

# Safety Lines

## 2017: Minnesota OSHA's year in review

### Compliance

Each year, Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance conducts a review of its projected performance as defined in its performance plan, which is generated prior to the start of the federal fiscal-year, Oct. 1.

In federal-fiscal-year 2017, MNOSHA Compliance:

- visited 1,858 establishments and identified 3,000 hazards;
- generated safety inspection results within 19 days on average;
- generated health inspection results within 25 days on average;
- conducted 101 outreach presentations with an average participation level of 36 people; and
- responded to approximately 4,477 phone calls and 2,039 written requests for assistance, primarily email messages, with a majority of these inquiries answered within one day.

Of 1,165 workplace safety and health complaints, 319 (26 percent) resulted in an on-site inspection, with an average of 3.4 days response time. The remaining complaints were handled via MNOSHA Compliance's phone and fax system (nonformal complaints).

MNOSHA Compliance continues to provide a variety of safety and health information online at [www.dli.mn.gov/MnOsha.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/MnOsha.asp), including printable handouts, information about its audio visual lending library and links to outside resources where safety and health regulations and other information can be accessed.

More information about MNOSHA Compliance's performance is included in its annual report, which will be posted during the second half of the calendar year at [www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Reports.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Reports.asp).

### Workplace Safety Consultation

Each year, Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Workplace Safety Consultation (WSC) conducts a review of projected performance, as defined in annual performance plans, and summarizes accomplishments in its annual project report.

#### Consultation, training, technical assistance (private and public sector)

In federal-fiscal-year 2017, MNOSHA WSC:

- completed 1,108 overall visits, including 855 initial (on-site consultation) visits, 152 formal training visits and 101 follow-up visits;
- helped employers identify more than 5,400 safety and health hazards through its initial visits;
- completed 348 interventions – activities in addition to visits – including formal presentations, technical assistance and outreach; and
- involved more than 15,900 participants in various outreach, technical assistance and training events about a wide range of general industry and construction safety and health topics, ergonomics and workplace violence prevention.

#### Alliances and other collaborative efforts

WSC and its allies work together to reach out to, educate and lead Minnesota employers and their employees in improving and advancing workplace safety and health. In federal-fiscal-year 2017, WSC established five new alliances and renewed five existing alliances.

WSC works with professional and networking groups to promote, educate and lead discussions toward resolving matters of workplace safety. WSC also works with various labor and industry organizations to promote, train and provide support for workplace safety and health efforts.

WSC 2017, continues ...

## Workplace Safety Consultation

### Recognition programs

WSC's safety and health excellence programs, the Minnesota Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (MNSHARP) and Minnesota STAR (MNSTAR) Program, have remained active for both general industry and construction. Each program provides incentives and recognition to worksites where employers 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. More information about the programs is available online at [www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc.asp).

MNSHARP: certified two establishments; recertified nine establishments; and granted Pre-SHARP status to two establishments. Currently, 37 general industry worksites maintain MNSHARP certification.

MNSHARP Construction, where construction projects at least 18 months in duration are eligible for participation: certified three worksites; recertified one worksite; and granted Pre-SHARP status to six worksites. Currently, six worksites maintain MNSHARP Construction certification.

MNSTAR Program: certified one establishment; recertified 11 establishments; and granted Merit status to one worksite. Currently, 37 establishments maintain MNSTAR Program status.



### Safety Grant Program

The MNOSHA WSC Safety Grant Program awards funds up to \$10,000 for qualifying employers for projects designed to reduce the risk of injury and illness to their employees. During state-fiscal-year 2017 (July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017), the program awarded \$1,021,436 to 155 applicants representing construction, health care, logging, manufacturing, public sector and service employers.

Grant awards reimbursed applicants for the purchase of safety and health equipment, including:

- fall protection;
- trenching/excavation cave-in protection and prevention;
- safe patient-handling equipment;
- tools and equipment for silica dust exposure control;
- material-handling equipment and other tools to minimize exposure to ergonomic risk factors;
- security equipment;
- ventilation systems;
- mechanized logging equipment;
- machine guarding;
- personal protective equipment (PPE);
- permit-required confined space entry equipment;
- and road construction zone safety equipment.

More information about the program is available online at [www.dli.mn.gov/WSC/Grants.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/WSC/Grants.asp).

