

Safety Lines

Window washing work in Minnesota

The Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) window cleaning and building maintenance standard (Minnesota Rules 5205.0730) is designed to increase worker protection and provide clarity for contractors that perform interior or exterior window washing or building maintenance operations.

It applies to workers who are suspended more than 14 feet above grade. It does not apply to operations performed from grade level or from a ladder supported at grade level.

The window washing standard requires employers to develop a comprehensive written safety plan before any work begins. The plan must cover the location of work where the workers will use suspended equipment, hazards workers are exposed to, procedures to control these hazards and an evaluation of the written plan. The plan must also be reviewed with the workers doing the work and the building owner or manager.

The standard requires anchorages to be identified and certified by a qualified individual. The building owner or its representative has to provide written documentation of the identified and certified anchorages to the contractors. The standard also has worker safety requirements for: rope descent systems; fall protection; proper care, use and inspection of equipment; visual inspection of the building exteriors before work begins; and worker training and retraining that has to be documented.

MNOSHA continues to have a local emphasis inspection program for the window washing and building maintenance industry. An investigator may stop and conduct an inspection when they observe window washing activity. MNOSHA conducted 112 inspections during the past four years under the emphasis program; the standard has been cited 47 times since it took effect March 1, 2012. The average total penalty for each window washing inspection is approximately \$3,700.

More information

- See www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/PDF/window_washing_standard.pdf to view the complete standard.
- Contact MNOSHA Compliance by phone at (651) 284-5050 or by email at osha.compliance@state.mn.us.



2015 campaign for fall prevention in construction to span two weeks

Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA), along with federal OSHA, is promoting and participating in the 2015 "National Safety Stand-down to Prevent Falls in Construction," May 4 through 15.

MNOSHA is partnering with key national safety and health groups, leading employers and employer organizations for this voluntary "safety stand-down" event that encourages employers to talk directly to employees about fall hazards and to reinforce the importance of fall prevention.

Fatalities caused by falls from elevation continue to be a leading cause of death for construction workers.

Construction companies are asked to stop 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.

Although the safety stand-down begins next month, fall-prevention resources, posters and participation information from MNOSHA are available now at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Falls.asp.

Beginning May 4, companies can print an OSHA participation certificate from www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown and share a photo from their safety stand-down meeting on Twitter using [#standdown4safety](https://twitter.com/standdown4safety).

Standards update: recordkeeping; crane operator certification

By Shelly Techar, MNOSHA Management Analyst

Recordkeeping rule

Federal OSHA published a final rule in the Sept. 18 edition of the *Federal Register*, revising the requirements for 29 CFR Part 1904, Occupational Injury and Illness Recording and Reporting. The changes include revising requirements for reporting work-related fatality, injury and illness information to OSHA and updating the list of industry exemptions using new NAICS data. The final rule became effective at the federal level Jan. 1, but state-plan states have additional time to adopt provisions “at least as effective as” the federal final rule.



Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) adopted the final rule, with the exception of Part 1904.2, Partial Exemption for Establishments in Certain Industries and Non-Mandatory Appendix A to Subpart B – Partially Exempt industries, which is consistent with past requirements in Minnesota. Employers in Minnesota with more than 10 employees are required to keep an injury and illness log. The effective date of the adoption in Minnesota is Oct. 1, 2015.

For more information, visit federal OSHA’s website at www.osha.gov/recordkeeping or MNOSHA’s recordkeeping Web page at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Recordkeeping.asp.

Crane operator certification deadline

On Sept. 26, federal OSHA published a final rule in the *Federal Register* that extends by three years the Nov. 10, 2014, deadline for employers to ensure their crane operators are certified. The new effective date is Nov. 10, 2017. OSHA is also extending the employer’s duty to ensure crane operators are competent to operate a crane safely for the same three-year period.

The final rule was effective at the federal level Nov. 9; MNOSHA adopted this update March 16.

Workers safety, health promoted at new Vikings stadium site

The workers at the new Vikings stadium construction site in downtown Minneapolis have put in more than a million hours of labor and the site is nearly 50 percent complete. From the beginning of the construction activity, Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation (WSC) has conducted frequent safety and health worksite audits to ensure workers are safe.

WSC consultants conducted a March 18, 2015, walk-around site visit with representatives of safety professionals from the various on-site contractors. After the inspection, the group gathered to discuss any safety or health items that needed attention, clarification or follow-up.



The stadium, formally named the Minnesota Multi-Purpose Stadium, will host the Vikings and many other sporting and concert events after it opens in July 2015.

See photos at www.dli.mn.gov/video/vikings_march2015/index.html.

Reminder: Second GHS deadline is June 1

The next deadline for employers to ensure they have current safety data sheets (SDSs) and labels is June 1, 2015. Safety data sheets must use the format following the 2012 adoption of the revised Hazard Communication Standard (HAZCOM 2012). Employers that do not have current SDSs after that date will be expected to show they have made a reasonable effort to obtain them from the manufacturer or other source, or they could face enforcement actions.

Manufacturers and importers that ship materials after June 1 must ensure labels meet the new requirements; distributors have until Dec. 1. Containers already labeled in-house do not need to be relabeled. Labels that are being replaced or containers that had no label must have a current label by June 1.

Labels must contain the following information:

- product identifier;
- signal word (“Danger” or “Caution”);
- hazard statement(s);
- pictogram(s) (one or more of the eight);
- precautionary statement(s); and
- name, address and telephone number of the manufacturer, importer or other responsible party.

Instead of all the above, employers still have the option to create their own labels that provide the product identifiers and words, pictures or symbols that clarify the hazards of the chemical.

Not changed with HAZCOM 2012 is the allowance to use signs, batch tickets, placards, process sheets or operating procedures that identifies the containers and provides the necessary information to employees.

Federal OSHA has sample labels and SDSs on its website that can be shown during training, plus additional information about the revised standard, at www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom.



