

Safety Lines

Tree-trimming safety resources available

By Diane Amell, MNOSHA Training Officer

Minnesota and federal OSHA both offer great online resources for employers and employees in the tree care industry.

Minnesota OSHA resources

LogSafe, a Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Workplace Safety Consultation program, produced a series of five short videos about various aspects of tree trimming and logging. Featuring LogSafe Training Officer Ed LaFavor, the videos range from 23 seconds to just over two minutes in length. The five videos are available online at www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/LogSafeVids.asp:

- Plan an escape;
- Deal with widow-makers;
- Safely starting a chain saw;
- Spring-pole safety; and
- How to decide which way a tree will fall.



Federal OSHA resources

Federal OSHA has released a brief guide for employees of tree care companies, *Tree care work: Know the hazards* (OSHA 3752). This brochure explains the three primary hazards in tree care work (falls, electrocution and being struck by a tree) and then

describes the training and work practices that should be provided by the employer. The information is provided in English on one side and in Spanish on the other.

Federal OSHA has published a hazard bulletin, *Tree care work: Falls and falling object hazards* (OSHA 3731). The three-page document explains the measures employers should take to prevent accidents involving falls and falling objects. It also mentions the federal OSHA Tree Care Industry safety and health topics Web page, which is online at www.osha.gov/treecare.

A Fact Sheet and an OSHA QuickCard™ are offered as well.

- The documents can be ordered or download from federal OSHA at www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.athruz?pType=Industry&pID=212.



Week-long national campaign to focus on fall prevention in the construction industry

Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA), along with federal OSHA, is promoting and participating in the 2016 "National Safety Stand-down to Prevent Falls in Construction," May 2 through 6.

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 2, 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.

Fall protection in construction

Complying with one of OSHA's most-cited standards

By Diane Amell, Training Officer, and Michael Bymers, Senior Civil Engineer

Falls are one of the leading causes of death in the construction industry. Fall protection, or lack thereof, under 1926.501 is one of the most common citations issued by Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance. It has topped the list of most cited standards in the construction industry every year since 2006 and has appeared within the top 10 for all industries since 2008.

The purpose of 1926.501 is to establish that workers are to be protected from falling six feet or more, through the use of guardrail systems, safety net systems or personal fall-arrest systems. The six-foot measurement is from the level the employee is working on to the one below.

Requirements differ for each fall protection measure.

Guardrail systems

Top rails on guardrails must be 39 to 45 inches high above the walking/working surface. Midrails, screens, mesh or equivalent intermediate structural members must be installed unless there is a 21-inch or greater wall or parapet present. Midrails must be installed midway between the top of the guardrail and the walking/working level. Toeboards provide one measure of protection from falling objects onto workers below.

Safety net systems

When safety nets are used, they must be hung as closely as possible to the walking/working surface and never more than 30 feet below the walking/working surface. The width of the net is determined by the vertical distance between the surface and the net, according to the table below.



Vertical distance from a working level to the horizontal plane of the net	Minimum required horizontal distance from the edge of a working surface to the outer edge of the net
Up to 5 feet	8 feet
5 feet to 10 feet	10 feet
More than 10 feet	13 feet

Nets must be inspected at least once a week for wear, damage or deterioration. Nets must also be drop-tested: after the initial installation, before it is used; whenever it is relocated; after a major repair; and at six-month intervals if it is left in one place.

Materials, tools and other fallen items that may be caught by the net must be removed as soon as possible, at most before the next work shift.

Personal fall-arrest systems

When stopping a fall, a personal fall-arrest system must be designed to:

- limit the maximum arresting force on an employee to 1,800 pounds;
- prevent the worker from free-falling more than six feet or hitting a lower level;
- limit the maximum deceleration distance the employee travels to 3.5 feet and bring the worker to a complete stop; and
- have sufficient strength to withstand twice the potential impact energy of a worker free-falling a distance of six feet or the free-fall distance permitted by the system, whichever is less.

