

Safety Lines

Harvest time: Staying safe from the dangers of working with grain

Safety in the grain industry is of the utmost importance, especially during harvest activities.

According to Purdue University in its [2017 Summer of U.S. Agricultural Confined Space-related Injuries and Fatalities study](#), nationwide last year there were:

- 23 documented grain entrapment cases;
- nine reported falls into or from grain storage structures;
- two asphyxiations due to deficient oxygen levels or toxic environments; and
- eight equipment entanglements, such as those involving floor and sweep augers.



All of these incidents occurred while working inside or around agricultural confined spaces in the agriculture industry. Five of these cases were in Minnesota. Many of these types of incidents do not fall under Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance jurisdiction.

While asphyxiations and entrapments had the highest fatality rates in the Purdue University study, it is important to take measures to prevent injuries from other common hazards in the industry, such as falls, equipment entanglement, being struck by an object, combustible-dust explosions and electrocutions.

Employers and employees can find information about preventing these hazards from the following resources:

- 29 CFR 1910.272 Grain Handling Facilities Standards;
- the federal OSHA Grain-handling webpage at www.osha.gov/SLTC/grainhandling;
- the MNOSHA Grain-handling information, fatalities, inspections webpage at www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-grain-handling-information-fatalities; and
- MNOSHA Compliance, call us at 651-284-5050 or 877-470-6742.



OSHA recordkeeping training offered in January: Reviewing the basics

Maintaining an accurate OSHA log of recordable work-related injuries and illnesses is an important skill that benefits employers, workers, safety professionals and government agencies. The Department of Labor and Industry is offering three free introductory-level training sessions about OSHA recordkeeping.

When: Jan. 3, 9 to 11:30 a.m.; Jan. 22, 1 to 3:30 p.m.; or Jan. 25, 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Where: Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, 443 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN (see directions, parking at www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/about-dli/directions-st-paul-office-free-visitor-parking)

Register: To register, visit <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/events>



Note: 2017 injury and illness rate estimates will be available Nov. 8.

Online now:

MNOSHA annual report, federal review, state response, state-plan report

Minnesota OSHA's federal-fiscal-year 2017 *State OSHA Annual Report* is available online at www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/soar_ffy17.pdf.

Federal OSHA's *FY 2017 Comprehensive Federal Annual Monitoring Evaluation (FAME) Report*, about the Minnesota OSHA program, is online at www.osha.gov/dcsp/osp/efame/2017/minnesota_fy_2017_comprehensive_fame_report.pdf.

Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry Commissioner Ken Peterson's response to the federal OSHA follow-up FAME report is online at www.osha.gov/dcsp/osp/efame/2017/minnesota_formal_response.pdf.

The annual *GRASSROOTS Worker Protection* publication from the Occupational Safety and Health State Plan Association (OSHSPA) is online at www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-reports-publications. The report describes the innovative approaches to creative partnerships, outreach and education, voluntary compliance, inspection targeting and settlement agreements that have been developed by the 28 states and territories, including Minnesota, that operate state occupational safety and health plans that are at least as effective as federal OSHA.

Free on-site safety and health consultations available

Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Workplace Safety Consultation offers free consultation services, where employers can find out about potential hazards at their worksites, improve safety management systems and apply for grants to abate safety standards.

The program targets small, high-hazard businesses. It is separate from Minnesota OSHA Compliance inspection activities and no citations are issued as part of a consultation visit.

Learn more and request a consultation

Web: www.dli.mn.gov • Email: osha.consultation@state.mn.us • Phone: 651-284-5060



Koehler-Bright Star flashlight recall announced

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has announced Koehler-Bright Star has issued a recall of its WorkSafe 3-D battery cell flashlights, model number 2224LED. An encapsulation is missing from a circuit board component that would prevent the flashlight from igniting in an explosive environment.

These flashlights have been sold for use in confined spaces and other hazardous locations.

The flashlights that are subject to the recall have a missing date code. They were distributed through Koehler-Bright Star distributors, Grainger and Amazon.com for about \$21. People possessing these flashlights should contact Koehler-Bright Star at 800-788-1696, 2224ledreplacement@kbs-inc.net or www.koehlerlighting.com.

