

# Iowa Division of Labor

## Iowa Workforce Development

[Elisabeth Buck, Director](#)

[Chester J. Culver, Governor](#)

[Dave Neil, Labor Commissioner](#)

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

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, Iowa dedicated the Iowa Workers Monument. After several years of planning and development, we were able to demonstrate to all Iowans our appreciation for their commitment to Iowa. The work ethic of Iowans' is noted and celebrated around the country, and it's fitting that we have commemorated their strength.

Iowa has suffered devastating losses over the last couple of months, from the Parkersburg tornado to the floods of 2008. In an effort to ensure all necessary safety precautions are taken during the clean-up and rebuilding efforts and to protect the interests of Iowans, the Division of Labor has developed a number of outreach efforts, particularly in the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City area. OSHA representatives have been on the ground providing health and safety consultation during the clean-up phase and will provide additional enforcement activities during the rebuilding phases.

The Elevator Safety Board has filed emergency rules exempting lifts in wind towers from the standard elevator safety requirements. The lifts in wind towers serve a different purpose than standard elevators. By developing regulations that fit this unique need, the Elevator Safety Board has enhanced safety for employees in Iowa's wind towers, while allowing for efficient business operations.



*Governor Chet Culver and State Senator Bill Dotzler at the monument dedication.*

### **Iowa Wage Law Change: Mailing Paychecks**

A change in Iowa's Wage Payment Collection Law related to the mailing of paychecks took effect July 1, 2008. The amendment requires that an employer have a written request from an employee **before** wages can be sent to an employee by mail. *The amended law only applies to the mailing of actual paychecks. It does not apply to the mailing of paystub information.*

The purpose of the revised law is to ensure that employees receive wages in a timely fashion. The law also makes an employer liable for any bank overdraft charges assessed an employee if the employer fails to pay an employee's wages on or by a regularly scheduled payday. For additional information visit [www.iowaworkforce.org/labor/wage.htm](http://www.iowaworkforce.org/labor/wage.htm).

### **Changes to Elevator Safety Rules**

Effective July 23, 2008, the Elevator Safety Board adopted the 2007 editions of ASME A17.1 and A17.7 for elevators and escalators, and adopted ANSI A10.4-2007 as the applicable safety code for construction personnel hoists. Other changes effective July 23 are procedural or editorial in nature.

Effective December 12, 2007, the Elevator Safety Board created a limited exemption from rules that would otherwise require excavating a deeper elevator pit in certain existing buildings.

For details concerning these rule changes and others, please visit [www.iowaworkforce.org/labor/elevator\\_forms.htm](http://www.iowaworkforce.org/labor/elevator_forms.htm).

### **IOSH Consultations & Inspections**

Over the past quarter, 70 companies in 29 Iowa counties received voluntary consultation visits. Additionally, 285 Iowa companies received IOSH inspections this quarter. Inspections took place in the following towns:

Adair-1	Eddyville-1	Milford-3
Alden-2	Eldridge-1	Moravia-8
Algona-1	Ellsworth-1	Mount Pleasant-1
Altoona-2	Fairfield-2	Muscatine-1
Ames-4	Farley-1	North Liberty-1
Ankeny-4	Forest City-1	Norwalk-6
Atlantic-1	Fort Dodge-3	Orange City-1
Bancroft-3	Fredericks-1	Osage-6
Bettendorf-6	Ft. Dodge-4	Osceola-2
Boone-1	Garner-1	Oskaloosa-1
Britt-4	Graettinge-1	Ottumwa-2
Burlington-2	Griswold-1	Postville-1
Camanche-2	Guttenberg-1	Rock Rapid-1
Carroll-10	Hanlontown-1	Sac City-6
Cascade-1	Holstein-1	Sheldon-1
Cedar Falls-2	Houghton-1	Sioux Center-1
Cedar Rapids-15	Iowa City-5	Sioux City-14
Clarinda-1	Iowa Falls-1	Spencer-1
Clinton-9	Jefferson-5	Spirit Lake-2
Clive-3	Jesup-1	Tiffin-1
Coralville-2	Johnson-2	Treynor-5
Council Bluffs-9	Johnston-1	Urbandale-2
Cresco-3	Keokuk-1	Waterloo-6
Creston-8	Knoxville-1	Webster City-1
Davenport-12	Le Mars-1	West Branch-1
Decorah-2	Lime Springs-1	West Des Moines-22
Denison-1	Marion-1	West Union-2
Des Moines-12	Mason City-5	Westside-2
Dubuque-4	Merrill-10	



Labor Services Division  
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### CONSTRUCTION PERSONNEL HOIST REGULATIONS CHANGE

Construction personnel hoists (CPH's) have been subject to regulation by the Iowa Division of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Bureau. Effective July 1, 2008, CPH's are also be under the authority of the Iowa Division of Labor's elevator safety program. This change is a result of legislation during the 2008 legislative session.