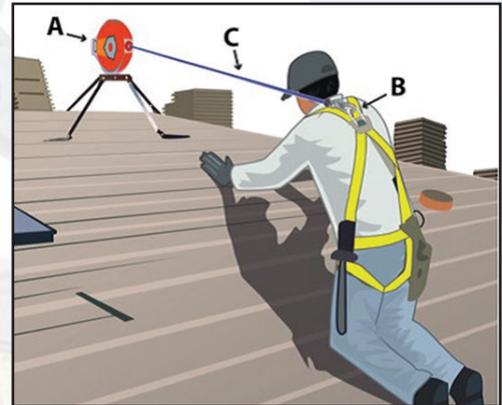
Personal fall-arrest systems must be inspected before each use for wear, damage and other deterioration. Defective components must be removed from service. As shown in the diagram from federal OSHA, fall-arrest systems are required to have three components:

- A. an anchorage to which the lanyard's snap hook is attached;
- B. a full-body harness worn by the worker; and
- C. a connector, such as a lanyard or lifeline, linking the harness to the anchorage.

Personal fall-arrest systems typically use a shock-absorbing lanyard, a self-retracting lifeline or another deceleration device.

Information, helpful resource

For more specific information about these requirements, consult 29 CFR 1926 Part M. A new booklet from federal OSHA helps explain these standards; *Fall protection in construction* is available at www.osha.gov/stopfalls.



Workplace safety conference offers tools, strategies, solutions

The 82nd annual Minnesota Safety and Health Conference, May 3 through 5 at the Minneapolis Convention Center, offers more than 100 educational sessions led by local and national experts, and geared toward all levels of workplace safety experience.

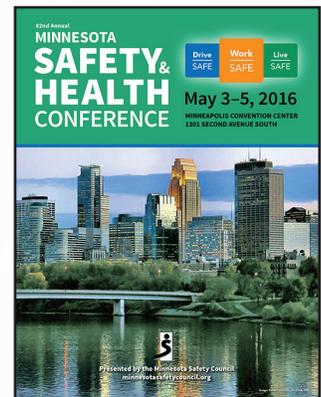
The event, presented by the Minnesota Safety Council, focuses on best practices, trends, tools and practical solutions to help employers prevent injuries, reduce costs, increase productivity and improve overall performance. The conference exhibit hall (May 3 and 4 only) features more than 100 exhibitors from across the country.

Continuing education credits and certification points are available, including the opportunity to earn the three-day Basic Workplace Safety Certificate, a designation of the Minnesota Safety Council and Minnesota OSHA. Courses cover the basics of administering an effective workplace safety and health program.

In addition to educational sessions, behind-the-scenes tours examine safety operations at the Mall of America, 3M's Customer Innovation Center, Xcel Energy's Marshall Street power plant, Surly Brewing, the MnDOT Regional Transportation Management Center and the Minneapolis Convention Center.

A luncheon on the final day of the conference recognizes Minnesota workplaces that have achieved exceptional performance in safety, including recipients of the Governor's Workplace Safety Award, and MNSHARP and MNSTAR Program worksites.

For complete conference details, visit www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org/conf or call the Minnesota Safety Council at (651) 291-9150 or 1-800-444-9150.



MNOSHA presents at Construction Industry Conference

The state of Minnesota and its construction industry partners hosted the Construction Industry Conference Feb. 18 in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. Minnesota OSHA presented two sessions at the conference.



The conference drew 380 attendees and provided educational and networking opportunities for highway/heavy, commercial building and residential contractors, plus informative general sessions for the entire construction industry. The event updated construction-industry members about current regulations and rules and provided an opportunity for attendees to share ideas with state officials about how to build a better Minnesota.



Bob Durkee, Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation

Fall Protection: No Room for Trial and Error

This workshop covered employer and employee responsibilities when employees are exposed to fall hazards in construction, including acceptable methods of protecting employees from falling, problems and best practices for fall protection, methods to engineer hazards out and key points in designing and using personal equipment to prevent falls. The session was presented by Bob Durkee of Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation.

MNOSHA's Focus: Top Four Construction Hazards

According to federal OSHA, 90 percent of all worker deaths in highway/heavy construction are due to falls, electrocution, being struck by an object or getting caught in or between an object. Eighty-five percent of all OSHA citations and 90 percent of dollars applied as fines are related to these areas. To help mitigate these risks, this presentation targeted contributing factors and attempted to give participants preventive strategies to eliminate these hazards in the workplace. The session was presented by Lisa Hollingsworth, Minnesota OSHA Compliance.



Lisa Hollingsworth, Minnesota OSHA Compliance

Conference partners

Industry and government partners of the conference included: Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. Minnesota/North Dakota Chapter; Associated General Contractors of Minnesota; Builders Association of Minnesota; Building and Construction Trades Council; Minnesota Department of Administration; Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development; Minnesota Department of Human Rights; Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry; and Minnesota Department of Transportation.