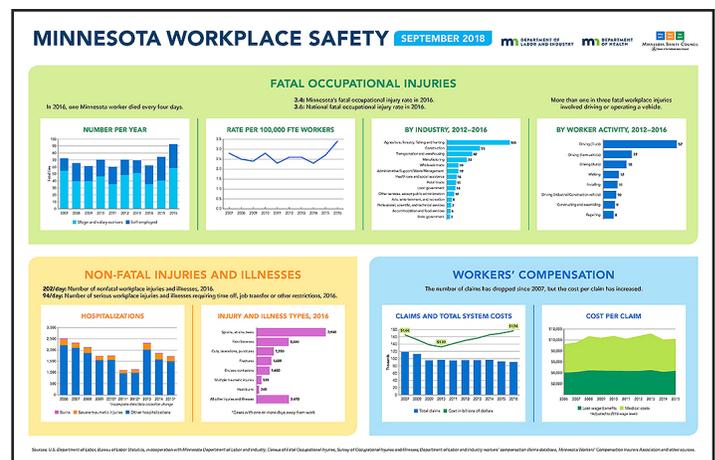


See the recall notice at www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Koehler-Bright-Star-Recalls-Flashlights-Due-to-Explosion-Hazard.

Statistics shine spotlight on worker safety indicators

The Minnesota Safety Council has updated its Minnesota Workplace Safety dashboard to spotlight the most recent indicators related to worker safety and health. The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) and the Minnesota Department of Health produced the statistics. The dashboard shows many of the most important occupational safety and health measures together in an easy-to-use format.

“In the past decade, Minnesota has seen the number of work-related injuries and illnesses fall from 121,600 in 2006 to 89,700 in 2016; a 26 percent decrease,” said Ken Peterson, DLI commissioner. “To continue this positive trend, we need to build safer worksites so more workers go home healthy each night.”



Dashboard highlights

- More than one in three fatal workplace injuries involve driving or operating a vehicle (2012 through 2016).
- Agriculture remains one of the most dangerous industries in Minnesota: 30 percent of fatal work injuries from 2012 through 2016 were among people working in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector, particularly crop production.
- The number of occupational safety and health professionals has dropped 15 percent since 2005.
- The total cost of Minnesota’s workers’ compensation system in 2016 was an estimated \$1.78 billion.

“No one goes to work thinking they will get hurt or sick,” said Paul Aasen, Minnesota Safety Council president. “No one purposely puts themselves in harm’s way. And safety professionals across our state work hard every day to keep their coworkers safe. Nonetheless, the numbers remind us we have more to do.”

The dashboard, “Minnesota Workplace Safety, September 2018,” is on the Minnesota Safety Council website at www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org/WorkplaceSafetyDashboard.pdf.

Regulation updates

Electronic Submission of Injury and Illness Records to OSHA

www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-05-12/pdf/2016-10443.pdf

Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) has adopted the Final Rule to Improve Tracking of Workplace injuries and Illnesses. MNOSHA adopted the rule as written in 29 CFR 1904; however, MNOSHA expanded the list of industries in Appendix A to include all NAICS codes. All employer establishments with more than 20 employees are required to submit their OSHA 300A Summary of Work-related Injuries and Illnesses data by using federal OSHA's Injury Tracking Application at www.osha.gov/injuryreporting. At this time, federal OSHA is not accepting Form 300 or Form 301 information from any employer. Calendar-year 2018 data will need to be submitted by March 2, 2019.

Beryllium in general industry, 1910.1024

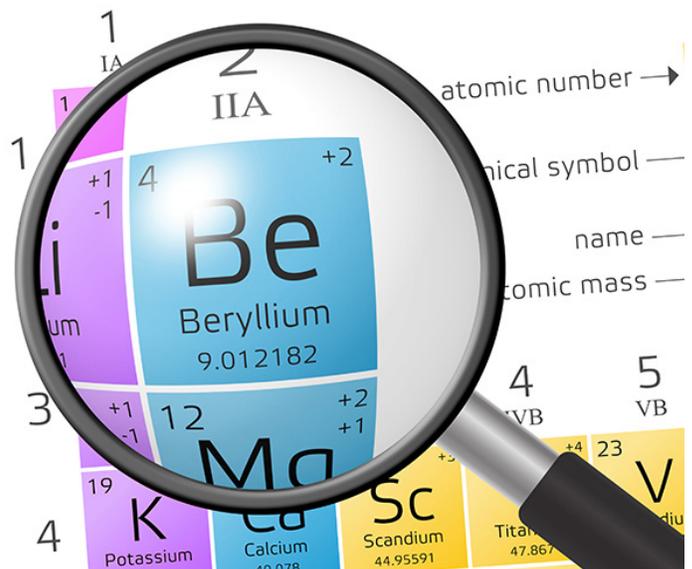
Minnesota OSHA has adopted the General Industry Standard for Beryllium (1910.1024). The new standard implements the following key provisions:

- reduces the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for beryllium to 0.2 micrograms per cubic meter of air, averaged over eight hours;
- establishes a new short-term exposure limit for beryllium of 2.0 micrograms per cubic meter of air, over a 15-minute sampling period;
- requires employers to use engineering and work practice controls (such as ventilation or enclosure) to limit worker exposure to beryllium, provide respirators when controls cannot adequately limit exposure, limit worker access to high-exposure areas, develop a written exposure control plan and train workers about beryllium hazards; and
- requires employers to make available medical exams to monitor exposed workers and provides medical removal protection benefits to workers identified with a beryllium-related disease.

At this time, MNOSHA is only enforcing the following:

- permissible exposure limits in the general industry standard at § 1910.1024(c);
- general industry exposure assessment at § 1910.1024(d);
- general industry respiratory protection at § 1910.1024(g);
- general industry medical surveillance at § 1910.1024(k); and
- general industry medical removal at § 1910.1024(l).

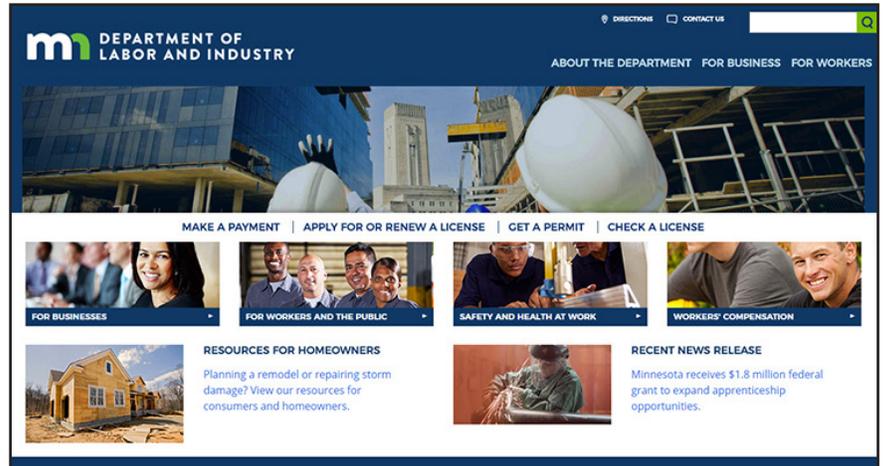
More information about the rule and federal OSHA's proposed changes is online at www.osha.gov/berylliumrule.



Department of Labor and Industry unveils new website

The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) has developed and built a new website that is citizen focused, mobile friendly and consistently formatted.

The design and layout of the new site was based on the types of users who visit DLI's website most frequently and was customized to ensure search engines can find the content much more easily. The goal of this website rebuild was to help the agency's visitors quickly find what they seek and successfully complete a transaction.



Take www.dli.mn.gov for a spin and let us know what you think.

MNOSHA attends Northern Regional Safety Day in Duluth, Minnesota



Above left, Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance staff members (l to r): Jeff Isakson, Jenny Jensen, Kevin Sundet, Dave Fossum, Natalie Stone, Jim Krueger, Shaunae Alex and Dustin Wilman. Above right: MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation staff members (l to r): Adam Gulsvig and Ken Hickey.

Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance and MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation took part in Northern Regional Safety Day, Sept. 25, at Spirit Mountain in Duluth, Minnesota. The annual full-day conference features vendors, morning and luncheon keynote speakers, and concurrent sessions. Jeff Isakson, MNOSHA Compliance supervisor, provided a MNOSHA update to attendees during a morning presentation. The conference is sponsored by the Minnesota Safety Council and the Northern Area Safety and Health Network.

Minnesota's newest **MNSHARP** Construction worksites



FINDORFF CONSTRUCTION – HARVARD STREET PROJECT, MINNEAPOLIS

Minnesota Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (MNSHARP) Construction is a Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MNOSHA) program that recognizes major-construction companies where managers and employees work together to develop safety and health programs that go beyond basic compliance with all applicable OSHA standards and result in immediate and long-term prevention of job-related injuries and illnesses. Only construction projects at least 18 months in duration are eligible for participation in MNSHARP Construction.

MNSHARP Construction began in Minnesota in 2007. There are currently nine approved MNSHARP Construction worksites. Learn more about MNSHARP Construction online at www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-wsc-minnesota-safety-and-health-achievement-recognition.