OSHA

SAMPLE LABEL

PRODUCT IDENTIFIER CODE _____ Product Name _____	HAZARD PICTOGRAMS 
SUPPLIER IDENTIFICATION Company Name _____ Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____ Country _____ Emergency Phone Number _____	SIGNAL WORD Danger
PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS Keep container tightly closed. Store in cool, well ventilated place that is locked. Keep away from heat/sparks/open flame. No smoking. Only use non-sparking tools. Use explosion-proof electrical equipment. Take precautionary measure against static discharge. Ground and bond container and receiving equipment. Do not breathe vapors. Wear Protective gloves. Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product. Wash hands thoroughly after handling. Dispose of in accordance with local, regional, national, international regulations as specified.	HAZARD STATEMENT Highly flammable liquid and vapor. May cause liver and kidney damage.
In Case of Fire: use dry chemical (BC) or Carbon dioxide (CO ₂) fire extinguisher to extinguish.	SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION Directions for use _____ Fill weight: _____ Lot Number _____ Gross weight: _____ Fill Date: _____ Expiration Date: _____
First Aid If exposed call Poison Center. If on skin (on hair): Take off immediately any contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water.	

Availability of finalized fatal occupational injury data for 2013

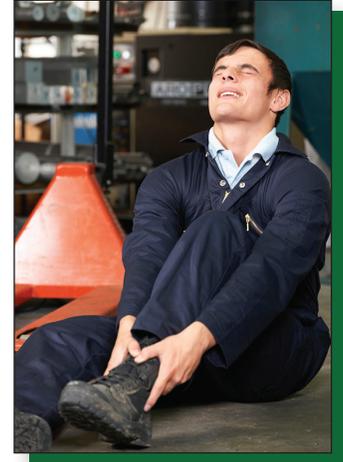
Revised and final state and national 2013 data will be released by the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) on Wednesday, April 22. The updated national release text and revised products containing the final numbers will be available on the Bureau of Labor Statistics website at www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm; updated Minnesota-specific data and injury rate information will be available at www.bls.gov/iif/oshstate.htm.

The Department of Labor and Industry’s CFOI statistics page, at www.dli.mn.gov/RS/StatFatal.asp, will also be updated.

Recordkeeping: introductory-level training offered July 15

The ability to maintain an accurate OSHA log of recordable work-related injuries and illnesses is an important skill that benefits employers, workers, safety professionals and government agencies. Recording the correct cases and accurately including the required information leads to higher quality injury and illness rates that enable employers to better understand their relation to the benchmark rates and help government agencies to properly direct resources.

Register now for an introductory-level training session about OSHA recordkeeping requirements on Wednesday, July 15, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Recordkeeping.asp. This free review will be at the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) in St. Paul, Minnesota. Topics will include a review of the fundamental requirements of OSHA recordkeeping and will expose the most common OSHA log errors. If you have questions, call the DLI Research and Statistics unit at (651) 284-5025.



Helpful recordkeeping series online

If you are already beyond the introductory level of recordkeeping but want to learn more, see the Recordkeeping 101 and Recordkeeping 201 series at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Recordkeeping.asp. These brief articles will take you from learning about classifying recorded injuries to knowing when to record injury recurrences and episodic illnesses.

MNOSHA out in full force at annual Minnesota Safety Council conference

Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance and MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation will be at the 81st Annual Minnesota Safety and Health Conference, May 5 through 7, in Minneapolis. The Minnesota Safety Council event, provides MNOSHA with a unique opportunity to interact with employers and employees in a relaxed, friendly environment.



Zaidman will present the results from their research, funded by the Bureau of Labor Statistic (BLS), about OSHA log recordkeeping practices and the effects on the development of injury and illness rates created from the annual BLS Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses.

Federal OSHA Administrator Dr. David Michaels and NIOSH Director Dr. John Howard will speak at a joint session on the first day of the conference. Howard will also speak about the NIOSH Total Worker Health™ program.

Complete information is online at www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org/conf/15index.cfm.

In the exhibitor hall, MNOSHA Compliance will be at booth 117 and MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation will be at booth 629.

Stop by with your questions or just to say hello.

MNOSHA sessions this year include:

- cranes and rigging;
- health care;
- Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS);
- inspections;
- ladder safety;
- the MNSTAR Program;
- temporary workers; and
- workplace violence prevention.

In addition, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry researchers Bill Boyer and Brian

An annotated guide to the safety and health statistics Web page

By Brian Zaidman, Research and Statistics

The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) makes a large set of occupational injury and illness tables and charts available on its website at www.dli.mn.gov/RS/StatWSH.asp. This edition of “SOII sauce” provides a guide to this resource for Minnesota employers, employees and safety professionals.

The information below follows the Web page layout with descriptions about each item.

Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses

1. About the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses – This is a link to the DLI website describing the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII, hence the name of this column). The page contains links to information about how the SOII is conducted, how to participate in the survey, how to keep accurate OSHA logs and how to find results from prior surveys.
2. Department’s news release about 2013 survey summary results – Every October, when the previous year’s occupational injury and illness rates are made public, DLI publishes a news release summarizing the SOII results.
3. All summary tables for Minnesota (shown in Excel for 2013 through 2003) – The SOII summary estimates are published in a set of 11 tables each year, made available when DLI’s news release is published.
4. Summary tables for the United States – This is a link to the BLS website page showing the national summary statistics tables (rates and case counts) by industry.
5. Summary charts for Minnesota, 2013 – The summary charts present 12 charts showing trends in injury and illness incidence rates and case counts for Minnesota and the U.S., and rates by industry, ownership and size.
6. Incidence rate trends – The incidence rate trends include three different pages. The incidence rates by case type shows the Minnesota trends from 2003 through 2013 and includes tables providing the rates for each case type. The second page compares the Minnesota and U.S. rate trends from 2003 through 2013 for private-sector establishments. The third page contains tables showing the incidence rates by case type from 1988 through 2013 for each industry sector.
7. Tables of characteristics for cases with one or more days away from work, private sector, Minnesota, 2013 – This is a set of 18 tables showing the worker and injury characteristics for cases with one or