# RECALLS: Kidde fire extinguishers, Genie aerial work platforms

## Kidde fire extinguishers

Kidde, a subsidiary of United Technologies, is recalling an estimated 37.8 million fire extinguishers. The recall covers 134 models manufactured between Jan. 1, 1973, and Aug. 15, 2017. The fire extinguishers can become clogged or require excessive force to discharge and can fail to activate during a fire emergency. In addition, the nozzle can detach with enough force to pose an impact hazard. There has been at least one fatality connected with these extinguishers.

Affected models: have straight plastic handles; are red, white or silver; and are rated either ABC or BC. Kidde Pindicator extinguishers manufactured between Aug. 11, 1995, and Sept. 22, 2017, are also included in the recall. These plastic push-button extinguishers are red or white with red or black handles.

Kidde has created a short video (online at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5Xmh1VmZHo&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5Xmh1VmZHo&feature=youtu.be)) explaining which extinguishers are included in the recall and how to request a free replacement.

For more information, consumers may contact Kidde, at 1-855-271-0773 or <https://inmarmarketaction.com/kidde>, or contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission, at 1-800-638-2772 or [www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Kidde-Recalls-Fire-Extinguishers-with-Plastic%20Handles-Due-to-Failure-to-Discharge-and-Nozzle-Detachment-One-Death-Reported](http://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Kidde-Recalls-Fire-Extinguishers-with-Plastic%20Handles-Due-to-Failure-to-Discharge-and-Nozzle-Detachment-One-Death-Reported).



## Genie aerial work platforms

Terex Corporation's Genie brand has issued another mandatory safety notice, this one involving its S-100/S-105, S-120/S125 and S-100HD aerial work platforms. The serial number labels on some of the lifts were printed with incorrect "Machine Unladen Weight" value, which is significantly lower than the actual machine weight. If the incorrect weight is used, it could result in the use of the lift on a surface that cannot support the weight of the machine.

To determine whether a lift is covered by this or any other safety notice, visit [www.genielift.com/en/support/safety](http://www.genielift.com/en/support/safety) and enter the serial number.

For more information about the recall or to order a replacement serial number label, call Terex at 1-800-536-1800.



## Minnesota workplace injury rate stays at all-time low level

Minnesota's estimated workplace injury and illness rate for 2016 is at its lowest rate since the measurement started in 1973. According to the annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, the state had an estimated 3.4 OSHA-recordable nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time-equivalent (FTE) workers in 2016. The estimated rate for 2015 was 3.5 cases per 100 FTE workers.

The survey estimated Minnesota had 73,600 workers with OSHA-recordable nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses in 2016, compared to 75,000 estimated cases for 2015.

Minnesota's employment covered by the survey increased from 2.67 million in 2015 to 2.72 million in 2016.

"In the past decade, Minnesota has seen a 33 percent decrease in its rate of work-related injuries and illnesses," said Ken Peterson, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) commissioner. "That's a lot less hurt – physically, emotionally and financially – for Minnesota's workers. Still, there is much to be done to ensure more Minnesotans go home safe and healthy each night."

For the survey, DLI collects injury and illness records from randomly sampled Minnesota employers in the private and public sectors (excluding federal agencies). Approximately 4,800 employers participated in the 2016 survey. State agencies and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) compile the nationwide survey data, which is the primary source of workplace injury and illness statistics at the state and national levels.

Nationally, an estimated 3,534,600 nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses were reported in private- and public-sector workplaces for 2016, resulting in a rate of 3.2 cases per 100 FTE workers.

### Other results from the Minnesota survey

The industry divisions with the highest total injury and illness rates were: construction (5.0 cases per 100 FTE workers); local government (4.8); and health care and social assistance (4.7).

An estimated 21,200 worker injuries, 1.0 cases per 100 FTE workers, had one or more days away from work after the day of injury. This rate was unchanged from 2015. Additional statistics are available about the characteristics of the cases with days away from work.

- The median number of days of work disability for workers with one or more days away from work was five days. In comparison, the median number of days away from work was six days in 2015 and seven days in 2014.
- Sprains and strains accounted for 38 percent of the injuries for workers with days away from work. The second-highest category was soreness and pain, accounting for 17 percent of the cases.
- The back was the most commonly injured body part (19 percent), followed by hands (14 percent) and knees (10 percent).
- The most common injury events were being struck by objects or equipment and falls on the same level, each with 15 percent of the cases, followed by overexertion while lifting or lowering, with 11 percent.