More information

Complete information about the conference, including downloadable versions of some of the presentations, is online at www.dli.mn.gov/Construction.

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. **If one employee gets injured, but not killed, does Minnesota OSHA need to be called?**

A. Under 29 CFR 1904.39, Minnesota OSHA must be contacted within 24 hours “after the inpatient hospitalization of one or more employees or an employee’s amputation or an employee’s loss of an eye, as a result of a work-related incident.”

“Inpatient hospitalization” is defined as a formal admission to the inpatient service of a hospital or clinic for care or treatment. It does not include instances where an employee is hospitalized for observation or diagnostic testing only.

“Amputation” is defined as the traumatic loss of a limb or other external body part: “a limb or appendage, that has been severed, cut off, amputated (either completely or partially); fingertip amputations with or without bone loss; medical amputations resulting from irreparable damage; amputations of body parts that have since been reattached.”

“Loss of an eye” means the physical removal of the eye. It does not include loss of sight that is not caused by the removal of the eyeball. However, loss of sight would need to be reported if it results in hospitalization.

During normal business hours, you must call Minnesota OSHA at (651) 284-5050 or 1-877-470-6742. Outside of normal business hours, you must call federal OSHA at 1-800-321-6742.

Workplaces that have a mechanical power press, such as a punch press or blanking press, must report in writing, within 30 days, any injuries occurring at the point of operation that are not covered by the recordkeeping requirements (1910. 217(g)(1)). A reporting form is available from Minnesota OSHA, at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/PDF/roi_mechpowerpress.pdf, that can be filled in online and printed or saved to disk. Federal OSHA has an online reporting form that sends the information electronically to federal OSHA; it is available at www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/mechanical.html.



MNOSHA answers, continues ...

Q. I've finished filling in my OSHA Form 300 log and my 300A Summary of Work-related Injuries and Illnesses for 2015. Where do I send them?

A. In most cases, you don't send them anywhere. Completed Form 300 logs are to be retained at the facility for at least five years following the end of the calendar year that the records cover.

The 300A summary log is to be posted in an area where employee notices – such as the mandatory Minnesota OSHA workplace poster – are normally displayed, from at least Feb. 1 through April 30.



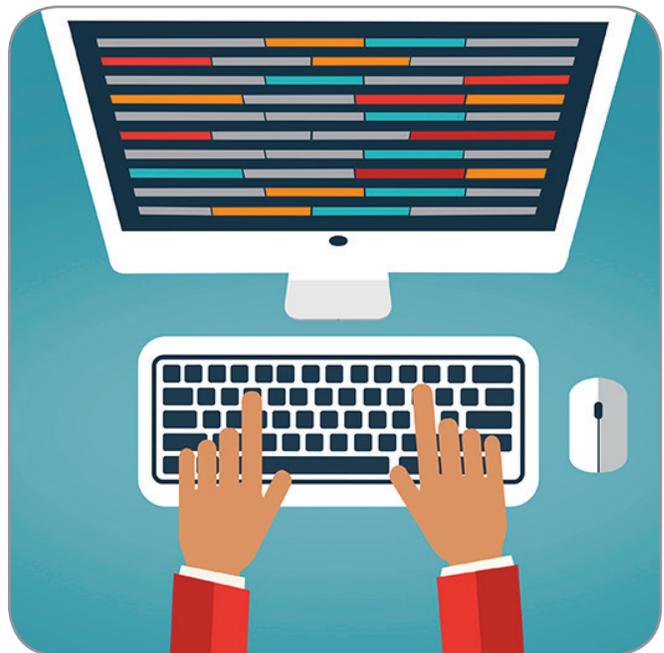
The only time you need to submit this information is when you receive a survey form from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Q. I use a computer at work. Isn't my boss required to provide me with a wrist rest and an ergonomic keyboard?

A. No. Federal OSHA recommends, but does not require, the use of wrist/palm supports with a computer workstation.

Proper use of wrist and palm supports reduces muscle activity and helps to keep the wrists at a straighter, more neutral angle. However, there is some disagreement about whether the use of wrist pads really does prevent injury and there is no clear information about whether alternative keyboard layouts, such as split keyboards, actually prevent musculoskeletal injuries.

For more information about computer workstation design, see the federal OSHA Computer Workstations eTool at www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/computerworkstations.



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.