The screenshot shows the Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry website. The header includes the DLI logo, a search bar, and navigation links for About DLI, Construction Codes and Licensing, OSHA, Wage and Hour, and Workers' Compensation. The main content area is titled "Research and Statistics -- Occupational safety and health statistics" and lists various resources under the heading "Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses". These resources include: "About the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses", "Department's news release about 2013 survey summary results", "All summary tables for Minnesota (description), in Excel" (with links for years 2013 through 2003), "Summary tables for the United States", "Summary charts for Minnesota, 2013", "Incidence rate trends" (with sub-links for injury and illness incidence rates, and comparisons with the U.S.), "Tables of characteristics for cases with one or more days away from work, private sector, Minnesota, 2013", "Tables of characteristics for cases with one or more days away from work, United States, 1994-2013", "Charts for cases with one or more days away from work, Minnesota, 2013", "Profile of case and demographic characteristics of cases with one or more days away from work, by ownership, 2011-2013", "Profile of case and demographic characteristics of cases with musculoskeletal disorders and one or more days away from work, all ownerships combined, 2011-2013", and "Minnesota Workplace Safety Report". There is also a section for "Other information resources" including "Occupational health and safety indicators for Minnesota, compiled by the Minnesota Department of Health" and "Fatal occupational injuries". The footer contains contact information for DLI, online services, and consumer and workers resources.

more days away from work, often tabulated by industry sector. Tables show either case counts, incidence rates or the percentage distribution of cases. Characteristics include worker gender, age and occupation, and injury characteristics are nature of injury, part of body injured, event or exposure and source of injury.

8. Tables of characteristics for cases with one or more days away from work, United States, 1994-2013 – This is a link to the BLS Web page providing access to thousands of tables and charts of worker and injury characteristics for cases with one or more days away from work for the U.S. The tables describing the characteristics for work-related injuries involving only days of job transfer or restriction are also available here.
9. Charts for cases with one or more days away from work, Minnesota, 2013 – This is a set of 15 charts showing selected distributions of the worker and injury characteristics for cases with one or more days away from work for 2013.
10. Profile of case and demographic characteristics of cases with one or more days away from work, by ownership, 2011-2013 – This is an Excel file showing the estimated number of Minnesota cases for worker and injury case characteristics for 2011, 2012 and 2013 for all ownerships and for each ownership type. These case estimates can be used to create a variety of tabulations and distribution charts. The characteristics shown are gender, age, occupation, job tenure, worker race or ethnicity, number of days away from work, event or exposure, nature of injury, part of body injured, source of injury, day of week of injury, time of day and number of hours worked.
11. Profile of case and demographic characteristics of cases with musculoskeletal disorders and one or more days away from work, all ownerships combined, 2011-2013 – This is an Excel file showing the estimated number of Minnesota cases for worker and injury case characteristics for 2011, 2012 and 2013 for all ownerships for cases described as musculoskeletal disorders. The same set of characteristics used in number 10 is used in this table.
12. Minnesota Workplace Safety Report – This is a link to the Minnesota Workplace Safety Report, which is published nearly annually, for injury years 2001 through 2012 (except for 2005).

Other information and resources

13. Occupational health and safety indicators for Minnesota, compiled by the Minnesota Department of Health – This is a link to the set of Minnesota occupational health and safety indicators compiled by the Center for Occupational Health and Safety at the Minnesota Department of Health. These 21 indicators were created through a joint effort of scientists and epidemiologists at the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. The occupational health and safety indicators include some of the SOII measures presented in the preceding items on this list, and other items include measures of hospitalizations, blood lead levels, pneumoconiosis and mesothelioma.
14. Fatal occupational injuries – This is a link to the set of tables and charts describing the number and characteristics of fatal occupational injuries in Minnesota, gathered through the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

Individuals looking for worker and injury characteristics for specific industries or for estimates not available through this website can access the BLS database to create profile tables by visiting <http://data.bls.gov/gqt/InitialPage> or can email DLI Research and Statistics at dli.research@state.mn.us.

Home-safety products recalled: disposable fire extinguishers, CO/smoke detectors

The Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) has issued recalls for two home-safety devices.

Kidde disposable fire extinguishers

Kidde has issued a recall for 31 fire extinguisher models with black plastic Zytel® valves. Some of these extinguishers have failed to fully discharge when the lever is repeatedly pressed and released.

The affected extinguishers are red, white or silver and are rated either ABC or BC. They were manufactured between July 23, 2013, and Oct. 15, 2014. Kidde will replace the extinguisher at no cost. Contact Kidde at 1-855-283-7991 (7 a.m. to 4 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday) or at www.kidde.com.



- Recall notice: www.cpsc.gov/en/Recalls/2015/Kidde-Recalls-Disposable-Plastic-Fire-Extinguishers

System Sensor combination carbon monoxide and smoke detectors

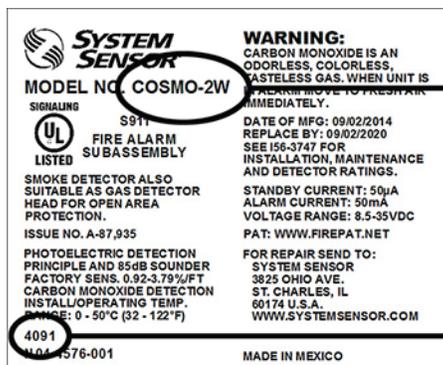
System Sensor has issued a recall for its i4 Series of combination carbon monoxide and smoke detectors. The detectors can fail to detect the presence of carbon monoxide.

The recall includes the models COSMO-2W and COSMO-4W manufactured Sept. 3 through 13, 2014. The devices will have date codes 4091 or 4092 on the packaging and were sold primarily through security equipment dealers.

System Sensor will replace the detector at no cost. Contact System Sensor at 1-800-736-7672 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday) or at www.systemsensor.com. Affected detectors should be kept in service until the replacements are installed.

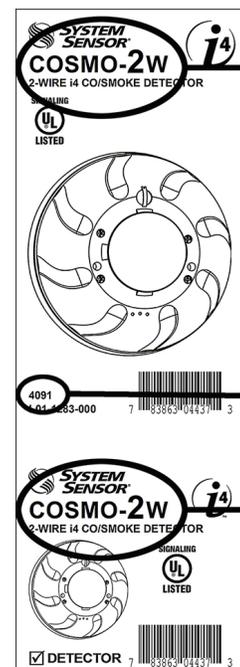


- Recall notice www.cpsc.gov/en/Recalls/2015/System-Sensor-Recalls-Combination-Carbon-Monoxide-and-Smoke-Detectors/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=Recalls+RSS#remedy



Model Number Location

4-Digit Date Code Location



Model Number Location

4-Digit Date Code Location

Model Number Location

Notes from the undercount, part two:

Characteristics of OSHA log recordkeepers participating in the SOII

By Brian Zaidman, Research and Statistics

This is part two of a series presenting results and ideas from the Department of Labor's and Industry's ongoing 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 is available online at www.bls.gov/ijf/mn_interviews.pdf.