Minnesota data tables are available on the DLI website at [www.dli.mn.gov/RS/StatWSH.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/RS/StatWSH.asp). National data tables are on the BLS website at [www.bls.gov/iif/oshsum.htm](http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshsum.htm) and [www.bls.gov/iif/oshcdnew.htm](http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcdnew.htm).

## Minnesota OSHA’s most frequently cited standards for all industries, federal-fiscal-year 2017

Standard	Description	Frequency
1910.1200	Hazard communication	322
1910.212	Machinery and machine guarding – general requirements	198
1910.147	The control of hazardous energy (lockout/tagout)	162
1926.501	Fall protection in construction	142
1910.134	Respiratory protection	139
Minnesota Statutes 182.653, subd. 8	A Workplace Accident and Injury Reduction (AWAIR) program	135
1910.178	Powered industrial trucks	120
1910.305	Electrical wiring methods, components and equipment in general industry	82
Minnesota Rules 5205.0116	Carbon monoxide monitoring	77
Minnesota Rules 5206.0700	Employee right-to-know training	77

October 2017

**See all Minnesota OSHA fact sheets online at**  
[www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/FactSheets.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/FactSheets.asp).

## Minnesota's newest **MNSTAR** worksite



Cintas Corporation, Location 432  
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

Cintas Corporation, Location 431, was recognized recently by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry for its achievement as a Minnesota Star (MNSTAR) worksite at its Brooklyn Park location.

MNSTAR is a Minnesota OSHA program that recognizes worksites where managers and employees work together to develop safety and health management systems that go beyond basic compliance with all applicable OSHA standards and result in immediate and long-term prevention of job-related injuries and illnesses. Key elements of this comprehensive program include: management leadership and employee involvement; an allocation of resources to address safety issues; systems that identify and control workplace hazards; and a plan for employee safety training and education.

Cintas leads the industry in supplying corporate identity uniform programs and providing: entrance and logo mats; restroom supplies; promotional products; first aid, safety and fire protection products and services; and industrial carpet and tile cleaning. It operates more than 400 facilities in North America, including six manufacturing plants and eight distribution centers.

Learn more at [www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/Mnstar.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/Mnstar.asp).

## Minnesota's newest **MNSHARP** Construction worksites



**Mortenson Construction – University of Minnesota Athletes Village Project  
Minneapolis**

The Department of Labor and Industry recently recognized two companies – Meyer Contracting for its Nicollet Mall Project in Minneapolis and Mortenson Construction for its University of Minnesota Athletes Village Project in Minneapolis – as Minnesota Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (MNSHARP) Construction worksites.



**Meyer Contracting – Nicollet Mall Project  
Minneapolis**

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.

Learn more at [www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/MnsharpConstruction.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/MnsharpConstruction.asp).

# New data being collected for occupational injuries and illnesses

By Brian Zaidman, Research and Statistics

This month, the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is sending 5,000 Minnesota employers response packets through mail or email for the 2017 Survey of Occupational Injuries and illnesses (SOII). In Minnesota, the SOII is conducted jointly by BLS and the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI). The employers participating in the 2017 survey were notified in December 2016 that their OSHA log data for 2017 would be collected to calculate the incidence rates and case characteristics for the state and – together with employers across the country – for the nation. Employers' prompt and accurate response to the survey will minimize costs and maximize the value of this vital workplace safety tool.

The SOII is a completely separate program from the OSHA Electronic Submission of Injury and Illness Records program. While Minnesota employers are not yet required to participate in the OSHA electronic records program, Minnesota employers who are notified by BLS are required to submit a SOII response. The DLI survey team that collects Minnesota SOII responses is part of the Research and Statistics unit and is barred by federal law from sharing the survey responses with OSHA.

Notification letters and email messages were sent in December to about 5,000 employers, explaining they have been selected to participate in the survey for 2018. The letter explains they need to keep an OSHA log for 2018, if they are not already required to keep one, and to report their results in 2019.

It is very important that employers that receive their 2017 survey notification begin to respond to the survey after they have completed their OSHA log summary (OSHA form 300A). Cases involving workers injured in 2017 who are still away from work or on work restrictions will need to have estimates entered for the respective durations.