Musculoskeletal disorder rates in high-case industries

By Brian Zaidman, Research and Statistics

Three industry sectors regularly account for about 60 percent of all OSHA recordable musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) involving one or more days away from work among private ownership industries: manufacturing; retail trade; and health care and social assistance. In 2014, these sectors accounted for approximately 4,000 of the 7,400 MSD cases. Efforts to reduce the statewide number of MSD cases need to be successful in these three sectors.

As shown in Figure 1, until 2014 the estimated rates of MSD cases in these three sectors were consistently higher than the total for all privately owned establishments. The MSD rate among workers in health care and social assistance is one of the highest of any of the industry sectors. While manufacturing and retail trade followed a similar pattern during the four-year period, the MSD rate for health care and social assistance workers increased in 2014. However, the increase in 2014 still keeps the rate below the levels in 2011 and 2012.

Figure 1. Rate of musculoskeletal disorders cases per 10,000 full-time-equivalent workers, privately owned establishments, Minnesota, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014



2014 final fatality numbers to be published April 21

The final set of 2014 fatality numbers generated through the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) is expected to be released April 21 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The preliminary fatal injury numbers for 2014 were released in September 2015; information gathered and verified since that date may result in additional cases.

If you use the state or national CFOI statistics, be sure to update your material with the final 2014 numbers. BLS also publishes the fatal injury rates for the states when the final annual numbers are published.

The Minnesota CFOI numbers are available on the Department of Labor and Industry website at www.dli.mn.gov/RS/StatFatal.asp; national numbers will be available at www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm.

Young worker safety, common hazards, labor laws, resources

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) encourages the promotion of workplace safety, worker rights and worker responsibilities to all, but especially to students entering the workforce this summer. Its “Youth rules for kids at work” handout, with helpful information that can be distributed in schools or workplaces, is online at www.dli.mn.gov/LS/Pdf/youthrules.pdf.

Young workers are some of the most vulnerable in regard to workplace injuries and illnesses. Industries involved in retail trade, accommodation and food service, and hospitality and leisure tend to have higher rates of injuries to young workers. These workers are often not familiar with the work environment or the work tasks they will perform, making them more prone to accidents and injury.



Safety

Thousands of teen workers enter the workforce each year and many are not familiar with their rights and responsibilities under existing labor laws and related Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MNOSHA) safety and health standards.

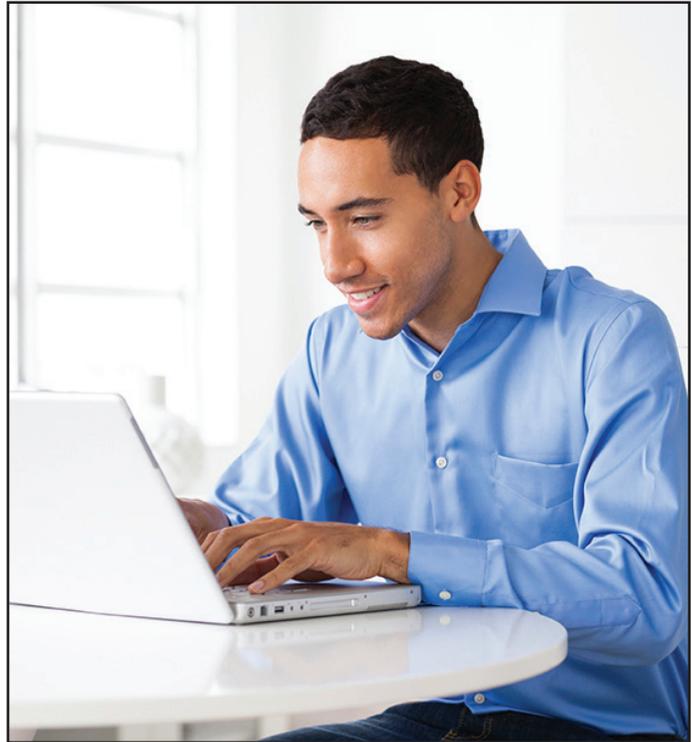
All workers have a right to a workplace free of recognized hazards that could result in injury or illness. Employers can help by periodically surveying the work areas and work practices.