The quality of the information collected in the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) depends on the recordkeeping skills of the OSHA log recordkeepers at the establishments participating in the annual survey. The OSHA log (OSHA Form 300) is not an intuitive form, there are instructions for each item that can be entered and OSHA publishes hundreds of pages of information about its recordkeeping requirements. OSHA log recordkeepers need to be comfortable with the requirements and know how to access the resources to meet their recordkeeping challenges.

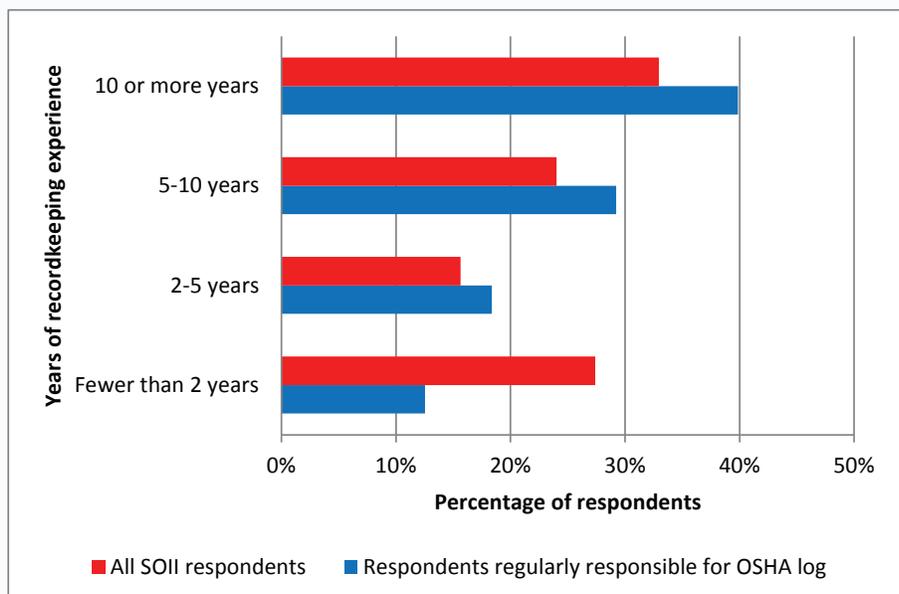


The survey of SOII participants (described in this column in the January 2015 edition of *Safety Lines*) collected information about the recordkeepers' experience and responsibilities as an OSHA log recordkeeper and about whether they received OSHA recordkeeping training. The responses have been weighted to represent all SOII respondents.

Recordkeeping experience

Figure 1 shows two distributions of SOII respondents by years of recordkeeping experience. All SOII respondents are shown in the top (red) bar, while the distribution for only those respondents who said they were responsible for regularly completing or assisting with the OSHA log is shown in the bottom (blue) bar. More than one fourth of all SOII respondents had fewer than two years of recordkeeping experience, but restricting the distribution to only respondents who also regularly completed an OSHA log, 13 percent had less than two years of experience. Among recordkeepers responsible for maintaining an OSHA log, 40 percent had at least 10 years of experience.

Figure 1. Distribution of SOII respondents by years of recordkeeping experience

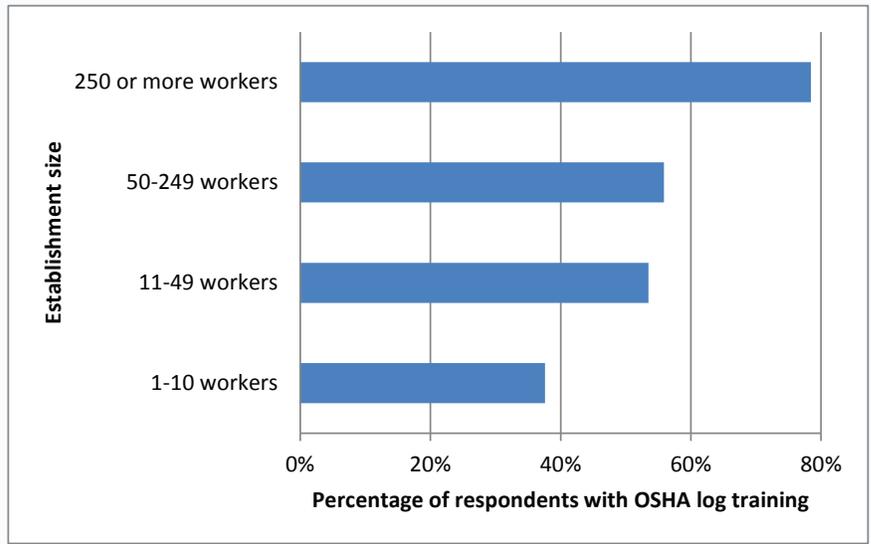


Larger establishments tended to have SOII respondents with more years of OSHA log recordkeeping experience. For establishments with fewer than 11 workers (among respondents responsible for the OSHA log), 25 percent of the respondents had fewer than two years of experience, and 28 percent had more than 10 years' experience; while 13 percent of respondents at establishments with more than 250 workers had had fewer than two years of experience, and 49 percent had more than 10 years' experience.

Recordkeeping training

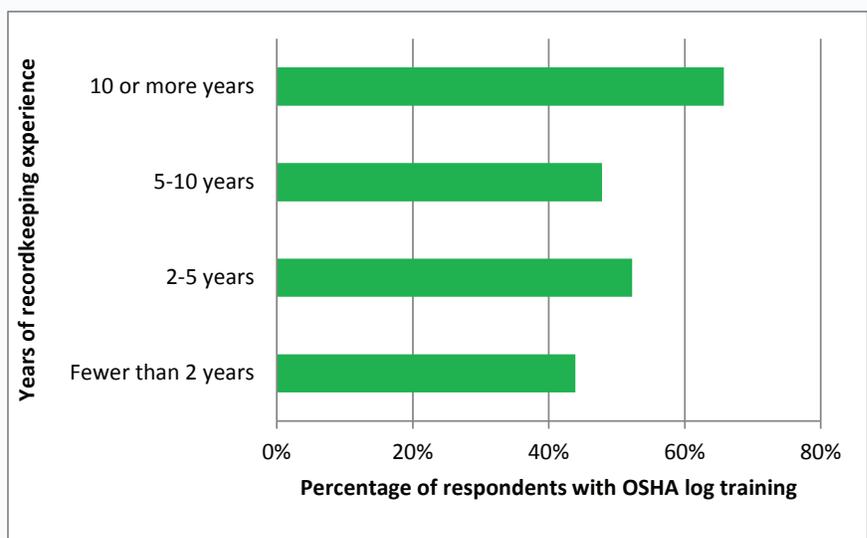
Only 56 percent of the respondents responsible for OSHA logs received formal recordkeeping training. Training was most often provided through OSHA or the Department of Labor and Industry or through a private company or consultant, including the Minnesota Safety Council. As shown in Figure 2, establishment size was a major determinant of whether the recordkeeper received training, with recordkeepers at larger establishments more likely to have received training.