Completing the survey takes little time if the OSHA recordkeeping requirements have been followed. To learn more about how to complete the OSHA log or the log summary sheet, review Recordkeeping 101 and 201 at [www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Recordkeeping.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Recordkeeping.asp). More information about the survey is available online at [www.dli.mn.gov/RS/SoiiIntro.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/RS/SoiiIntro.asp).

The DLI survey team can answer questions about OSHA recordkeeping, the SOII and how to report the OSHA log information. The team can be reached at (651) 284-5428. Questions about submitting the survey online should be emailed to BLS at [icd.helpdesk@bls.gov](mailto:icd.helpdesk@bls.gov).



## Pay extra attention to threat of carbon monoxide during the winter



Employees can be exposed to carbon monoxide (CO) year-round, but employers should pay extra attention during fall and winter months. Doors and windows that may have been opened during the summer are most likely shut tight now to keep in heat. Gas- or oil-fired furnaces and heaters, both at work and in the home, can pose a hazard if they are not firing or vented properly, leading to a build-up of CO in the air. However, more common sources of CO in the workplace are gasoline- and propane-powered forklifts.

One out-of-tune forklift can elevate airborne CO levels significantly, exposing employees to potentially hazardous levels. This is the reason Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance requires quarterly employee-exposure monitoring for CO whenever internal combustion engine powered industrial trucks (such as forklifts) are used in the general industry workplace. Specifically, Minnesota Rules 5205.0116 requires that employers using this equipment perform quarterly full-shift employee-

exposure monitoring to assure employees are not exposed to CO above the permissible exposure limit (PEL) of 35 parts per million (ppm) as an eight-hour time-weighted average or the ceiling limit of 200 ppm over five minutes.

Construction employers must do similar monitoring whenever operating internal combustion powered equipment or using unvented space heaters indoors, under Minnesota Rules 5207.0310. The PEL for construction is an eight-hour time-weighted average of 50 ppm.

For more information, see the MNOSHA carbon monoxide monitoring web page and fact sheet at [www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/CoMonitoring.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/CoMonitoring.asp).

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## Department of Labor and Industry sets five-year goals, strategies

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) conducted a review of its priorities and operations to prepare a strategic plan to guide it in carrying out its mission during the next five years. This strategic plan does not describe all of the agency's functions. Instead, it identifies areas where DLI staff members and stakeholders believe focus and innovation can improve the services provided by the agency.

Mindful of the need to use its resources wisely, DLI staff members first identified the core objective of each of its work units, requiring an answer to the basic question "Why is DLI's work important to the citizens of the state of Minnesota?" It then identified specific, targeted strategies to carry out each of the objectives. Finally, outcome measurements were established to determine whether DLI is successful in the strategies and initiatives it undertakes.

As part of its strategic planning process, DLI staff members took a close look at the work it performs and considered how to measure the results of its efforts. In addition, areas were identified where DLI didn't currently collect the data necessary to measure success. In those situations, DLI will identify and monitor available information so appropriate baselines can be established.



The goal of the strategic plan is to help DLI continue to improve the services it provides. It is available on the DLI website at [www.dli.mn.gov/PDF/strategic\\_plan\\_18\\_22.pdf](http://www.dli.mn.gov/PDF/strategic_plan_18_22.pdf).

## State's fatal work-injuries increased in 2016

A total of 92 fatal work-injuries were recorded in Minnesota in 2016, an increase from the 74 fatal work-injuries in 2015 and 62 fatal work-injuries in 2014. This is the highest total number of fatal work-related injuries since 1996.

The 2016 total is 32 percent above the average of 67 cases a year for 2011 through 2015. Minnesota's 2016 fatal injury rate is 3.4 fatalities per 100,000 full-time-equivalent workers; the 2015 rate was 2.7 fatalities per 100,000 full-time-equivalent workers. These and other workplace fatality statistics come from the annual Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.



Nationally, there were 5,190 fatally injured workers in 2016, a 7 percent increase from the 2015 count of 4,836 workers. This is the highest total number of fatal work-related injuries nationally since 2008. The 2016 national rate is 3.6 fatalities per 100,000 full-time-equivalent workers, an increase from 3.4 in 2015.

The CFOI also provided the following statistics for Minnesota's workplace fatalities during 2016.

