

Safety Update for VCAT

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Director, Office of Safety Health and Environment

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COVID Health and Safety– FY22 Focus on Keeping Current



DOC/NIST Prevention Protocols: Aligned with CDC Community Levels (March 2022)

Daily Health Screening: Required at all times

Mask Use and Social Distancing: Required during High levels, permitted at all times

Proper Hygiene: Encouraged at all times, required during High levels

COVID Screening Testing for campus access: Launched May 2022 to meet OMB requirements during Medium and High levels

Communication Modes: Town halls, all staff emails, NIST directives, guidance documents, website, FAQs, training, safety minutes

	LOW Community Level	MEDIUM Community Level	HIGH Community Level
Face coverings in buildings	Optional for all persons, unless required to do so (<i>i.e.</i> , following close contact or recovery from COVID requirements)		All persons shall wear a face covering or mask
Workplace distancing	No distancing requirements	No distancing requirements	All persons, shall maintain 6 feet of distance from others, to the extent practical/feasible, in all workspaces
Workplace occupancies	Normal occupancy limits		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupancy limits determined on the ability to maintain 6 feet of distance between occupants. Elevators, restrooms, and select workspaces will be posted if there are occupancy limits
Proper hygiene practices	All persons should implement proper hygiene practices		All persons, shall implement proper hygiene practices
Eating and drinking	No COVID-related restrictions on eating and drinking		All persons shall implement hierarchy for safe eating and drinking
Campus Access	Meet Daily Health Screening criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet Daily Health Screening criteria Federal employees who have not attested to being fully vaccinated participate in COVID screening testing Associates, contractors, and visitors carry either a form attesting to being fully vaccinated or a report of a negative COVID test obtained within 72 h of entry 	

NIST COVID Case Management and Case Data (6/6/22)



- ✓ NIST staff report COVID symptoms, positive tests and close contact to their supervisor
- ✓ Supervisors report cases and close contacts to COVID19@nist.gov
- ✓ OSHA provides guidance on space closures, contact notification, isolation and quarantine rules

Location	Current COVID Positive Cases	Total reported COVID Positive Cases	Total On-Site Cases	Total On-site Close Contacts	Workplace Transmissions
Total	131	849	224	432	13
Gaithersburg	102	671	173	336	10
Boulder	26	152	50	85	1
Remote	3	26	1	11	2

There are 3,249 federal employees (480 in Boulder, 2769 in Gaithersburg) and approximately 2500 associates

FY22 Inspections

- ✓ All offices
- ✓ Spaces covered by hazard reviews, once or twice this year, depending on when space reopened

Workplace Inspector Series

Inspector Refresher Course; Instructor: Diana Masselle

When: 6/21/22, 1-2:30 ET; MS Teams ([Click here to join the meeting](#))

SET sign up: <https://nistsafety.nist.gov/Training/Course/ViewCourse/1108>

Chemical and Compressed Gas Storage; Instructors: Mike Dinderman, Lisa Derby, Nikki Rentz, Mike Blumer

When: 7/21/22, 2:30-4 ET; MS Teams ([Click here to join the meeting](#))

SET sign up: <https://nistsafety.nist.gov/Training/Course/ViewCourse/1112>

Workplace Inspector Series, Hazardous Waste Instructor: Mike Blackmon

When: 9/21/22, 10:30-12 ET; MS Teams ([Click here to join the meeting](#))