Figure 2. Percentage of OSHA log recordkeepers with log training by establishment size



As expected, recordkeeping experience was also related to recordkeeping training (Figure 3). Among recordkeepers with less than two years of experience, 44 percent had received training; and this increased to 66 percent among recordkeepers with 10 years or more of experience. However, this means that even among individuals with more than 10 years of OSHA log recordkeeping responsibility, 35 percent were not trained, and among recordkeepers with 5 to 10 years of experience, 51 percent were not trained. Clearly, this training gap can have major implications for the quality of the injury and illness data that is collected through the SOII.

Figure 3. Percentage of OSHA log recordkeepers with training by years of experience



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. Can Minnesota OSHA Compliance investigators help us draft or create our required written programs or help with the design and implementation of engineering controls post-inspection?

A. Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance and MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation personnel are always available during regular business hours to answer questions, whether by phone, email or letter. We can provide you with various publications, such as our guides about the A Workplace Accident and Injury Reduction (AWAIR) program and about the Employee Right-to-know program, to aid you in creating your programs. We can also direct you to online information from federal OSHA, NIOSH or the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry. The investigator who conducted your inspection may want to review part or all of a written program if the creation or amendment of it is the result of a citation. However, MNOSHA staff members cannot write safety and health programs nor design engineering controls for employers.

Q. When is Minnesota adopting the changes to 1910.269 Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution?

A. The revised general industry (1910.269) and construction (1926 subpart V) standards were adopted and became effective in Minnesota on Sept. 29, 2014. Federal OSHA has delayed compliance for certain requirements. For more information, see the federal OSHA Safety and Health Topics page at www.osha.gov/dsg/power_generation.



Q. Why doesn't MNOSHA make an appointment to conduct an inspection in advance? Stopping by unannounced inconveniences employers and disrupts business.

A. While the majority of employers want to be proactive, work hard to protect their employees and stay up to date with the regulations, some employers need more incentive. By conducting unannounced inspections and issuing financial penalties for violations, MNOSHA encourages employers to stay in compliance full time, continually identifying and abating hazards to keep their employees safe on the job.

Q. How can someone stay current with MNOSHA regulations?

A. One of the best ways to stay current with MNOSHA regulations is to do what you are doing right now – read *Safety Lines*, Minnesota OSHA's quarterly newsletter. In each edition,

MNOSHA Compliance and MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation team up to provide news about current programs, new regulations and other information about workplace safety and health. Receive email notification when new editions are published online by subscribing at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/SafetyLines.asp (scroll to the bottom of the page).

The MNOSHA Compliance Web page, at www.dli.mn.gov/MnOsha.asp, features a “What’s new” tab on the right side of the page with links to hot topics, new publications and other resources.

MNOSHA’s rulemaking efforts are posted on the DLI rulemaking docket information page at www.dli.mn.gov/RulemakingMnosha.asp.

Federal OSHA also has a twice monthly e-newsletter, *QuickTakes*. Subscribe to the newsletter or view current and past editions at www.osha.gov/as/opa/quicktakes/qtpostcard.html.

Q.
A.

If I have fewer than 10 employees, is it true MNOSHA will not conduct an inspection?

In most cases, it is not true that employers with fewer than 10 employees will not be inspected. Farming operations are exempt if there are 10 or fewer employees and there has not been a temporary labor camp on site in the past year. A limited number of employers with 10 or fewer employees and within specific NAICS codes are exempt from programmed safety inspections only. Those facilities are still subject to all health inspections and all complaint, imminent danger and fatality/catastrophe inspections whether they involve safety or health violations. Otherwise, if an employer has even one employee, the facility can be subject to a MNOSHA Compliance inspection.

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.

Experts available for speaking engagements

Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) staff members regularly speak to community, industry and school groups about issues that affect employees, employers and other DLI stakeholders.

As part of its outreach efforts to stakeholders, DLI’s speakers bureau can provide interested parties with a knowledgeable speaker in an array of topics.

- Apprenticeship programs and opportunities
- Construction codes and licensing
- Occupational safety and health topics or free consultation assistance
- Wage and hour requirements
- Workers’ compensation coverage, reporting and claims issues
- Workers’ compensation dispute resolution
- Workers’ compensation ombudsman services.

For more details or to place a request for a speaker, visit www.dli.mn.gov/Speakers.asp.



Alliances help WSC spread safety practices farther

Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation (WSC) actively promotes its Alliance program to collaborate with organizations and employers to prevent occupational injuries and illnesses. Through formal education and training, outreach, networking and informational materials, the program allows WSC to leverage its limited resources by spreading knowledge and expertise to industry groups committed to improving workplace safety.



Alliances in health care

Several recent alliances have focused on health care employees safely handling patients. Two alliances with Care Providers of Minnesota involved multiple member facilities that participated in the consultation program. Long-term-care facility representatives were provided hands-on training and formal training about workplace hazard assessment and developing a safe patient-handling program. Information from the assessments was then shared with other member facilities within the organization.

A Health Care Group Alliance was established and continues to provide a way for area hospital representatives to meet to discuss the challenges faced while implementing a safe patient-handling program and share solutions to work with those challenges.

Another recent alliance addresses workplace violence prevention. WSC worked with the Minnesota

Department of Human Services (DHS) to assess worksites and provide guidance for facility-specific and department-wide policies toward workplace violence prevention. Several types of DHS facilities were chosen for on-site assessment and ongoing technical assistance is being provided to guide DHS while it develops workplace violence prevention policies that can be implemented for each type of facility it manages.