CPH's are installed to move people on construction sites and they are removed at the end of the construction project. CPH's are primarily used on larger construction projects and should not be confused with the temporary use of a permanent elevator for construction purposes. CPH's may be used on construction sites for moving materials, equipment and supplies in addition to people.

The Elevator Safety Board has adopted new rules governing CPH's. For more details, visit [www.iowaworkforce.org/labor/elevator\\_forms.htm](http://www.iowaworkforce.org/labor/elevator_forms.htm).

### Boiler 10-Day Notice Reminder

Ten-day notice of new installations must be provided pursuant to Iowa Code Section 89.6. This is an important reminder for those replacing flood damaged boilers.

### SHARP Recognition

T.O. Haas Tire in Keokuk received the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program certificate and flag on June 25th.

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

- Jose D Apricio Maltos, 42—while working on a swinging scaffold, slipped and fell approximately 150 feet.
- William T. Rogers, 53—was unloading dirt from a dump truck when a co-worker backed up a truck and ran over William.
- John Small, 70—while working alone, the deceased fell into the basement of a residence under construction and lost consciousness. He later died.
- William Ray Wells, 42—fell approximately 20 feet while roofing.
- Dustin Flinn, 27—while operating a crane and moving a beam, the crane tipped. The deceased fell through the bridge decking and landed on railroad tracks below.
- David Pierce, 48—while working during a switching operation at a railcar maintenance and repair facility, David was run over by a railcar.
- Bernard J. Ulrich, 50—while working with another employee to repair an auger, the electric motor on the auger released and tore the deceased's arm off. Bernard bled to death before the first responders arrived.
- Phillip Conway, 21—was setting trusses on a pole building when he fell approximately 35 feet.

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Deaf or Hard of Hearing,  
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07/08



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# Iowa Division of Labor

## 2008 Flood Recovery Information

### OSHA Natural Disaster Recovery Tips

Cleanup work of any kind is hazardous, but flood conditions make it even more so. Following the procedures listed below will help to keep you safe and healthy while cleaning up after natural disasters that involve flooding.

#### Health Tips

Take frequent rest breaks when lifting heavy, water-laden objects. Avoid overexertion and practice good lifting techniques.

- When working in hot environments, have plenty of drinking water available, use sunscreen, and take frequent rest breaks. Wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- Be sure a first-aid kit is available to disinfect any cuts or abrasions. Protect open cuts and abrasions with waterproof gloves or dressings. Wash your hands often during the day, especially before eating, drinking, or applying cosmetics.

#### General Precautions

- Use a wooden stick or pole to check flooded areas for pits, holes, and protruding objects before entering.
- Ensure that all ladders are properly secured.
- Conduct a preliminary worksite inspection to verify stability before entering a flooded or formerly flooded building or before operating vehicles over roadways or surfaces.
- Washouts, trenches, excavations, and gullies must be supported or their stability verified prior to worker entry. All trenches should be supported (e.g., with a trench box); if no support is available, the trench must be sloped at no less than a 1:1 (45°) angle for cohesive soil and 1:1½ (34°) angle for granular soils including gravel, sand, and loamy sand or submerged soil or soil from which water is freely seeping.
- Report any obvious hazards (downed power lines, frayed electric wires, gas leaks or snakes) to appropriate authorities.
- Use fuel-powered generators outdoors. Do not bring them indoors.
- Use life-vests when engaged in activities that could result in deep water exposure.
- Use extreme caution when handling containers holding unknown substances or known toxic substances (for example floating containers of household or industrial chemicals).

### Boiler Safety Notice

Recent flooding raises concern about the safety of boilers, water heaters, and pressure vessels in Iowa. If any part of these objects has been submerged in water for even a brief time, do not operate the equipment until a

qualified professional performs appropriate maintenance and repairs. In most cases, gas valves, controls, and water heaters

cannot be repaired and must be replaced after flooding. Proper servicing can prevent serious injuries or death.