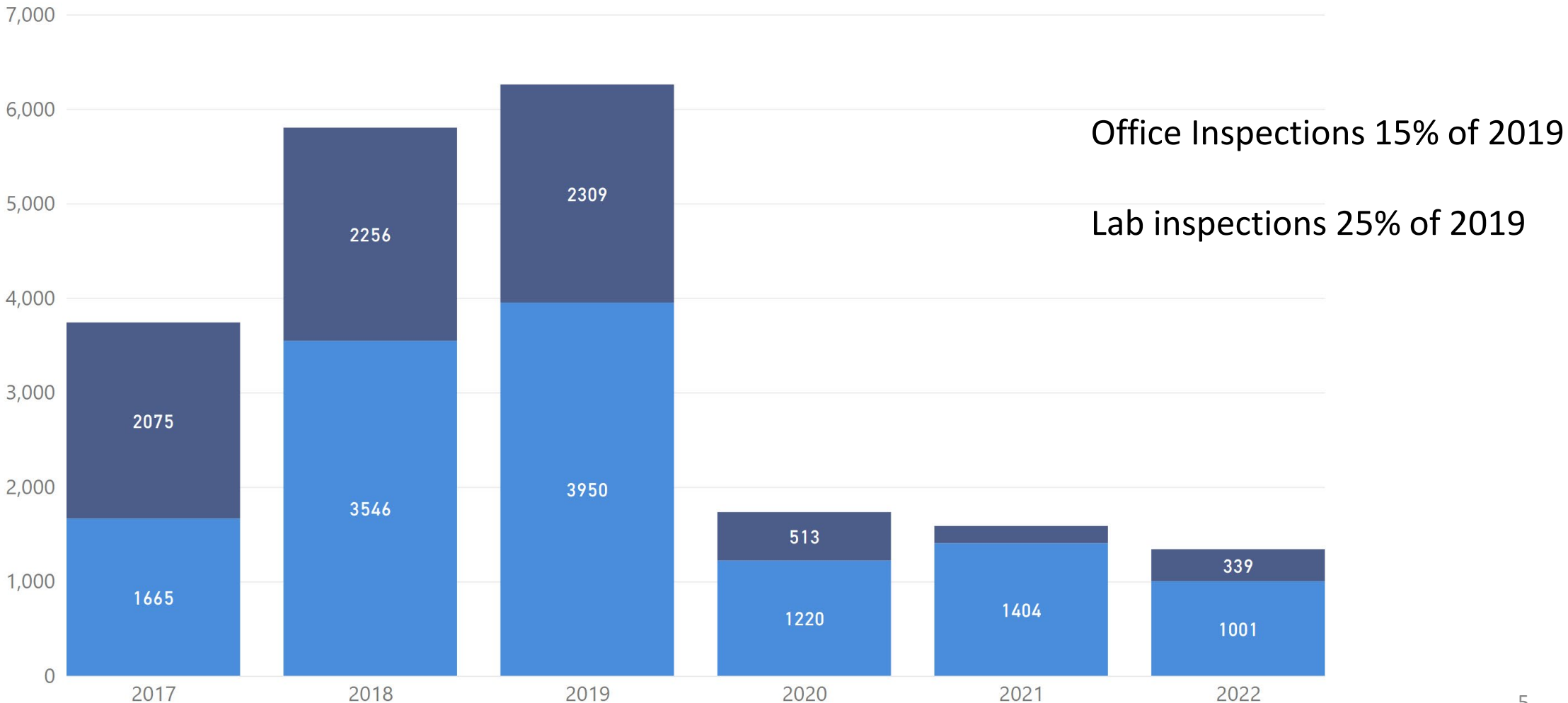
SET sign up: <https://nistsafety.nist.gov/Training/Course/ViewCourse/1113>

FY22 Workplace Inspection Restart (Data from Q1 and Q2)