- Machine and equipment safeguards are provided and maintained.
- Machines and tools are used in the manner intended.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) is provided and its use is expected when work conditions warrant the use.
- Provided job orientation and training includes discussion about appropriate practices, procedures and equipment that helps minimize injury and illness risks.
- Workers know the hazards associated with the work they are doing and the materials they are working with.
- Workers are familiar with the equipment safeguards and other precautions that must be taken to minimize injury and illness risk.
- Work areas and access to exits are kept clean and orderly; exits are free of obstructions, kept clean and in good repair.
- Elevated work areas are provided with guard rails or other means of fall protection.
- Workers know what to do in the event of a foreseeable emergency.
- Known high-hazard areas are restricted to authorized personnel only.
- Assigned work is appropriate for the age of the worker.

Common hazards

Hazards that are common to young workers and employees new to the workforce include:

- unfamiliarity with the work environment and work tasks assigned;
- falls, slips and trips due to slippery floors or working at heights;
- being caught in a machine and lack of machine guarding;
- contact with live electricity;
- burns;
- lack of adequate equipment, including appropriate PPE;
- motor-vehicle and equipment operation (food delivery, grocery);
- heavy, awkward and repetitive lifting;
- workplace violence (convenience store, fast food restaurant);
- hazardous chemicals (janitorial, clean-up, agriculture);
- heat exposure (both outdoor and indoor work);
- fires;
- noise; and
- tick-borne diseases (Lyme disease, anaplasmosis).



Labor laws

A minor younger than 16 years old may not work:

- before 7 a.m. and after 9 p.m.; or
- for more than 40 hours a week or more than eight hours in a 24-hour period.

Work that a minor younger than 16 years old is prohibited from includes:

- operating machinery, power-driven mowers or garden equipment, drill presses, grinders, lathes, portable power-driven tools, meat slicers, vehicle lifting apparatus in service stations, welding, patient-handling equipment in hospitals and nursing homes; and
- agricultural tasks declared by U.S. Secretary of Labor to be particularly hazardous.

One exception is children younger than 16 years old can be hired to complete common household chores, such as lawn mowing. However, private companies cannot hire children younger than 16 years old to mow the lawn around company grounds.

A minor 16 or 17 years old may not work:

- after 11 p.m. on evenings before school days; or
- before 5 a.m.

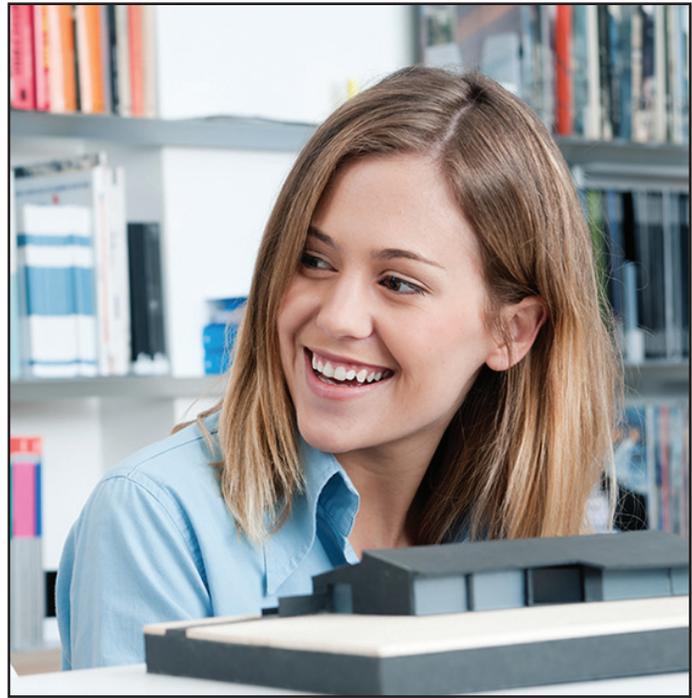
Written parental permission can extend the start and end times for work by one half-hour.

Work that a minor 16 or 17 years old is prohibited from includes:

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

Resources

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

The following resources – about and for young workers – are available free online.

- Grain bins hazard alert: www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/PDF/hazalert_grainbins.pdf
- Preventing deaths, injuries, illnesses of young workers: www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2003-128/pdfs/2003128.pdf
- Restaurant safety for young workers: www.osha.gov/SLTC/restaurant
- Teen workers: www.dli.mn.gov/LS/TeenWorkers.asp
- Young workers: www.osha.gov/youngworkers
- Youth in agriculture: www.osha.gov/SLTC/youth/agriculture

DLI 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 request a speaker, visit www.dli.mn.gov/Speakers.asp.

