

# Iowa Division of Labor

## Iowa Workforce Development

[Elisabeth Buck, Director](#)

[Chester J. Culver, Governor](#)

[Dave Neil, Labor Commissioner](#)

### Message from Labor Commissioner David Neil.....

#### 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Safety Conference

This year's safety conference will be held November 5 & 6 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites on Merle Hay Road, Des Moines, Iowa. The OSH voluntary advisory board has planned a conference that will be educational to workers and management personnel across the State of Iowa. Issues that will be addressed include Contractor Safety in General Industry, Risk Management, Ergonomics, Hazard Identification, Safety Solutions, Creating a Safety Culture, Indoor Air Quality, Electrical Hazards, Noise Control plus many other Safety & Health topics. Technology keeps changing therefore educational opportunity such as this conference will be of value to many Iowans.

#### Wind Towers & Elevators

As more and more wind towers are constructed the number of elevators installed in them continues to increase (240 to date). In August 2008 the Iowa Legislative Rules Committee approved inspection criteria for our elevator division to inspect elevators installed in wind towers. Not all wind generating companies install elevators in their towers. Those that do must be inspected to our recently approved criteria which were based on the Occupational Safety and Health Code and the nationally approved Elevator Code.

#### Boxing & Mixed Martial Arts

On October 7, 2008 the Boxing Commission Board will meet to review the Boxing Grant Applications and determine which Iowa Boxing Clubs receive a grant. This year we will award \$35,000 in grant monies. The money awarded comes from the 5% tax on the ticket sales sold at professional wrestling, boxing and mixed martial arts events licensed in Iowa. The Labor Commissioner continues to receive complaints from Iowans who report events not being licensed or promoters are saying they are amateur events and therefore don't need a license. Without staff to investigate this issue continues to be unfair to those that play by the rules.

#### Amusement Ride Season

The week of June 9-13, 2008 BJ Burriola III, Kris Glover and Bob Parker attended the QEI certification training and testing in Champaign Illinois. Later that month we received notification that all 3 inspectors passed this important certification.

We had a hugely successful season and the State Fair saw over 1.1 million people pass through the gates. Not the least of which included IWD Director Elisabeth Buck, IWD Deputy Director Joe Walsh, Labor Commissioner Dave Neil and Deputy Labor Commissioner Steve Slater.

During the fair they took time to find out from Bob Lillard and Jim Borwey some of the nuances of performing safety inspections on amusement rides. It wasn't all work as the Director and Deputy Director enjoyed a safe ride on the midway bumper cars.



#### East Marshall Students Receive OSHA Certification

More than 80 East Marshall High School shop students received hands-on equipment training and an OSHA certification to go with it. The students completed a 10-hour program spread over a few weeks conducted by Mike Whitmore of the Iowa OSHA office based in Des Moines. Whitmore visited the high school giving students tips on safety and machinery warning hazards on equipment used in woodworking, fabrication and engine work. "I give them an overview of what to expect in the workforce," he said.



#### IOSH Consultations & Inspections

Over the past quarter, 103 companies in 27 Iowa counties received voluntary consultation visits. Additionally, XXX Iowa companies received IOSH inspections this quarter. Inspections took place in the following towns:

Adair – 1	Dyersville – 3	Nemaha – 1
Alburnett – 1	Fort Dodge – 10	Nevada – 3
Algona – 2	Eldridge – 1	Newton – 1
Ames – 7	Emmetsburg – 2	Ottumwa – 1
Ankeny – 8	Estherville – 2	Palo – 1
Arion – 2	Goldfield – 1	Postville – 3
Atlantic – 1	Greene – 1	Riverdale – 1
Audubon – 1	Grimes – 3	Rockwell City – 1
Bettendorf – 3	Grinnell – 2	Sand Springs – 1
Boone – 2	Guthrie Center – 5	Scranton – 1
Braddyville – 1	Hamburg – 2	Sergeant Bluff – 1
Breda – 1	Hampton – 1	Sheldon – 1
Carlisle – 1	Indianola – 1	Sibley – 1
Carter Lake – 6	Iowa City – 6	Sioux Center – 1
Cedar Rapids – 25	Janesville – 2	Sioux City – 6
Centerville – 4	Keota – 1	Slater – 6
Chariton – 1	Knoxville – 1	Spencer – 1
Chester – 1	Laurens – 3	Stanwood – 1
Clarinda – 1	Leando – 1	Storm Lake – 6
Clear Lake – 1	Manly – 1	Urbandale – 1
Coralville – 1	Manning – 1	Wapello – 6
Council Bluffs – 9	Marion – 1	Waterloo – 12
Cresco – 1	Marshalltown – 7	Waukee – 1
Davenport – 3	Missouri Valley – 1	Waverly – 2
Denison – 3	Mount Ayr – 1	Wayland – 1
Des Moines – 32	Mount Pleasant – 1	West Des Moines – 13
Dubuque – 2	Muscatine – 11	Windsor Heights – 1
		Winterset – 3

