

Iowa Division of Labor

Iowa Workforce Development

Elisabeth Buck, Director

Chester J. Culver, Governor

Dave Neil, Labor Commissioner

Message from Labor Commissioner Dave Neil.....

Injuries

For federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, the number of injuries in OSHA covered work sites decreased for the first time in two years. Iowa's injury rate decreased from 6.4 injuries per 100 full-time workers to 5.9, a decline of 20.3 percent. While this is significant, Iowa is still above the national average of 4.7 injuries per 100 full-time workers.

Fatalities

The number of fatalities decreased in OSHA covered work sites from 26 in federal FY2006 to 22 for federal FY2007. For calendar year 2007, Iowa had a total of 16 fatalities, down from 26 the previous year. It is our belief that one fatality is too many, therefore, Iowa OSHA continues to work with employers who request help in dealing with Safety and Health Programs and enforce the regulations upon employers who unfortunately refuse to take workplace safety and health seriously.

Wind Towers & Elevators

Iowa's leading position in wind energy brings a new issue to the elevator section of Iowa's Division of Labor. Mechanics who must climb the inside of the 200 foot wind towers to perform maintenance work find that the task is very hard on their knees and will limit the work life of a mechanic. Because of this, some companies have designed cable lifts inside the towers to raise and lower the workers and their tools. Now, the question becomes, are the cable lifts elevators subject to Iowa elevator codes? The Elevator Board, constituted under the Iowa Code, is studying the issue and is in the process of writing a safety code that will apply to the lifts, if it is determined they fall within the elevator code jurisdiction.



Steve Slater, Kathleen Uehling, Bob Lillard and Jim Borwey inspecting the elevator service lift at the Clipper Wind Farm near Spirit Lake.

Safety and Health Partnership

A Safety and Health Partnership Agreement was signed by Iowa OSHA, the Iowa Department of Administrative Services - General Services and AFSCME Council 61 Local 35 on September 12th. The purpose of this partnership is to design, develop and implement a comprehensive safety and health program management system that identified and prioritizes the needs of DAS employees and the Capitol Complex Facilities. Members of the partnership steering committee will meet in January 2008 to begin work on written safety and health programs.

Labor Standards Information for New and Small Businesses

DOL's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) has released a new publication, Labor Standards Information for New and Small Businesses, available at www.dol.gov/esa/regs/compliance/whd/NewSmallBus.pdf. It is a resource to assist new and small businesses to properly and effectively stay in compliance with the laws and regulations administered by the WHD. The Guide provides general information about the laws administered by various federal agencies.

Revised Employment Eligibility Verification Form

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has issued a revised Employment Eligibility Verification Form, commonly known as an I-9, and a revised Handbook for Employers that contain instructions for completing the form. A fact sheet on the revised I-9 can be found at www.uscis.gov/files/pressrelease/FormI9FS110707.pdf.

IOSH Consultations & Inspections

Over the past quarter, 85 companies in 28 Iowa counties received voluntary consultation visits. Additionally, 161 Iowa companies received IOSH inspections this quarter. Inspections took place in the following towns:

Adel - 5	Grimes - 4	Muscatine - 1
Algona - 3	Grinnell - 2	Orange City - 2
Ankeny - 6	Grundy Center - 1	Osceola - 1
Aurelia - 2	Hanlontown - 1	Oskaloosa - 1
Carroll - 1	Hiawatha - 2	Pleasant Hill - 1
Cedar Falls - 2	Hull - 1	Pleasantville - 1
Cedar Rapids - 6	Indianola - 2	Postville - 1
Charles City - 5	Iowa City - 4	Primghar - 1
Clinton - 3	Jefferson - 1	Sergeant Bluff - 1
Clive - 1	Johnston - 1	Shenandoah - 1
Council Bluffs - 17	Joice - 1	Sioux City - 5
Crawfordsville - 1	Kalona - 1	Story City - 1
Cresco - 1	Kanawha - 1	Stuart - 1
Davenport - 2	Keokuk - 1	Urbandale - 10
Denison - 1	Lakota - 1	Vinton - 5
Des Moines - 19	Lansing - 2	Waterloo - 3
Dubuque - 2	Laurens - 3	West Des Moines - 5
Earlville - 1	Manchester - 1	West Liberty - 1
Fairfield - 1	Marshalltown - 1	Windsor Heights - 4
Ft. Madison - 1	Martensdale - 1	
Glenwood - 2	Mt. Pleasant - 1	

Minimum Wage Reminder

On January 25, 2007, Governor Chet Culver signed legislation increasing the Iowa minimum wage. Effective April 1, 2007, the required Iowa minimum wage increased from \$5.15 per hour to \$6.20 per hour. On January 1, 2008, it increased again to \$7.25 per hour.



How Cold is to Cold?

When the body is unable to warm itself, cold related stress may result. This may include tissue damage and possibly death. Four factors contribute to cold stress: cold air temperatures, high velocity air movement, dampness of the air, and contact with cold water or surfaces. A cold environment forces the body to work harder to maintain its temperature. Cold air, water, and snow all draw heat from the body. Wind chill is the combination of air temperature and wind speed. For example, when the air temperature is 40°F, and the wind speed is 35 mph, your exposed skin receives conditions equivalent to the air temperature being 11° F. While it is obvious that below freezing conditions combined with inadequate clothing could bring about cold stress, it is also important to understand that it can also be brought about by temperatures in the 50's coupled with some rain and wind.

Preventative measures are essential for successfully working in the cold. Preventative clothing is the most important way to avoid cold stress. Drink plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration while avoiding caffeine and alcohol. Take frequent breaks and pay attention to your body's signals. When possible, shield the work site from wind and utilize radiant heating sources to avoid Hypothermia, Frostbite, Trench Foot or death.

Updates on Employer-Paid Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

On November 15, 2007, the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a final rule on employer-paid personal protective equipment, available at www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=20094.

Under the final rule, all PPE, with few exceptions, is to be provided at no cost to the employee. The rule contains a few exceptions for ordinary safety-toed footwear, ordinary prescription safety eyewear, logging boots, and ordinary clothing and weather-related gear. You can access a PPE fact sheet at www.osha.gov/Publications/PPE-factsheet-final.pdf.

Our condolences to the families of.....

- John Hoffmann, 51, was crushed under a car when a sling and boom loader came loose in Carroll.
- Jose Roderiguez, 44, was crushed when a rail car collapsed and pinned him in Sioux City.
- Randall Morris, 54, was caught between a bucket and guy cable after a pole broke in Aurelia.
- Jim Schlarman, 54, was crushed by a log while removing the binder strap off of a trailer load in Dubuque.

Change in Compliance Assistant

Margaret Meade, Compliance Assistant Specialist for Iowa OSHA resigned on October 15th to take a position with a local government entity in the State of Virginia. Mike Whitmore has taken over the compliance assistance job duties which include training, partnerships, alliances and outreach. Mike has worked as a Safety Consultant for the Iowa Consultation and Education Program for two years.

Iowa Workforce Development
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01/08



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Employer/Program

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