Free Construction Seminar focuses on scaffolding

Minnesota OSHA's next free Construction Seminar focuses on scaffolding in construction. An estimated 65 percent of all construction employees will work on a scaffold at some time. Learn what needs to be done to help assure safe working conditions when using scaffolding, including correct scaffold erection, training requirements for users, the need for a competent person on site, safe practices when working on a scaffold and proper scaffold dismantling.

- **What:** Construction Seminar — Scaffolding in construction
- **When:** May 17 at 7 to 9 a.m.
- **Where:** MnDOT Training and Conference Center, 1900 W. Cty. Road I, Shoreview, Minnesota
- **How:** Register (free), get complete information at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/ConstructionSeminars.asp



OSHA recordkeeping training offered June 17: Reviewing the basics

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.

This free introductory-level training session about OSHA recordkeeping requirements will be Friday, June 17, from 9 to 11:30 a.m., at the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), 443 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN. Register now at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Recordkeeping.asp.

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 about the training session or about recordkeeping, call the DLI Research and Statistics unit at (651) 284-5025.

MNOSHA fatality, serious-injury investigation summaries online

Each month, Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance publishes updated summaries of its fatality and serious-injury investigations. For the federal-fiscal-year beginning Oct. 1, MNOSHA Compliance has investigated seven workplace fatalities and 62 serious injuries to date.

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.

Updates: Achievement program participation

Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation (WSC) works closely with employers through its two safety and health achievement programs to help ensure employees return home after their workday in the same condition as before their shift began.

Although specifics differ somewhat, both the Minnesota STAR (MNSTAR) Program and the Minnesota Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (MNSHARP) recognize 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. Incentives for participant companies include assistance from WSC, public recognition for employers and employees, and exemption from Minnesota OSHA Compliance scheduled inspection lists.

Minnesota STAR Program

There are currently 37 MNSTAR Program worksites: 35 are classified as general industry; two are resident contractors at Flint Hills Resources' Pine Bend Refinery in Rosemount, Minnesota. The MNSTAR Program is now seeking employers interested in applying for consideration. Existing MNSTAR Program worksites can act as mentors to potential employers, assisting with creating the application and recognizing potential safety and health deficiencies.



Bosch Security Systems – Burnsville, Minnesota

The MNSTAR Program team will complete 12 recertification visits during federal-fiscal-year 2016. Recertification visits take precedence over new certifications to ensure stakeholder certifications remain active and in good standing. Recertification visits include a full hazard survey, employee interviews, examination of injury and illness records, and a program or policy review.

The dedicated MNSTAR Program team has built strong working relationships with its partners, opening lines of communication among the worksites to enable sharing of best practices with each other.

Minnesota Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program

There are currently 37 MNSHARP worksites: 35 are classified as general industry; two are large construction projects of more than 18 months in duration. The program is now seeking employers interested in applying for consideration. Employers interested in the program are often asked to do benchmarking with existing MNSHARP worksites before working to enter the program.

Eighteen recertification visits are scheduled during federal-fiscal-year 2016. Recertification visits take precedence over new certifications to ensure stakeholder certifications remain active and in good standing. Recertification visits include a full hazard survey, program review, employee interviews and completion of the *Safety and health program assessment worksheet* (OSHA Form 33).



M.A. Mortenson, Mall of America Expansion Project – Bloomington, Minnesota

Updates, continues ...

Updates, continued ...

More information available

Contact Ryan Nosan, at ryan.nosan@state.mn.us or (651) 284-5120, to inquire about working with an existing site or for more information about the programs. Information and program resources are also online at:

- MNSHARP – www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/Mnsharp.asp;
- MNSHARP Construction – www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/MnsharpConstruction.asp; and
- MNSTAR Program – www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/Mnstar.asp.

Workplace violence prevention training:

Unique collaboration successful; armed-intruder presentation in June

Health care workers experience the highest rates of nonfatal injury from workplace assaults of any occupational group in the U.S. More than 60 percent of nonfatal injuries in U.S. workplaces occur in the health and human services industry.

In response to those facts, Minnesota hospitals licensed under Minnesota Statutes § 144.55 became required Jan. 15 to: train employees and affected volunteers how to respond to and de-escalate an act of violence; determine ways to identify potentially violent or abusive situations; and develop incident response and violence prevention plans (Minnesota Statutes § 144.566).