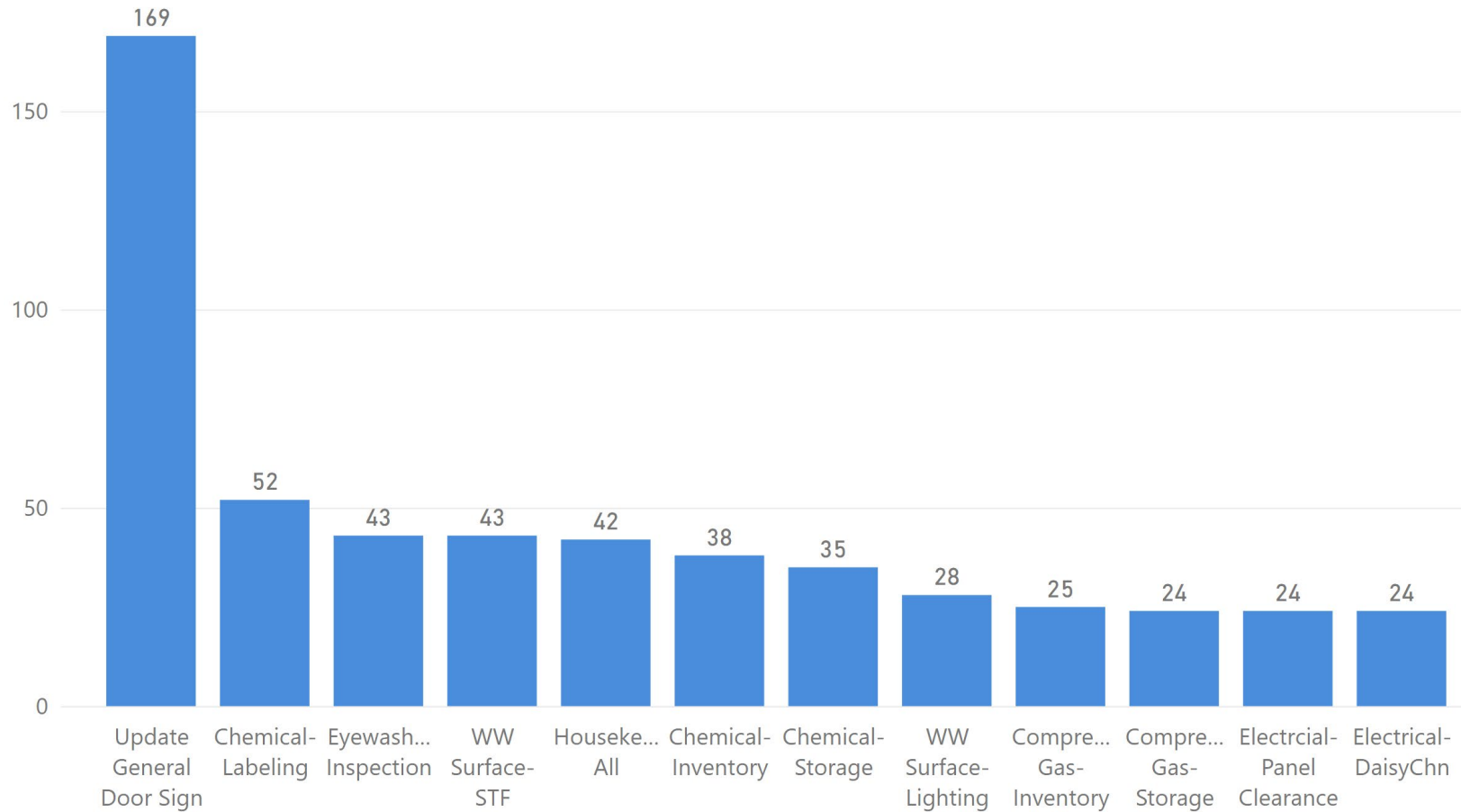


Inspections by Type

Type ● Non-Office ● Office



Ten Most Frequent Hazards Found During Inspections During FY22 (Q1 and Q2)



Top 10 Deficiencies Closed (During FY22 Q1&Q2)

1. Update General Door Sign (165)
2. Chemical-Labeling (114)
3. Housekeeping (73)
4. WW Surface- Slip, Trip, Fall (55)
5. Eyewash Inspection (50)
6. Chemical- Inventory (48)
7. Chemical Storage (43)
8. Electrical Daisy Chain (35)
9. Compressed Gas Storage (29)
10. Electrical Panel Clearance (27)

