

Facility Safety

Why Signs are a Good Investment

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Companies that forego safety signs in the office and on campus end up paying hefty fines that can add up to millions of dollars. Between 2013 and 2014 alone, OSHA fines increased from \$1,897 to \$2,067, respectively. National Marker Company manufactures high quality signs for every aspect of the workplace that help to make everything a little bit safer.

The numbers say it all

Every year, scores of injuries and fatalities occur, and fines are doled out for violations. Safety signs can help prevent accidents before they occur by educating employees of the dangers in play:

- **Parking lot:** Safety signs can delineate parking spaces, set speed limits and stop cars at dangerous intersections. In 2011 there were 57,656 accidents in parking lots alone, which resulted in 656 deaths and 68,000 injuries.
- **Scaffolds:** Signage can point out dangerous areas of a project before employees start using the equipment. This is an expensive industry, as 4,295 scaffold violations cost companies \$9.4 million in 2015.
- **Fire hazards:** Proper signage can help prevent tragedies from occurring in the office. In 2013, 148 fatalities resulted from fires at the workplace.
- **Machine safety:** In 2011, companies paid \$1.6 billion in workers' compensation because of injuries caused by machinery. Spending a few hundred dollars on signs is better than paying an average of \$36,413 per injury claim.
- **Electrical work:** Wiring can get messy when employees don't have signs and procedures to follow. This resulted in \$3.75 million in fines in 2014.
- **Lock-out/Tag-out:** Protect employees from unexpected system startups and the company from fines by installing signs warning employees of the dangers. In 2014, \$7.8 million had to be paid out for violations.
- **Fall protection:** Slips, trips and falls are among the leading sources of workplace injuries. Companies doled out \$20.5 million across 6,721 violations.
- **Hazardous materials:** Companies paid \$3.2 million in 2014 for failing to properly label hazardous conditions.

For more information on specific fines for signage, check out this *infographic from NMC*.

Keep signs pristine

Signs frequently become useless as time goes on because the information has faded, been damaged, or worn away. This can be largely attributed to exposure from harsh weather environments, vandalism, UV rays, chemicals, or mold.

National Marker Company is the sole proprietor of Sign Muscle®, a clear, weather-resistant, UV-cured liquid laminate that coats and protects all signs and labels from this damage. This means companies

will only have to buy the sign once and never have to worry about it degrading over time.

For more information on signage, please visit [MSCDirect.com](https://www.mscdirect.com).

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