#### SHARP

Gemini, Inc. in Decorah was awarded Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program status for the period of July 14, 2008 through July 14, 2010. Gemini, Inc. employs 136 and is a manufacturer of aluminum and bronze letters and logos for the sign industry.



### Partnerships

The Iowa Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA) entered into a partnership agreement with The Weitz Company on July 28, 2008. The purpose of this partnership is to reduce injuries, illnesses and fatalities during the construction of the Wellmark project in Des Moines. It is anticipated that 500 tradespersons will be on site at its peak and activities will be completed December 2010.

Another partnership became effective on August 11, 2008 for the Iowa City Readiness Center in Iowa City. The Iowa City Readiness Center will be the home of four Iowa National Guard units when completed. Signatories for the partnership include the Iowa Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Miron Construction Co., Inc., Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters, Iowa National Guard, Mega Construction, Cedar Valley Steel, D & R Masonry, Hometown Plumbing and Heating, Swanson Glass and Total Fire Protection. It is anticipated a total of 75 tradespersons on site and will be completed in the summer of 2009.

### Voluntary Protection Program

The Iowa VPP program is pleased to announce the addition of one new STAR site. American Packaging in Story City became a STAR site on July 22, 2008. The story City site has 130 employees and is full-service flexible packaging division providing Flexco printing and laminating/preformed products.

Iowa VPP is also pleased to announce one new MERIT site. Duane Arnold Energy Center became a VPP Merit site on September 17, 2008. The Palo facility has 950 employees and is a nuclear energy producing plant which generates and supplies electricity of r the Mid-West Region.

Iowa Currently has 39 VPP sites with additional growth expected over the next two years.

### Our condolences to the families of.....

- Matthew Ball, age 20—suffocated while shoveling beans out of a bin onto a transfer conveyor. A nearby bin collapsed engulfing the employee.
- Julio Galvan, age 50—was pinned under a tractor during a rollover accident transporting the tractor from one job site to another.
- Aaron Meyerhoff, age 35—was killed when a narrow trench in a residential project caved, and buried the head of the employee.
- Michael Williams, age 25—was crushed and killed when struck by the counterweight of the crate he was operating on I-80.
- Peter Dudgeon, age 41—was electrocuted while repairing a power outage in a substation. The system was de-energized, however the employee came in contact with a grounded conductor causing the relay system to trip. The employee died when he fell on three conductors which then reset and became energized.
- Edward Mundfron, age 53—the deceased was welding on a guillotine shear while other employees were tightening bolts. A bolt broke off and struck the deceased in the head.
- Gary Heetland, age 61—fell while installing augers in a grain bin. The employee was sitting in a home made personnel chair suspended by a crane. The employee leaned forward and fell out of the chair onto the roof and then approximately 25 feet to the ground.
- Robert Leo Ament, age 57—was working with an other employee while operating a garbage truck. The dumpster jumped the saddle as it was lowered and struck the employee while he was standing next to the truck.
- Hilip “Gor” Sheldon, age 56—was installing a sump pump in s truck scale pit by himself. He was found gasping for breath at the bottom of the pit by a trucker.
- Brian Stonebruner, age 19—was stuck by a truck that was struck by a semi while setting traffic cones on I-35. The employee was crushed by the trucks.
- Jeff Hiatt, age 48—died in the same accident while setting cones on I-35 with Brian Stonebrunner.

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 Deaf or Hard of Hearing,  
 Call 711  
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 10/08



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