### Industries

- Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting recorded the highest number of worker fatalities, with 23 cases, the same number as in 2015. The fatal injury rate in this industry sector is 24.7 fatalities per 100,000 full-time-equivalent workers.
- Construction had the second-highest number of fatalities, with 15 cases, compared to nine cases in 2015. The fatal-injury rate in this industry sector is 9.0 fatalities per 100,000 full-time-equivalent workers.
- Transportation and warehousing saw an increase from six fatalities in 2015 to 11 in 2016.

### Types of incidents

- Transportation incidents accounted for 46 fatalities, the most for any incident type, up from 31 transportation-related incidents in 2015 and 24 in 2014. Transportation incidents were spread across many types of industries. Ten of these fatal transportation events occurred in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry sector, seven in construction and four in the truck transportation industry. Thirteen transportation events in 2016 involved freight hauling and utility trucks.
- Exposure to harmful substances or environments was the second most-frequent fatal work-related injury event in 2016, with 12 fatalities. In six of these cases, the worker was exposed to chemicals or chemical products, four of which involved drugs (nonmedical) and medicines. There were three fatalities caused by exposure to harmful substances or environments in 2015.
- Eleven work-related fatalities in 2016 were due to falls, down from 13 fatalities due to falls in 2015.
- There were 10 fatalities resulting from violence or intentional injury by persons or animals in 2016, compared to seven such fatalities in 2015 and eight fatalities in 2014. There were six work-related suicides in 2016, compared to three such incidents in 2015.

## Worker characteristics

- Men accounted for 84 of the 92 fatally injured workers in 2016. There were eight fatally injured female workers, down from 14 in 2015, the highest annual CFOI count in Minnesota since the inception of the program in 1992.
- Workers age 55 and older accounted for 48 fatalities, with 15 of these fatalities in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry sector. Of the 20 fatal incidents that occurred at a farm location, 11 of these involved workers older than 55.
- Fatal work-related injuries among wage and salary workers increased from 37 in 2015 to 58 in 2016; self-employed workers accounted for 34 fatalities in 2016, the same as in 2015. Self-employed workers accounted for 21 of the 23 fatalities in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry.

## Minnesota OSHA Compliance fatality investigations

Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance workplace fatality investigation statistics differ from CFOI. MNOSHA Compliance investigates all employee deaths under its jurisdiction that result from an accident or illness caused by or related to a workplace hazard. In 2016, MNOSHA investigated 16 workplace fatalities. The CFOI numbers include Minnesota workplace fatalities caused by traffic accidents, airplane crashes, mining accidents, farm accidents and accidents to self-employed workers, federal workers and railroad workers, none of which are covered by MNOSHA Compliance enforcement.

## CFOI program

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), part of the Bureau of Labor Statistics' occupational safety and health statistics program, provides the most complete count of fatal work-injuries available. Workplace fatalities due to illnesses are not included.

The program uses diverse data sources to identify, verify and profile fatal work-injuries. Information about each workplace fatality (occupation and other worker characteristics, equipment being used and circumstances of the event) is obtained by cross-referencing source documents, such as death certificates, workers' compensation records and reports to federal and state agencies. This method assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible. The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry collects the information about Minnesota's workplace fatalities for the CFOI.

Minnesota 2016 CFOI tables are available at [www.dli.mn.gov/RS/StatFatal.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/RS/StatFatal.asp). National data from the CFOI program is available at [www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm](http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm).

### Updated flyer online: How do teen workers get injured?

The Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Statistics unit has updated its one-page handout about teen worker injuries to include injuries from 2014 through 2016. The flyer is available online at [www.dli.mn.gov/RS/ClaimCharac.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/RS/ClaimCharac.asp).