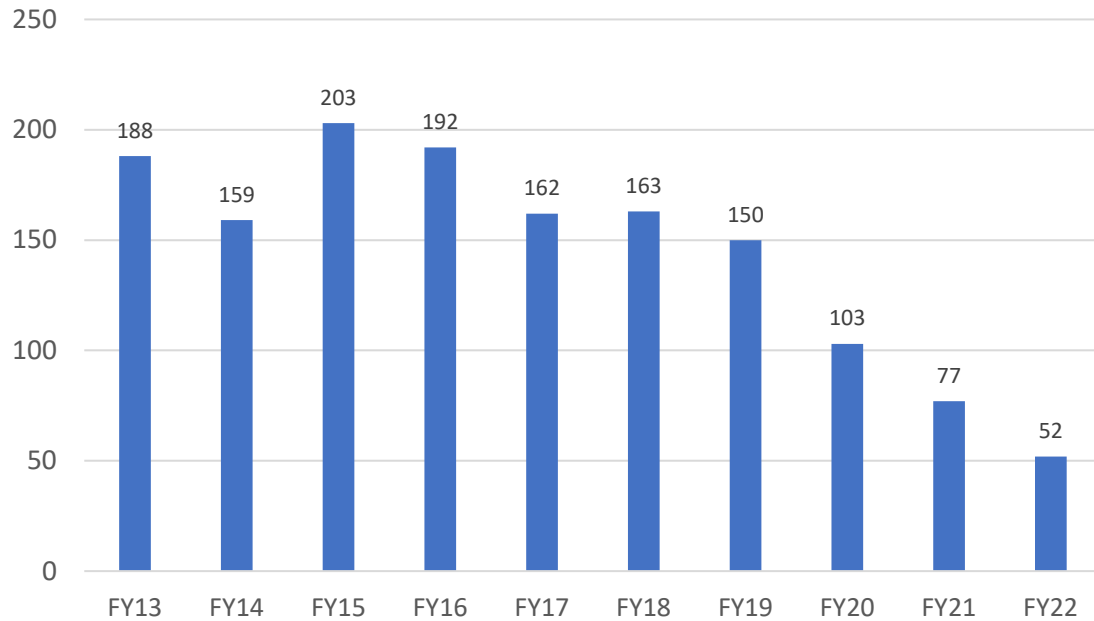
❖ 914 deficiencies found (FY22)

❖ 639 deficiencies cleared (FY22)

❖ Working on 600 stale deficiencies

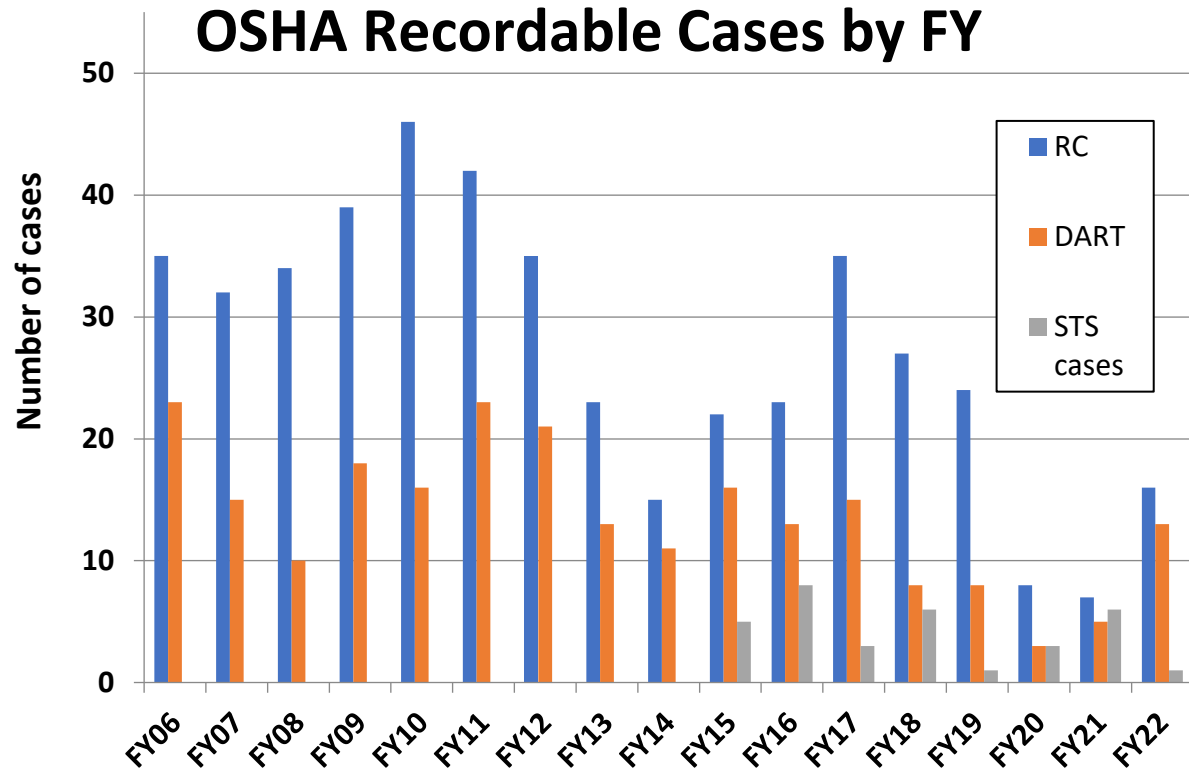
Incidents and Near Misses (FY22 to 6/3/22)