Alliances on college campuses

WSC has also signed alliances with three Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system campuses. Goals of the alliances are to provide on-site hazard assessment training and safety management guidance to help the campuses be proactive in managing worksite safety and health. In addition, the findings from on-site assessments have been shared with other campuses, extending the WSC compliance assistance reach throughout the MnSCU system. Additionally, each entity will work with WSC to identify opportunities where occupational safety and health principals and practices can be introduced to students and into existing curriculum to better prepare students for when they begin their careers.

More information

For more information about the WSC Alliance program, visit www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/Alliance.asp.

Now available: **Web-based safety grant application**

The Safety Grant Program awards funds up to \$10,000 to qualifying employers for projects designed to reduce the risk of injury and illness to their workers. A new online safety grant application became available Dec. 15 to make the process easier and more streamlined for employer applicants. The new application:

- allows users to save a partially completed application for completion at another time;
- allows users to download the required attachments to accompany the application;
- prevents the application from being saved as “final” until all information has been entered; and
- provides helpful hints with more information throughout the application process.

Previous versions of the safety grant application will no longer be accepted.



Information about the Safety Grant Program, helpful resources and the application are online at www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/Grants.asp.

Application tips

Before beginning the application process, users should ensure their computer’s security features allow access to the application website. If a security warning message indicates page access is blocked, click on the message for instructions about how to enable access.

If the application form is left open too long without the information being saved, a run-time error can be triggered, which will cause any unsaved information to be lost. To help prevent run-time errors, the application was built so that it would not automatically time-out until after two hours. When the “Continue” button is clicked, information is saved.

Run-time errors that result from software incompatibilities have been considered in the programming of the application to minimize for this type of error. Noting the exact run-time error message can often help determine the cause of the error; an online search of “how to correct a run-time error” may also provide a solution.

Cutting and pasting from a Word document or PDF file can cause the application program to show an error; the cutting and pasting can introduce hidden characters that trigger an error. It is recommended that users avoid experiencing such errors by typing information directly into the application form.

More information

For further information about the Safety Grant Program and the online application, contact the safety grants administrator at (651) 284-5162, 1-800-731-7232 or dli.grants@state.mn.us.

Promoting safety and health to young workers

By Dave Ferkul, MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation

Young workers are some of the most vulnerable to workplace injuries and illnesses. The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) encourages employers to promote workplace safety and health, as well as worker rights and responsibilities, to teens entering or returning to the workforce this summer. With the right training and precautions, teens can have a safe and rewarding work experience.

Talking points

Special risks for young workers lurk in agricultural work, the retail trades, transportation and construction, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Alert “Preventing Deaths, Injuries and Illnesses of Young Workers” (a link is provided with other resources on page 18).

Agricultural work

- Agricultural work is the most dangerous industry for young workers, accounting for 42 percent of all work-related fatalities of young workers between 1992 and 2000.
- Unlike other industries, half the young victims in agriculture were younger than age 15.
- For young agricultural workers aged 15 to 17, the risk of fatal injury is four times the risk for young workers in other workplaces.
- Agricultural work exposes young workers to safety hazards such as machinery, confined spaces, work at elevations and work around livestock. Young workers may also be exposed to agricultural chemicals, noise, respiratory irritants and toxic gases.



Retail trades

- The second highest number of workplace fatalities among workers younger than age 18 occurred in the retail trades, such as restaurants and retail stores.
- Common injuries include cuts, burns, bruises and scrapes.
- Common hazards in restaurants include knives, hot grease, hot surfaces, slippery floors and harmful chemicals.
- Prohibited machinery for those younger than 18 years old includes food slicers, paper balers, forklifts, dough/batter mixers, bread-cutting machines.

Transportation

- People aged 16 to 20 in the *general population* have higher fatality and injury rates due to motor-vehicle crashes than any other age group. Young workers, in addition to being new to the workplace are new to driving, which compounds the risk of injury.
- Child labor laws prohibit workers younger than 18 from operating many types of motor vehicles or mobile machinery. Operating a motor vehicle at work is prohibited for workers aged 16 or younger, and allowed only under limited circumstances for those who are 17.
- Despite current restrictions, transportation-related fatalities and injuries among young workers continue to occur.

Construction

- The complex and ever-changing construction work environment presents multiple safety hazards, including falls, electrocutions, falling objects, structure collapse, moving machinery parts and moving motor vehicles.

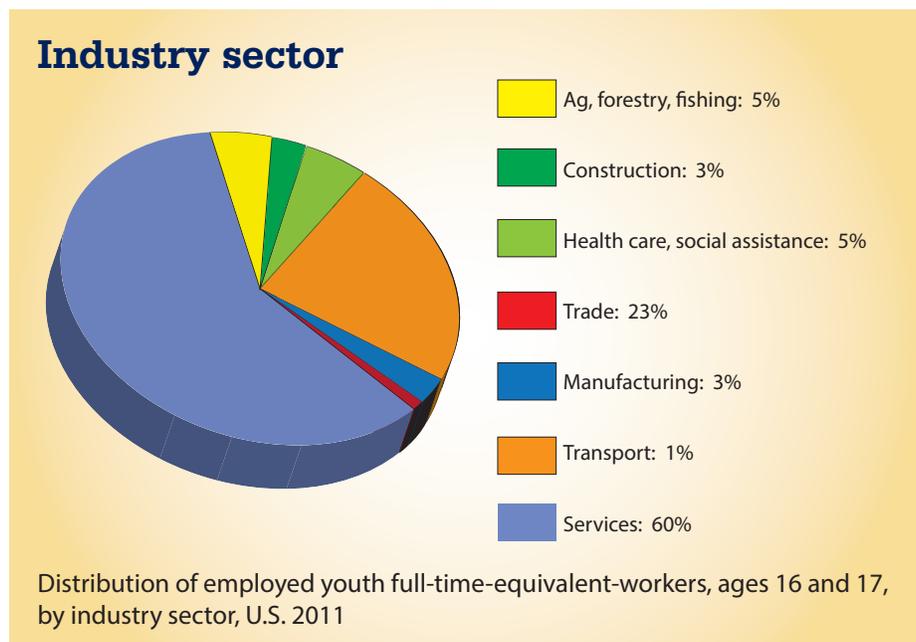
- Workers aged 14 and 15 are prohibited from working in construction, except in an office setting that is away from the construction site.
- Chronic health illnesses can result from prolonged exposure to hazardous substances, including: silica, asbestos, metal dusts/fumes from sources such as lead, cadmium, copper, zinc and asphalt; and other chemicals that include polyurethanes, methylene chloride and epoxy resins.