KNUTSON CONSTRUCTION – MERCY HOSPITAL EXPANSION, COON RAPIDS, MINNESOTA

Minnesota's newest **MNSHARP** worksite



Daybreak Foods – Long Prairie, Minnesota

The Minnesota Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (MNSHARP) recognizes companies whose managers and employees work together to develop safety and health programs that go beyond basic compliance with all applicable OSHA standards and result in immediate and long-term prevention of job-related injuries and illnesses. Learn more about MNSHARP at www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-wsc-minnesota-safety-and-health-achievement-0.

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- apprenticeship
- building officials
- labor standards
- prevailing wage
- permit technicians
- rulemaking
- workers' compensation
- and more

LABOR AND INDUSTRY



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A focus on the nursing home industry

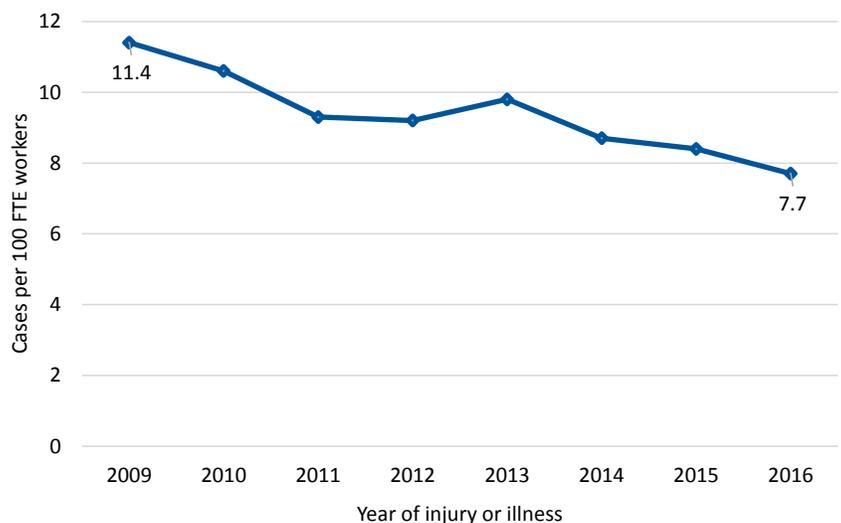
By Brian Zaidman, Research and Statistics

The nursing home industry perennially has one of the highest injury and illness rates of Minnesota’s industries. For privately owned nursing homes, the 2016 OSHA-recordable total case rate was estimated at 7.7 injury and illness cases per 100 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers. In comparison, the 2016 rate for all privately owned establishments in all industries was 3.3 cases per 100 FTE workers. In 2016, there was an annual average of 43,500 workers at privately owned nursing homes, with an estimated 2,200 OSHA-recordable injury and illness cases. (In 2016, privately owned nursing homes accounted for 93 percent of all nursing home employment and for 91 percent of all the injuries and illnesses in all nursing care facilities, both private and nonprivate.)

Figure 1 shows the trend in rates for privately owned nursing homes, beginning in 2009, when Minnesota first began to collect data for NAICS 6321, nursing care facilities. The total case rate decreased from an estimated 11.4 cases per 100 FTE workers in 2009 to 7.7 cases per 100 FTE workers in 2016, a statistically significant difference. This 33 percent decrease in rates was matched by a 39 percent drop in the estimated number of cases. Also contributing to the decrease in cases was a 9 percent decrease in employment.

Additional information is available about cases with one or more days away from work (DAFW), which accounted for an estimated 720 cases among workers at privately owned nursing homes in 2016. Although the rate for DAFW cases decreased by 29 percent, the rates for certain common injuries and their causes did not decrease from their 2009 levels and they remain much higher than the rates for all private-ownership industries. For 2016, the overall rate of DAFW cases at privately owned nursing homes was 250 per 10,000 FTE workers, compared with an estimated rate of 93 cases per 10,000 FTE workers among all workers at privately owned businesses.

Figure 1. Estimated rate of OSHA-recordable cases at privately owned nursing homes, Minnesota



- In 2016, DAFW cases with musculoskeletal disorders occurred at an estimated rate of 146 per 10,000 FTE workers at privately owned nursing homes, compared to an estimated rate of 35 cases per 10,000 FTE workers at all privately owned businesses.
- In 2016, DAFW cases involving a person other than the injured worker occurred at an estimated rate of 131 per 10,000 FTE workers at privately owned nursing homes, compared to an estimated rate of eight cases per 10,000 FTE workers at all privately owned businesses. For nursing homes, the other person was almost always a nursing home resident.
- In 2016, DAFW cases due to violence (whether intentional or not) occurred at an estimated rate of 25 per 10,000 FTE workers at privately owned nursing homes, compared to an estimated rate of three cases per 10,000 FTE workers at all privately owned businesses. Nearly all the violence cases in nursing homes involved a nursing home resident.