*Flood clean-up in Cedar Rapids.*

### Flood Clean-Up Alert: How to Protect Yourself from Asbestos Hazards

Cleaning up after a flood requires hundreds of workers to renovate and repair, or tear down and dispose of, damaged or destroyed structures and materials. However, repair, renovation, and demolition operations often generate airborne asbestos, a mineral fiber that can cause chronic lung disease or cancer. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has developed regulations designed to protect cleanup workers from asbestos hazards.

#### How You Can Become Exposed to Asbestos

Before it was known that inhalation of asbestos fibers causes several deadly diseases—including asbestosis, a progressive and often fatal lung disease, and lung and other cancers—asbestos was used in a large number of building materials and other products because of its strength, flame resistance, and insulating properties.

When buildings containing these materials are renovated or torn down, or when the asbestos-containing materials themselves are disturbed, minute asbestos fibers may be released into the air. The fibers are so small that they often cannot be seen with the naked eye; the fact that you can inhale these fibers without knowing it makes asbestos an even more dangerous hazard.

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# Iowa Division of Labor

## 2008 Flood Recovery Information

### Elevator Safety Notice

Recent flooding raises concern about the safety of elevators, escalators, dumb waiters and related equipment in Iowa. If any part of an elevator or the pit below the elevator have been submerged in water for even a brief period of time, do not operate the elevator until a qualified elevator mechanic performs appropriate replacements, maintenance and repairs. Most parts of an elevator that have been flooded will need to be replaced rather than repaired. Proper servicing can prevent serious injuries or death.



### (OSHA Tips continued)

#### Clothing and Personal Protective Equipment

- Always wear water tight boots with steel toe and insole, gloves, long pants, and safety glasses during cleanup operations. Wear a hardhat if there is any danger of falling debris.
- Wear a NIOSH-approved dust respirator if working with moldy building materials or vegetable matter (hay, stored grain, or compost).



#### Electrical Hazards

- Do NOT touch downed power lines or any object or water that is in contact with such lines.
- Treat all power lines as energized until you are certain that the lines have been de-energized. Beware of overhead and underground lines when clearing debris.
- If damage to an electrical system is suspected (for example, if the wiring has been under water, you can smell burning insulation, wires are visibly frayed, or you see sparks), turn off the electrical system in the building and follow lockout/tagout procedures before beginning work.
- When using a generator, be sure that the main circuit breaker is OFF and locked out prior to starting the generator.
- Be aware that de-energized power lines may become energized by a secondary power source such as a portable backup generator.
- Any electrical equipment, including extension cords, used in wet environments must be marked, as appropriate, for use in wet locations and must be undamaged. Be sure that all connections are out of water.
- All cord-connected, electrically operated tools and equipment must be grounded or be double insulated. Ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) must be used in all wet locations. Portable GFCIs can be purchased at hardware stores.



### Emergency Asbestos Rules

The Iowa Division of Labor has enacted emergency rules to assist with flood clean-up efforts. The rules:

1. Clarify that contractor registration is required for asbestos work in disaster zones.
2. Allow electronic transmission of project notifications.
3. Authorize certain people to work based on licenses from other states in narrowly defined circumstances.
4. Allow project notifications for disaster zones to be filed within one day after a project begins.

### (OSHA Asbestos continued)

#### OSHA's Standards for Asbestos

The work of flood cleanup personnel involves the repair, renovation, removal, demolition, or salvage of flood-damaged structures and materials. Such materials may contain or be covered with asbestos, and cleanup personnel are protected by OSHA's construction industry asbestos standard. This standard requires employers to follow various procedures to protect their employees from inhaling asbestos fibers. The standard contains many requirements that vary depending on the kind of work being undertaken, the amount of asbestos in the air, and other factors.

#### Major Elements of OSHA's Asbestos Standard

The following include some of the major requirements of the asbestos standard.

- A permissible exposure limit (PEL) of 0.1 fiber of asbestos per cubic centimeter of air as averaged over an 8-hour period, with an excursion limit of 1.0 asbestos fibers per cubic centimeter over a 30-minute period.
- Requirements for an initial exposure assessment to ascertain expected exposures during that work operation, and periodic exposure monitoring in certain instances.
- Use of engineering controls, to the extent feasible, to meet the PEL. Where this is not possible, engineering controls must be used to reduce exposures to the lowest levels possible and then supplemented by the use of appropriate respiratory protection.
- Use of regulated areas to limit access to locations where asbestos concentrations may be dangerously high.
- No smoking, eating, or drinking in asbestos regulated areas.