If you have questions about workplace safety or health, contact DLI’s Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation at (651) 284-5060, 1-800-657-3776 or osha.consultation@state.mn.us.

If you have questions about labor laws, contact DLI’s Labor Standards at (651) 284-5070, 1-800-342-5354 or dli.laborstandards@state.mn.us.

Common hazards for young workers

- Falls (slip, trip, fall) due to slippery floors and working at heights
- Caught in machine
- Contact with live electrical
- Burns, fire
- Motor-vehicle and equipment operation (food delivery, grocery)
- Heavy lifting
- Workplace violence (retail – convenience store, fast-food restaurant)
- Exposure to hazardous chemicals (janitorial/clean-up, agriculture)
- Heat exposure (outdoor work, industry)
- Noise exposure



Common injury causes for young workers

- Lack of adequate equipment, inadequate or lack of personal protective equipment, or insufficient machine guarding
- Unfamiliarity with work requirements and safe operating procedures
- No established policies that consider worker safety
- Lack of adequate training about policies and about proper use of equipment
- No accountability to ensure appropriate procedures are established and followed

Labor laws for teen workers – www.dli.mn.gov/LS/TeenWorkers.asp

A minor younger than 16 years old may not:

- work before 7 a.m. and after 9 p.m.; nor
- work for more than 40 hours a week or more than eight hours in a 24-hour period.

A minor younger than 16 years old is prohibited from:

- operating machinery, power-driven mowers or garden equipment, drill presses, grinders, lathes,

portable power-driven tools, meat slicers, vehicle lifting apparatuses in service stations and welding, and patient handling in hospitals and nursing homes; and

- doing agricultural tasks declared by the U.S. Secretary of Labor to be particularly hazardous

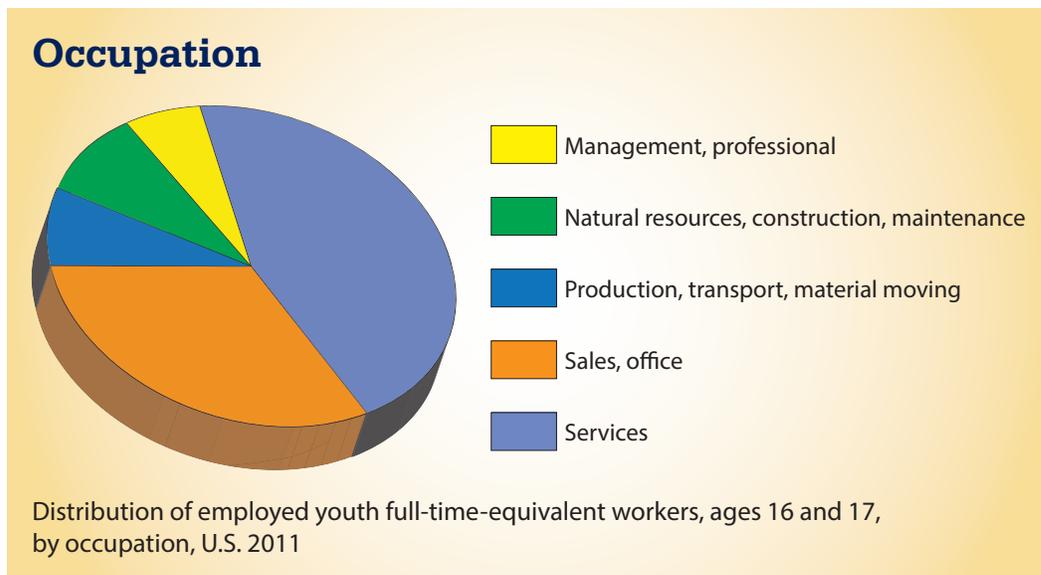
Children younger than 16 years old *can* be hired to complete common household chores such as lawn mowing. Private companies cannot hire children younger than 16 years old to mow lawns on or around company grounds.

A minor 16 to 17 years old may not work:

- after 11 p.m. on evenings before school days or before 5 a.m. (written parental permission can extend by one half-hour the start and end times for work).

A minor 16 to 17 years old is prohibited from:

- working where chemicals or other substances are present in hazardous quantities;
- operating power-driven machinery, including a forklift, meat saw, grinders, milling machines, press brake and woodworking machinery;
- operating a tractor of more than 20 power-take-off (PTO) horsepower or connecting or disconnecting implements or parts to the tractor; and
- handling or applying agricultural chemicals with toxicity category I (label has “Danger” or “Poison” with a skull and crossbones on it) or toxicity category II (label has “Warning” on it).



If you have questions about labor laws, contact Labor Standards at (651) 284-5070, 1-800-342-5354 or dli.laborstandards@state.mn.us.

Minnesota OSHA safety and health standards – www.dli.mn.gov/MnOsha.asp

Rights and duties of employees of all ages:

- you must comply with MNOSHA standards;
- you have the right to request a safety or health inspection; and
- you have the right to refuse to work under conditions you believe present an immediate danger of serious physical harm or death.

If you have questions about workplace safety or health, contact Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation at (651) 284-5060, 1-800-657-3776 or osha.consultation@state.mn.us.

Workplace heat hazards

Heat stress results from a combination of internal (body) heat production and external heat exposure from the environment and can occur year-round in foundries, kitchens or laundries, or only a few days during the summer

in almost any work setting. High temperature, humidity, radiant heat, minimal air movement and clothing contribute to heat stress. It affects the body's cooling mechanism to effectively dissipate heat via blood brought to skin and perspiration.

The process of adjusting to a hot environment – heat acclimatization – takes about 10 days. Body temperature, pulse rate and general discomfort are most noticeable during the first days, so avoid excessive physical exertion during the initial days of working in hot conditions.

Prevention requires routine fluid intake, rest in a cool area and acclimatization, particularly as the temperature exceeds 85°F and relative humidity exceeds 70 percent. As a general rule, rest every two hours for light-work activities (reduce the time when temperatures reach or exceed 95°F and there is high relative humidity of 70 percent or more).