Unique collaboration

State and federal government groups worked together earlier this year, providing workplace violence prevention training to health care workers as the result of the new state requirements.

Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation (WSC), the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Department of Human Services and federal OSHA, in collaboration with the federal Veterans Health Administration, hosted a four-day workshop of the Prevention and Management of Disruptive Behavior (PMDB) program, designed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The PMDB program is an evidence-based, data-driven approach to comprehensive violence prevention programs in health care.

Workplace violence prevention experts from the Minneapolis VA Health Care System and VA Central Office offered this training, which began Feb. 9, for about 45 health care workers from community hospitals across Minnesota and state government workers. The training was designed to assist non-VA hospitals in Minnesota to meet the new training and data collection requirements, and involved real-life scenarios and the opportunity to observe a Minneapolis Disruptive Behavior Committee meeting.

“The VA is known worldwide for its excellent PMDB program,” said Vikki Sanders, WSC workplace violence prevention coordinator. “This training was a once-in-a-life-time opportunity for so many diverse agencies to learn and network together to help lower the rates of nonfatal injuries to health care workers.”

Armed-intruder presentation June 27

WSC invites health care facility representatives to a presentation about how to prepare for an armed-intruder situation. Mike Marturano, safety officer, St. Luke’s Hospital in Duluth, Minnesota, will be the presenter Monday, June 27, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Department of Labor and Industry.

There is no cost for the meeting, but participants must register in advance. Get complete information, including an event flier and registration, at www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/Wvp.asp.



Notes from the undercount, part six: Training recordkeepers might not be enough

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.

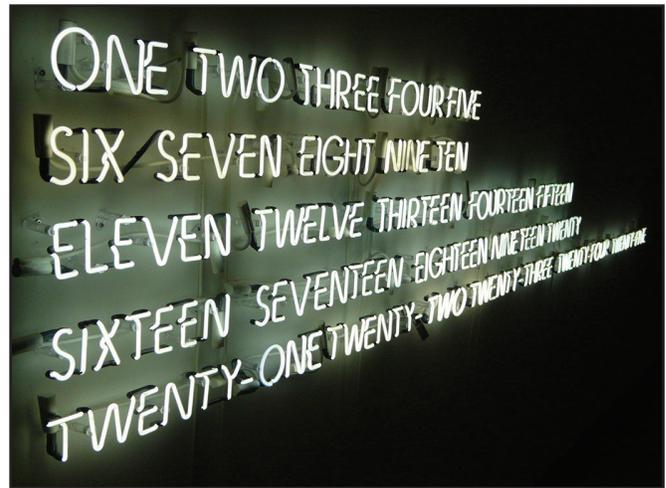
As part of its research partnership with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) undercount survey included extra sampling to enable special reports in three industries that experience high numbers of injuries and illnesses and that are also Minnesota OSHA emphasis industries: hospitals, nursing homes and fabricated metals manufacturing. This article focuses on the accuracy of OSHA log recordkeeping in fabricated metals manufacturing.

Many of the same factors affecting the undercount of OSHA recordable injuries and illnesses also affect how those cases are recorded on company OSHA logs. Although the term "days away from work" sounds like it should be a count of workdays, the OSHA log recordkeeping requirements instruct recordkeepers to count calendar days, not workshift days, when counting the number of days away from work and the number of days of job restriction and job transfer. Recordkeepers need to count all days that workers with injuries and illnesses would be unable to work, regardless of whether they are scheduled to work or the business is open. Research by BLS and DLI shows that while many recordkeepers do not count calendar days, formal OSHA log training and use of the OSHA recordkeeping website are helpful in following this requirement.

During 2013 and 2014, DLI interviewers attempted to contact 163 people in fabricated metals manufacturing who responded to the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses in either 2010 or 2011. Completed surveys were obtained from 100 respondents, including 95 who were responsible for their establishment's OSHA log and who answered the question about how days are counted.

Among these recordkeepers, only 42 percent counted calendar days, 56 percent counted workshift days and the remaining 2 percent did not know how they counted days.

The recordkeeper's occupation was the most significant factor in how days were counted. There were three groups of occupations, plus a fourth group of "others." Managers and administrators accounted for 39 percent of the recordkeepers, 32 percent were in human resources jobs and 14 percent were workplace safety professionals, with the remaining 15 percent in a variety of other occupations. While 92 percent of the safety professionals used calendar days for counting, only 33 percent of the remaining recordkeepers counted calendar days.