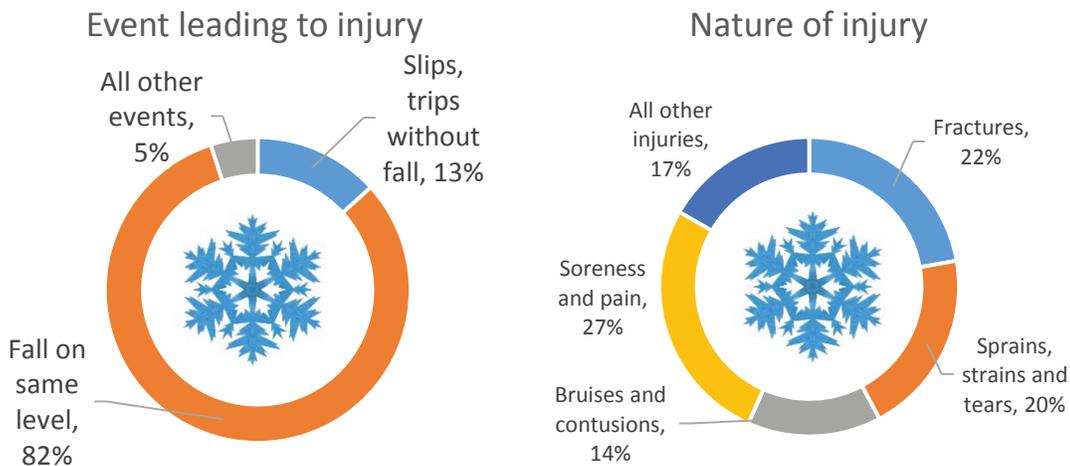


## Older workers more likely to fall prey to wintry walkways

*By Brian Zaidman, Research and Statistics*

Minnesota’s wintry weather affects many aspects of our lives during half the year (or longer if you live “up north”), among them is worker safety. During 2015 and 2016, ice, sleet and snow were involved in the incidents leading to 4 percent of the cases involving at least one day away from work, about 900 cases each year. These injuries are caused by slippery surfaces, resulting in worker slips and falls (see Figure 1). Many of the falls result in fractures.

**Figure 1. Selected characteristics of injuries due to ice, sleet or snow leading to one or more days away from work, Minnesota, 2016**

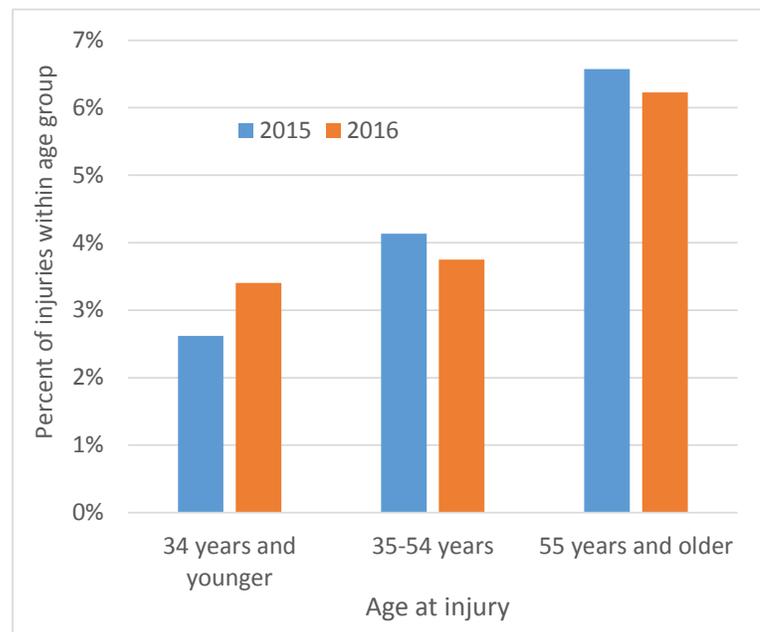


Not surprisingly, older workers are more susceptible to these wintry conditions than are younger workers. While workers age 55 years and older accounted for 25 percent of all 2016 cases with one or more days away from work, they incurred 37 percent of the injuries involving ice, sleet or snow.

Figure 2 shows that injuries involving ice, sleet or snow accounted for an increasing percentage of the injuries as worker age increased.

Our aging workforce means that even more care needs to be taken to keep walking surfaces free from ice.

**Figure 2. Percentage of days-away-from-work cases due to ice, sleet or snow within age groups, Minnesota, 2016**



## MINNESOTA OSHA's ANNUAL ALL-STAFF MEETING



Minnesota OSHA gathered for its annual all-staff meeting Thursday, Oct. 26. Meeting topics included staff introductions, a rulemaking update, fatality and serious-injury trends, work unit updates, litigated cases and interviewing, construction site entry protocols and more. Above: Department of Labor and Industry's Workplace Safety Manager Jim Krueger introduces Commissioner Ken Peterson.

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### Nominate a colleague for the Arthur E. McCauley Jr. Award

Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) is seeking nominations for the 2017 Arthur E. McCauley Jr. Award. The award is presented annually to a safety and health professional who embodies excellence and dedication in keeping Minnesota employees safe at work. It is named for McCauley, a former member of the Minnesota Safety Council known for his tireless efforts to make the state's workplaces safe. The award is presented at the Minnesota Safety Council's annual safety conference each May.