OSHA answers

frequently asked questions

As part of its continual effort to improve customer service and provide needed information to employers and employees, Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance answers the most frequently asked questions from the previous quarter.

Q. What is ACM and PACM?

A. ACM is an abbreviation for asbestos containing material, any material that contains more than 1 percent asbestos. PACM is an abbreviation for presumed asbestos containing material, a thermal system insulation or surfacing material that was installed in 1980 or earlier. The PACM designation can be rebutted if the material is tested as specified in 1926.1101(k)(5) and found to contain less than 1 percent asbestos.

Q. When is an asbestos survey required in the case of a building that is about to be demolished or undergo renovation?

A. According to Minnesota Rules 5207.0035, Demolition, restoration, remodeling asbestos survey: the survey needs to be completed before any work is to begin. Under the asbestos in construction standard, 1926.1101(k)(2), the building and facility owners must identify the presence, location and quantity of ACM or PACM before work begins.

Q. Who is responsible for conducting the survey, the building owner or the contractor?

A. Both, actually. Under the asbestos in construction standard, 1926.1101(k)(2), the building and facility owners must identify the presence, location and quantity of ACM or PACM. The owner then must notify the prospective contractors bidding on the project, the owner's own employees who work in the area, all other employers whose employees will be working in the area and the tenants who will occupy the area.

In addition, Minnesota Rules 5207.0035 requires that when contractors believe there may be asbestos present in the work area, an asbestos survey be conducted. The project controlling employer must have written evidence the survey was conducted by a qualified individual.



Do you have a question for Minnesota OSHA? To get an answer, call 651-284-5050 or send an email message to osha.compliance@state.mn.us. Your question may be featured here.

MNOSHA Compliance signs safety, health partnerships



Above: Bolander and Mortenson Construction – Minnehaha Academy Learning Facility Project in Minneapolis



Above right: Graham Construction Services, Inc. – Oxboro Library Restoration Project in Bloomington, Minnesota



Hunt Electric Corporation – University of Minnesota Solar Array System Project in Minneapolis

Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance recently signed four Level 3 Cooperative Compliance Partnerships with four companies working on three projects. Level 3 is the peak level of MNOSHA Compliance partnerships, with applicants striving to be an industry leader with very comprehensive safety and health programs.

All four partnerships were signed under the Construction Health and Safety Excellence (CHASE) Minnesota program with Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Minnesota.

Partnership agreements were signed with:

- **Graham Construction Services, Inc.**, for the Oxboro Library Restoration Project in Bloomington, Minnesota, scheduled for completion in April 2019;
- **Hunt Electric Corporation**, for the University of Minnesota Solar Array System Project in Minneapolis, scheduled for completion in December 2018; and
- **Bolander and Mortenson Construction**, for the Minnehaha Academy Learning Facility Project in Minneapolis, scheduled for completion Aug. 1, 2019.

Information about MNOSHA's Cooperative Compliance Partnerships is online at www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-partnership-programs.

Minnesota OSHA's calendar of events

October 2018

- Oct. 24** *Logger Training – Grand Rapids*
www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-wsc-logger-safety-education-site-training
- Oct. 25** *Logger Training – International Falls*
www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-wsc-logger-safety-education-site-training
- Oct. 30** *Logger Training – Virginia*
www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-wsc-logger-safety-education-site-training

November 2018

- Nov. 16** *Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Council*
www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/occupational-safety-and-health-advisory-council
- Nov. 20** *Construction Seminar: Ladder and Stair Requirements*
www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-construction-seminars
- Nov. 27** *Logger Training – Cloquet*
www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-wsc-logger-safety-education-site-training
- Nov. 29** *Logger Training – Bemidji*
www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-wsc-logger-safety-education-site-training

December 2018

- Dec. 6** *Logger Training – Cloquet*
www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-wsc-logger-safety-education-site-training
- Dec. 7** *Occupational Safety and Health Review Board*
www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/about-dli/events-minnesota-osh
- Dec. 13** *Logger Training – Grand Rapids*
www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-wsc-logger-safety-education-site-training

See more at www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/about-dli/events-minnesota-osh