IRIS Cases FY13 - FY22



Reduce reporting reflects reduced staffing

Incident Type	Number of Cases	OSHA Recordable
Injury	16	6
Illness	12	10
Near Miss	12	
Property Damage	5	
Contamination by Radioactivity	2	0
Spill / Release	1	
Exposure	2	0
Other	2	0



Injuries

- Employee Strains Back While Lifting Pipe*
- Employee Suffers Fractured Foot in Fall on Uneven Ground*
- Employee Injured in Encounter with Campus Geese*
- Employee Injured by Elevator Door
- Employee Cut Using Knife to Open Box*
- Laceration to Three Fingers While Cutting Hose

Illnesses

- 7 COVID workplace transmission cases*
- Employee experiencing neck and back pain teleworking*
- Employee has heat rash/allergic reaction*
- Employee experiences occupational hearing loss

*DART cases



[Shocking behavior: What to do immediately after receiving an electrical shock. 5/31/22](#)

[Suggestions for Mask Etiquette During Low and Medium Community Levels 5/2/22](#)

[Avoiding Distracted Driving: A Safety Minute Video 5/2/22](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccination and Booster Appointments Available Fridays at the Gaithersburg Health Unit](#)

INET Announcement, 4/25/22

[Creature Discomforts](#) Avoiding aggressive geese on campus 4/8/2022

[Would you recognize these potential fire hazards while working on-site? 3/30/2022](#)

[Safety Permit Application now live 3/30/2022](#)

[The Safety Standard | FY22 Q1&2 3/24/2022](#)

- NIST-level Incident Response Team
- Equipment support from OSHE Radiation Safety Division
- Chaired Root Cause Analysis Subcommittee
- Invited NCNR Director to share lessons learned with Executive Safety Committee
- Invited NCNR Director to discuss Safety Culture with Executive Safety Committee
- Two new safety programs will be informed by NCNR lessons learned
 - Change Management Program– Executive Safety Subcommittee (FY22)
 - Monitoring, Measuring and Assessments (FY23)
- As SEC Vice Chair, working to strengthen oversight, ensure independence, cover industrial safety impacts
- Working toward better integration of NIST safety within NCNR
 - Chief Safety Officer will be *ex officio* member of NCNR Safety Evaluation Committee
 - OSHE safety specialist will be embedded at NCNR
 - Formalizing collaboration, mutual assistance between OSHE Radiation Safety - NCNR Health Physics

Informed by

- ISO 45001, section 8.1.3
- ISO 31000, sections 6.4, 6.5
- Incidents at NIST

Change Types

- Regulatory, legal, other requirements
- Organizational, structural
- Workforce, individual staff
- Facilities, work environment
- Work processes, technology
- Equipment and materials



❖ **Return to Campus/Transition to Hybrid**

- ❖ Communications (SR)2 Safety Reminders for a Safe Return
- ❖ Resuming workplace inspections
- ❖ IAQ assessments, ensuring safety equipment is functioning
- ❖ Developing safety plans for high risk staff
- ❖ Continuing to maintain COVID safety protocols, manage cases

❖ **Institutionalizing NCNR lessons identified**

- ❖ Change Management Directive development with Executive Safety Committee
- ❖ Ensuring Safety Regulatory Risk informs Enterprise Risk Management
- ❖ Executive Safety Committee engagement on safety culture improvement

Questions or Feedback