For more, view a PowerPoint presentation at www.dli.mn.gov/WSC/PDF/heatstress_pptpresen.pdf.

Heat stress can result in several illnesses – from the more minor transient heat fatigue to the medical emergency of heat stroke.

Heat cramps – dehydration is a factor; may be due to loss of salt from sweating

- Symptoms: painful muscle spasms (legs, arms, abdomen)
- Treatment: rest, drink water and eat salty foods
- Prevention: ensure adequate water intake and adequate salt at meals; no need for salt tablets, diluted sports drinks provide adequate amount of salts

Heat exhaustion – dehydration that causes blood volume to decrease excessively

- Symptoms: fatigue, weakness, dizziness, faintness, nausea, headache, moist-clammy skin, pale or flushed appearance, rapid pulse, normal to slightly elevated temperature
- Treatment: move victim to a cool area, have them rest and drink fluids
- Prevention: acclimatization, drinking plenty of water, taking rest breaks in cool area

Heat stroke – partial to complete failure of the body to regulate heat (can't sweat)

- Symptoms: hot, dry skin; red, mottled or bluish skin; confusion or loss of consciousness; convulsions; rapid pulse; and elevated temperature
- Treatment: a life-threatening situation requiring immediate action; call emergency medical assistance; cool the victim by moving him or her to a shaded area; soak clothing and skin with cool water; and fan to initiate evaporation
- Prevention: acclimatization, drinking plenty of water and taking rest breaks in a cool area

Other common workplace hazards for teen workers

Fainting – blood volume decrease, pooling of blood in vessels of the skin and lower body

- Symptoms: dizziness/light-headedness (symptoms of heat stress may precede fainting)



- Treatment: move victim to cool area, have them rest and drink fluids
- Prevention: moving around versus standing still can reduce the possibility

Overexertion – a major cause of inflammation of joints and ligaments from excessive physical effort

- Prevention: pay attention to how objects are lifted, use legs not waist/back; be sure to have a firm footing, with feet square with shoulders; don't twist, turn feet toward object to be lifted; and avoid lifting more than 35 pounds, without assistance

Tick-borne disease – such as Lyme disease, anaplasmosis

- Prevention: inspect for ticks and symptoms of tick bites routinely

Exposure – working with tools or in areas where personal protective equipment is needed

- Prevention: sturdy footwear; work gloves; sunscreen; light-colored cotton shirts with sleeves; cap; hearing protection when high noise source is present; and respiratory protection in dusty environments (N95 disposable particulate respirator)



Agricultural machinery – do not operate without proper training

- Prevention: proper training; maintain all safeguards; do not attempt to unjam equipment while it is running; and know where electrical power lines are located

Chemicals (pesticides) – hazardous and toxic substances

- Prevention: after exposure to chemicals, wash your hands before eating or drinking anything; avoid direct contact; and keep work and street clothes separate

Hand tools – tools that are powered manually, from axes to wrenches

- Prevention: use hand tools in the manner for which they were designed and report damaged or unusable tools to the employer

References and more information

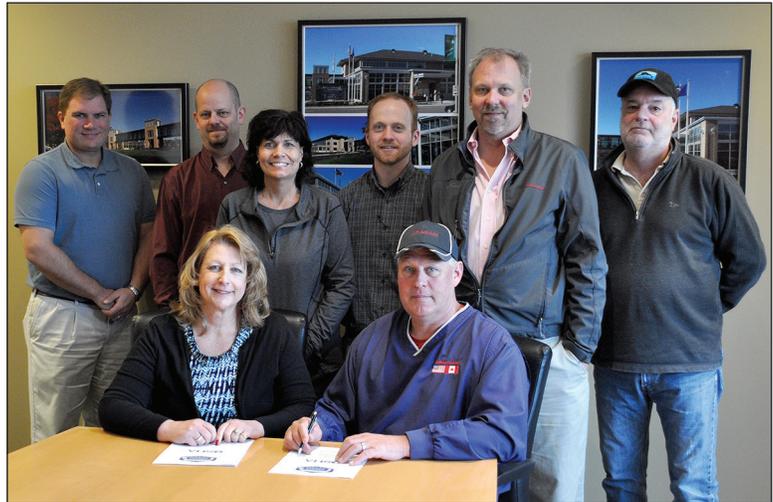
- Hazard alerts: Grain bins – www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/HazardAlerts.asp
- Teen workers – www.dli.mn.gov/LS/TeenWorkers.asp
- Youth rules for kids at work – www.dli.mn.gov/LS/PDF/youthrules.pdf
- NIOSH alert: Preventing deaths, injuries and illnesses of young workers: www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2003-128/pdfs/2003128.pdf
- Restaurant Safety for Young Workers – www.osha.gov/SLTC/restaurant
- Youth in Agriculture – www.osha.gov/SLTC/youth/agriculture
- Young Workers You Have Rights! – www.osha.gov/youngworkers

MNOSHA Compliance signs safety, health partnerships

Minnesota OSHA Compliance recently signed two Level 3 Cooperative Compliance Partnerships with Graham Construction Services.

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. To qualify, participants must have reached Level 2 and remained there for at least one year.

Graham Construction Services signed its partnerships for both the Southwest High School Renovation project in Minneapolis, which is scheduled for completion in August 2016, and for the Hinckley Public Safety project in Hinckley, Minnesota, which is scheduled for completion in November 2015.



**Graham Construction Services
Southwest High School Renovation project
Hinckley Public Safety project**

The partnerships with MNOSHA Compliance and Associated General Contractors of Minnesota members recognize those contractors 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. MNOSHA Compliance also has a partnership program with the Minnesota Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors. Learn more at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Partnerships.asp.

Final Construction Seminar of the season May 19

– *Traffic control and workzone safety* –

Construction Seminars feature a free 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 seminars are presented in a panel discussion format, providing a safe environment for asking real worksite questions and getting real worksite solutions.

Traffic control and workzone safety – May 19 – 7 to 9 a.m.

MNOSHA Compliance and other speakers will identify the hazards for those working in and around traffic, and discuss ways to set up traffic control workzones to assure employee safety.

Visit www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/ConstructionSeminars.asp for complete information, to register or to be added to the mailing list.

