressive enforcement of existing requirements and setting of new standards on topics previously addressed only through the OSH Act’s General Duty Clause (*e.g.*, heat illness and workplace violence). Under OSHA Assistant Secretary Doug Parker, who formerly headed California OSHA, the Agency has recently encouraged the use of an Instance-By-Instance citation policy which, along with inflation-based penalty amounts, has greatly increased the potential penalties for every employer, and not just those relatively few bad actors. OSHA has also added new inspectors to its ranks to meet the Agency’s goals of increased inspections under both old and new special emphasis and site-specific targeting programs. **This session provides a great opportunity to hear directly from OSHA Regional Administrator Kurt Petermeyer, along with comments and analysis from former OSHA Head Ed Foulke, at our Closing Session on Friday, September 8. As an added bonus, this year we have set aside time to address specific questions and concerns from our fellow safety professional attendees.**