To nominate a colleague (active or retired), complete the nomination form online at [www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/MccauleyAward.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/MccauleyAward.asp).

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### MNOSHA fatality, serious-injury investigations summaries online

Each month, Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance publishes current, updated summaries of its fatality investigations and serious-injury investigations.

For the federal-fiscal-year that began Oct. 1, 2017, MNOSHA Compliance has investigated 14 workplace fatalities and 13 serious injuries through Dec. 28.

The information provided about each investigation is: the inspection number, date of incident and worksite city; the type of business and number of employees; a description of the event; and the outcome of the MNOSHA Compliance investigation.

The summaries, plus other helpful workplace safety and health information from Minnesota OSHA, are available online at [www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Information.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Information.asp).

# 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 are some of the resources available for complying with the new silica standards?

**A.** Federal OSHA has developed two Small Entity Compliance Guides that explain the standard paragraph by paragraph:

- for general industry – [www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3911.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3911.pdf); and
- for construction – [www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3902.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3902.pdf).

OSHA also published a series of fact sheets featuring control measures to be used to accomplish specific construction tasks. Similar information can be found in the booklet *Controlling Silica Exposures in Construction* (OSHA 3362). All of these documents are online at [www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.athruz?pType=Industry&pID=192](http://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.athruz?pType=Industry&pID=192). Table 1 of the construction standard (1926.1153) also specifies 18 exposure control methods for various tasks.

The Center for Construction Research and Training has developed a template to help develop written exposure control plans, which is available on its “Work Safely with Silica” webpage at [www.silica-safe.org](http://www.silica-safe.org).

**Q.** Are there any requirements for sheltering outdoor workers in cold weather?

**A.** Minnesota Rules 5207.0800 requires that privies on construction sites be placed indoors, if possible. When it is not possible to place them indoors, they must be warmed to at least the minimum of heat that can be emitted from the installation of a 1,300-watt heater or its equivalent.

The Jobsite Shelter standard, Minn. Rules 5207.0810, requires that between Nov. 1 and March 15, construction workers be provided with a place to eat their lunches and change their clothes. The shelter must be heated to a minimum of 50°F when occupied.

There is no equivalent standard for outdoor workers in general industry, but indoor workrooms must be heated to at least 60°F where work of a strenuous nature occurs and at least 65°F in other workrooms, unless prohibited by the process (Minn. Rules 5205.0110).

**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](mailto:osha.compliance@state.mn.us). Your question may be featured here.**

## Notes from the undercount, part 13: 'Snapshot' view leads to discrepancies among numbers

By Brian Zaidman, Research and Statistics

Notes from the undercount is a series presenting results and ideas from the Department of Labor and Industry's efforts to understand and reduce the undercount of cases in the annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses. Minnesota's report about its undercount research, part of a broader U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics research program, is available online at [www.bls.gov/iif/mn\\_interviews.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/iif/mn_interviews.pdf).

There are many reasons why the number and types of cases captured in the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) underestimate the true incidence and severity of work-related injuries and illnesses. A recent article from the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries shows the extent that workplace injuries and illnesses with lost time starting in the next calendar year are missing from data collected in the SOII.<sup>1</sup>

Because the SOII is a snapshot, it captures the number of workplace injury and illness cases and their case severity based on the information available at the time the employers respond to the SOII. However, cases continually change, with some cases that are initially less severe requiring more aggressive treatment months after the injury. Work-related illnesses that develop only after long latencies are also missing from SOII estimates. While workers' compensation systems continually track claims, the SOII system is structured to provide a comprehensive look at one time period. Some of these cases are recorded on the log as cases without lost workdays, but the detailed information for these cases does not get reported in the SOII. This leads to discrepancies between workers' compensation and SOII estimates of injuries and illnesses. This issue was also discussed in relation to Michigan and Minnesota injuries by Oleinick and Zaidman in a 2004 article.<sup>2</sup>

The Washington State researchers looked at four events that might delay an OSHA log recordkeeper from marking a work-related injury or illness as a day-away-from-work case on a SOII response. The timing of the first medical visit, establishment of a workers' compensation claim, first day of work disability and first payment of wage-loss benefits all affect the likelihood that a workers' compensation lost-time claim will be reported in the SOII.