Notes from the undercount, continues ...

What factors determine whether OSHA log recordkeepers who are not trained as safety professionals count days correctly? One obvious answer is that OSHA log recordkeeping training should improve the quality of the records. Another possibility is the use of other resources available to recordkeepers, such as interactions with state and federal OSHA personnel and use of state and federal OSHA recordkeeping websites.

Among the fabricated metals recordkeepers who were not safety professionals, 45 percent had received formal OSHA log training and 55 percent also said they used an OSHA recordkeeping website. Very few recordkeepers had contacted state or federal OSHA with recordkeeping questions.

Figure 1 shows the distribution of these recordkeepers by whether they had OSHA log training and whether they consulted a recordkeeping website. The table shows that training and website use were not related.

Among these non-safety-professional recordkeepers, training is not, in itself, a major determinant of recordkeeping knowledge: As show in Figure 2, only 37 percent of the formally trained recordkeepers counted calendar days compared with 29 percent of recordkeepers without training. Users of an OSHA recordkeeping website fared much better: 45 percent of the website users correctly counted calendar days compared with only 18 percent of those who did not use a website.

However, it is the interaction of training and the use of a recordkeeping website that most clearly shows which recordkeepers count calendar days. Among non-safety-professional recordkeepers without formal log training, use of the OSHA website made no difference in how days were counted; 29 percent of both groups used calendar days. But among non-safety-professional recordkeepers who had formal log training, use of the website was a major factor in whether calendar days were used to count days away from work. Two-thirds of the recordkeepers who had both formal training and used the website counted calendar days, compared to only 6 percent of the trained recordkeepers who did not use the website.

Training alone is not enough, recordkeepers need to use other available resources to maintain their log recordkeeping skills.

Figure 1. Percentages of non-safety-professional recordkeepers by OSHA log training and OSHA website use (78 responses)

	OSHA recordkeeping website use?		Total
	No	Yes	
Received formal log training?			
No	23%	31%	54%
Yes	22%	24%	46%
Total	45%	55%	100%

Figure 2. Percentage of recordkeepers within each cell in Figure 1 who count calendar days (76 responses)

	OSHA recordkeeping website use?		Total
	No	Yes	
Received formal log training?			
No	29%	29%	29%
Yes	6%	67%	37%
Total	18%	45%	33%

Minnesota's newest **MNSHARP** worksite



The Department of Labor and Industry recently recognized the Lou-Rich Hayward Division, in Hayward, Minnesota, as a Minnesota Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (MNSHARP) worksite.

MNSHARP is a Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MNOSHA) program that recognizes 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.



**Lou-Rich, Hayward Division
Hayward, Minnesota**

Learn more at www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/Mnsharp.asp.

Reducing task of manual lifting for emergency workers



Members of the Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation (WSC) unit's Safe Patient Handling for Emergency Medical Services workgroup provided a hands-on demonstration of safe-patient-handling equipment at the Richfield (Minnesota) Fire Department on March 3. The workgroup is identifying ways to reduce the frequency of manual lifting for first responders.

The firefighters were able to evaluate several pieces of safe-patient-handling equipment, including friction-reducing slip sheets and an inflatable lifting device, to determine the applicability and usefulness of each piece of equipment for their work. Several scenarios were evaluated, including a fall in a small bathroom and a fall in an open area.

WSC provides consultation services, on request, to help employers prevent accidents and diseases, through several employer-assistance programs. Learn more about MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation at www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc.asp.

MNOSHA Compliance signs safety, health partnerships

Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance recently signed Level 3 Cooperative Compliance Partnerships with four construction companies working on three different 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.



Carl Bolander & Sons, M.A. Mortenson Company, Parsons Electric – HCMC Ambulatory Outpatient Center, Phase 1
The project in Minneapolis is scheduled to be completed May 1, 2017.



Carl Bolander & Sons – Rice Creek Remeander
The project in Arden Hills, Minnesota, is scheduled to be completed July 15, 2016.



J.E. Dunn Construction – Minnesota Children's Museum
The project in St. Paul, Minnesota, is scheduled to be completed March 12, 2017.

The Construction Health and Safety (CHASE) Minnesota partnerships – with MNOSHA Compliance and Associated General Contractors (AGC) 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. To qualify for Level 3, participants must have reached Level 2 and remained there for at least one year. Learn more about partnership programs at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Partnerships.asp.