

### Signature Projects

#### Minnesota OSHA Compliance's Excavation Safety Stand-down

Excavation employers and employees participated in Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance's second Excavation Safety Stand-down, April 16-20, 2018, helping to raise awareness about preventing excavation accidents. During the one-week campaign, employers and employees were asked to pause their workday to talk about excavation safety and discuss ways to protect employees from hazards during excavation projects. The stand-down was part of MNOSHA's ongoing emphasis on excavation and trench safety to provide employers with lifesaving information and educational materials about how to plan ahead to prevent accidents and protect employees.



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#### National safety stand-down

Minnesota OSHA partnered with key national safety and health groups, and leading employers and employer organizations, for the voluntary National Safety Stand-down to Prevent Falls in Construction, May 7-11, 2018, to encourage employers to talk directly to their employees about fall hazards and to reinforce the importance of fall prevention. Participating construction companies stopped work for a safety stand-down meeting about a related safety topic – such as ladder safety, scaffold safety, or fall protection equipment – to provide information about hazards, protective methods, and the company's safety practices, policies, goals, and expectations.

## Emphasis Programs

In federal-fiscal-year 2018, MNOSHA Compliance conducted inspections under 17 local and national emphasis programs. MNOSHA Compliance's key areas of inspection emphasis continued to be workplaces with high injury and illness rates as determined by data obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Ninety-five percent of the 1,403 programmed inspections MNOSHA Compliance conducted were in these emphasis programs. Sixty-four percent of inspections conducted in these emphasis programs resulted in citations issued.

Minnesota OSHA Compliance has chosen to take a joint safety and health approach when conducting emphasis inspections for certain industries, including meatpacking, health care, foundry, and grain facilities. In addition, process safety management emphasis inspections are also assigned as joint safety and health inspections. To ensure MNOSHA Compliance provides consistent and effective enforcement under these emphasis programs, specialty groups were created, including both safety and health OSHIs, and the staff members were provided training specific to the industry.

## Enforcement

### Railroad rolling stock manufacturer

A railroad rolling stock manufacturer employee was seriously injured after receiving electrical burns when he came in contact with the energized parts of the pantograph of an electric tram. The employer was cited for not training employees about safety-related work practices, failure to de-energize live electrical parts, and not having a qualified person verify if the equipment was de-energized. MNOSHA Compliance issued a total of four serious citations, with more than \$20,000 in penalties. In addition, the host employer was cited for failure to de-energize live electrical parts and not having a qualified person verify if the equipment was de-energized. The host employer received two serious citations, with \$14,000 in penalties.

### Machine shop

A machine shop was cited after both hands of an employee were crushed between the top bolster plate and lower die of a part-revolution press. The employer was cited for deficient lockout/tagout procedures, not conducting periodic inspection of the lockout/tagout procedures at least annually, inadequate training to authorized employees, not providing point-of-operation guarding on the press, and not conducting periodic and regular inspections of the press. MNOSHA Compliance issued a total of five serious citations, with more than \$30,000 in penalties.

## Dairy barn teaching and research facility

An employee of a dairy barn teaching and research facility fell more than 50 feet down a silo chute ladder after losing consciousness from exposure to silo gas. The employee was seriously injured, including a sprained back, broken nose, concussion, and multiple lacerations to her face and arms. MNOSHA Compliance issued two serious citations, totaling more than \$10,000 in penalties, for not conducting atmospheric monitoring before an employee entered the silo and not providing hazard communication training for employees.

## Outreach

### Presentations

In federal-fiscal-year 2018, Minnesota OSHA Compliance conducted 87 presentations to 2,641 participants. Ninety-eight percent of outreach presentations were in emphasis industries, including construction – with a focus on excavation and confined spaces. Six outreach training sessions specific to the new silica standard were presented to more than 500 employer representatives.

### Excavation Safety Stand-down

In April 2018, MNOSHA Compliance sponsored its second Excavation Safety Stand-down. At least nine companies and 106 employees participated in the stand-down effort by requesting a certificate of participation via MNOSHA's website.

### Construction Seminars

MNOSHA Compliance conducted five Construction Seminars in federal-fiscal-year 2018, reaching 229 participants. The Construction Seminar series was developed to help members of the construction industry who are responsible for worksite safety to stay current with MNOSHA Compliance standards. The Construction Seminar series provides a forum for members of the construction trades and their employers to discuss issues and experiences with the speaker, their peers and MNOSHA Compliance investigators. Topics included fall protection; cranes and rigging; the good, the bad, and the ugly; asbestos in construction; and respiratory protection.



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## Safety conferences

Minnesota OSHA continued its strong working relationship with the Minnesota Safety Council. MNOSHA continues to participate in major safety conferences throughout the state, including staffing information booths at three separate exhibitions in federal-fiscal-year 2018. All three were well attended, with significant interest at the MNOSHA booth.

## Newsletter

MNOSHA continues to publish its quarterly newsletter, *Safety Lines*. Topics in the past year included MNOSHA's Mexican Consulate Alliance; walking and working surfaces; carbon monoxide; teen workers; grocery store injury trends; Safe + Sound Week; hazards in the grain industry; the Excavation Safety Stand-down; and much more.

## Partnerships

### Minnesota STAR (MNSTAR) Program

In federal-fiscal-year 2018, three new organizations achieved full MNSTAR Program status. In addition to the new participants, four employers received full recertification and an associated five-year exemption; one employer was placed into a one-year conditional status; and four participants voluntarily withdrew.

At the end of federal-fiscal-year 2018, there were 35 active MNSTAR Program employers, two are construction participants and the remainder are general industry participants.

General industry participants in the MNSTAR Program have a three-year (2014 through 2016) average rate that is 64 percent below the current U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics rate for total recordable cases and 71 percent below the current rate for “days away restricted transfer.” The MNSTAR Program construction participants, both of which are resident contractors at a MNSTAR Program participant’s site, are 83 percent below the current U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics rate for total recordable cases and 77 percent below the current rate for “days away restricted transfer.”



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## Partnerships with construction contractors

Minnesota OSHA Compliance's construction safety and health partnerships with the Minnesota Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors (MN ABC) and with Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Minnesota are designed to help reduce the number of injuries, illnesses, and fatalities at participating construction industry employers.

In both programs, the partnership is managed by the association and has three levels. Level 1 requires the employer to maintain the minimum requirements of a safety and health program. Level 2 requires a more comprehensive safety and health program. Level 3 is MNOSHA's Cooperative Compliance Partnership (CCP) program, whereby MNOSHA Compliance will provide compliance assistance for a specific project. To qualify, contractors must be at Level 2 for a minimum of one year and can then apply for participation in the CCP program for construction projects expected to last at least six months, but fewer than 18 months.

In federal-fiscal-year 2018, MNOSHA partnered with 12 different AGC and MN ABC contractors at 16 Level 3 construction sites.



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