From 2003 through 2011, of the 29,894 workers' compensation indemnity claims filed by employers participating in the SOII for the same year, the researchers found that 62 percent were reported in the SOII. This percentage varied widely with the timing of the four events, from 72 percent among claims with all four events occurring during the survey year to 6 percent of claims with all four events occurring after the survey year. The likelihood that these events occur in the following year is much higher among workplace injuries that occur during the final few months of the year.

The researchers noted that while the OSHA log recordkeeping requirements instruct recordkeepers to update the log information, many recordkeepers fail to do so. They also found that one of five cases that required immediate hospitalization, and that should have been included on the OSHA log, were not reported in the SOII. So even though the timing of claims events is a structural reason for discrepancy in the count of injuries and illnesses, many problems remain for cases that have no valid reason to be left off the SOII.

<sup>1</sup>Wuellner, SE, Adams, DA, Bonauto, DK. 2017. Workers' compensation claims not reported in the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses: Injury and claim characteristics. *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*, 60: 264-275.

<sup>2</sup>Oleinick, A, Zaidman, B. 2004. Methodologic issues in the use of workers' compensation databases for the study of work injuries with days away from work. I. Sensitivity of case ascertainment. *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*, 45: 260-274.

## MNOSHA Compliance signs safety, health partnerships



**JE Dunn Construction and Bolander – Restoration Hardware; Edina, Minnesota**

Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance recently signed nine Level 3 Cooperative Compliance Partnerships with eight companies working on seven 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.

Information about MNOSHA's partnerships is online at [www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Partnerships.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Partnerships.asp).



**M.A. Mortenson and Parsons Electric – Hennepin County Medical Center, Phase 2; Minneapolis**



**Shingobee Builders, Inc. – Alamo Draft House Cinema Woodbury, Minnesota**



**Marcus Construction – West Central Steel Processing Facility; Willmar, Minnesota**



**Lyon Contracting, Inc. – Territorial Woods Apartments Maple Grove, Minnesota**



**Veit – CSAH 50 Lakeville, Minnesota**



**Marcus Construction – Magnum LTL Willmar, Minnesota**

# Minnesota OSHA's calendar of events

## January 2018

**Jan. 12** *Occupational Safety and Health Review Board*  
[www.dli.mn.gov/Oshrb.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/Oshrb.asp)

**Jan. 16** *Construction Seminar: Cranes and rigging*  
[www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/ConstructionSeminars.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/ConstructionSeminars.asp)

## February 2018

**Feb. 2** *Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Council*  
[www.dli.mn.gov/Oshac.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/Oshac.asp)

## March 2018

**March 2** *Occupational Safety and Health Review Board*  
[www.dli.mn.gov/Oshrb.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/Oshrb.asp)

**March 20** *Construction Seminar: The good, the bad and the ugly – Best practices in construction*  
[www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/ConstructionSeminars.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/ConstructionSeminars.asp)

## May 2018

**May 4** *Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Council*  
[www.dli.mn.gov/Oshac.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/Oshac.asp)

**May 15** *Construction Seminar: Asbestos in construction*  
[www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/ConstructionSeminars.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/ConstructionSeminars.asp)

## June 2018

**June 1** *Occupational Safety and Health Review Board*  
[www.dli.mn.gov/Oshrb.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/Oshrb.asp)

## August 2018

**Aug. 3** *Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Council*  
[www.dli.mn.gov/Oshac.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/Oshac.asp)

## January Construction Seminar focuses on cranes, rigging

Minnesota OSHA Compliance's free Construction Seminars feature a presentation about a specific construction safety or health topic – with time for questions, answers and input – plus an update from MNOSHA Compliance about what's currently happening regarding investigations.

The next seminar, **Cranes and rigging**, is Tuesday, Jan. 16. During this seminar, the crane standard, rigging and planning will be discussed.

Significant safety issues must be considered for the operators and workers in proximity to a crane. As new technology continues to be developed for these operations, extensive worksite planning, operator certification and employee training need to occur to ensure these complicated lifts are performed safely.

Speakers include representatives from Mortenson Construction, Sharrow Lifting Products and Minnesota OSHA Compliance.

Visit [www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/ConstructionSeminars.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/ConstructionSeminars.asp) for more.



See more at [www.dli.mn.gov/EventsOSHA.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/EventsOSHA.asp)