

Safety Lines

Harvest season brings grain hazards, precautions to the forefront

Autumn in Minnesota means harvest season. This is a great time to think about the hazards in the grain industry and refresh safety and health precautions. Hazards when working around grain may include: entrapment or engulfment in grain; falls; equipment entanglement; combustible dust explosions; electrocutions; and being struck by an object.

Each year, Purdue University publishes a *Summary of U.S. Agricultural Confined Space-related Injuries and Fatalities*, most recently for incidents in 2025. Nationwide, in 2025, there were 48 cases involving agricultural confined spaces, 21 of which were grain-related entrapments. Purdue University also noted 22 of the confined-space cases (46%) were fatal. Other hazards noted in the report included falls, asphyxiation entanglement, and fires and explosions. There were seven additional grain-dust explosions noted, causing 10 injuries and four fatalities.

Unsurprisingly, in the past five years, Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance's most cited standards in the grain industry are related to grain bin entry and walking-working surfaces. Other commonly cited standards included those for preventive maintenance, housekeeping, training, machine guarding and permit-required confined spaces (such as boot pits).



Resources

Employers and employees can learn more about these standards and grain-industry hazards, as well as ways to protect workers' lives in the grain industry, from the following resources:

- 29 CFR 1910.272, Grain handling facilities standards;
- the federal OSHA grain-handling webpage at [osha.gov/grain-handling](https://www.osha.gov/grain-handling); and
- MNOSHA Compliance at 651-284-5050, 877-470-6742 or osha.compliance@state.mn.us.



Are you registered to vote?

The [Minnesota Secretary of State website](https://www.mn.gov) has everything you need to know about voting in Minnesota. Visit the website to register to vote, find out where and how you can cast your vote, what's on your ballot and more.

Sixteen- and 17-year-olds can pre-register to vote in Minnesota too.

Northern Pride, Inc.: Strengthening safety through MNOSHA partnership

Northern Pride, Inc. (NPI), a farmer-owned turkey processing facility located in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, has been a trusted producer of high-quality whole-bodied turkeys since 1989. With a stakeholder base of 19 turkey farmers, NPI proudly supplies retailers, distributors, exporters and foreign markets around the world. As a longstanding employer and industry leader in poultry processing, NPI has always recognized the importance of protecting its workers and creating a safe, sustainable workplace.

In 2021 – at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic and emerging safety concerns across the poultry industry placed additional focus on employee well-being – NPI saw an opportunity to strengthen its health and safety initiatives. Through conversations with Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA), the company learned about MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation (WSC) and its available free services. NPI quickly identified MNOSHA's WSC as the right resource to help it elevate its safety culture and deepen its commitment to worker protection.



The MNOSHA WSC team conducted comprehensive on-site visits and identified several hazards related to machine guarding, fall protection, electrical systems and training gaps. Correcting these hazards required extensive collaboration, creativity and persistence. Together, NPI leadership, maintenance workers, safety personnel and front-line employees worked side by side with MNOSHA WSC consultants to develop equipment-specific guarding solutions, implement more targeted safety inspections and enhance hazard recognition training across the entire workforce.

This collaborative approach inspired broader cultural change. NPI made a deliberate effort to increase safety representation among processing employees, empowering workers to take active roles in identifying and mitigating hazards. Interest in safety training surged. What began as a pilot program to train leaders in OSHA 10, quickly grew into a voluntary movement among front-line employees eager to expand their knowledge. Today, NPI proudly has 36 OSHA 10-certified employees and nine OSHA 30-certified employees, many of whom pursued certification while balancing demanding production schedules.

The results speak for themselves. Year after year, NPI maintains total recordable case rates (TRC) and days away, restricted or transfer (DART) rates significantly below the poultry processing industry average. As hazards were reduced, injuries declined. Trust, employee engagement and morale increased. Contractors and business partners recognize and value NPI's commitment to safety, strengthened further through continued partnership with MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation.

Beyond the numbers, the greatest impact has been cultural. Safety has become an organizational core value embraced at every level – from leadership to hourly workers. The ongoing relationship with MNOSHA WSC has equipped NPI with knowledge, tools and confidence to integrate safety into daily operations. In recognition of its strong performance and dedication, NPI achieved pre-program status in the [Minnesota Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program \(MNSHARP\)](#) in 2023 and earned full MNSHARP recognition in 2024.

Northern Pride, Inc.'s journey demonstrates how collaboration, education and employee empowerment can transform a workplace. Through determination and partnership, NPI has built a stronger, safer environment where employees understand the value of safety – and actively help shape it every day.

Contact MNOSHA WSC at 651-284-5060, 800-657-3776 or osha.consultation@state.mn.us. Or [visit its webpage](#) to learn more or request a free consultation.

Next Health Care Seminar to focus on industrial hygiene

The next free, online Health Care Seminar – Lessons from the field: Industrial hygiene programs, cases and emerging priorities – is noon to 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 28.

Minnesota OSHA Compliance has many requirements for industrial hygiene programs in the health care sector. Attend this seminar to learn directly from the Mayo Clinic Industrial/Occupational Hygiene Team about their industrial hygiene programs, cases they have worked on and emerging priorities they have identified.

Minnesota OSHA Compliance's free Health Care Seminars feature a presentation about a specific health care safety and health topic – with time for questions, answers and input – plus an update from Minnesota OSHA Compliance about what's currently happening regarding inspections.

- For the link to register for the meeting, visit the [MNOSHA Compliance: Health Care Seminars webpage](#).

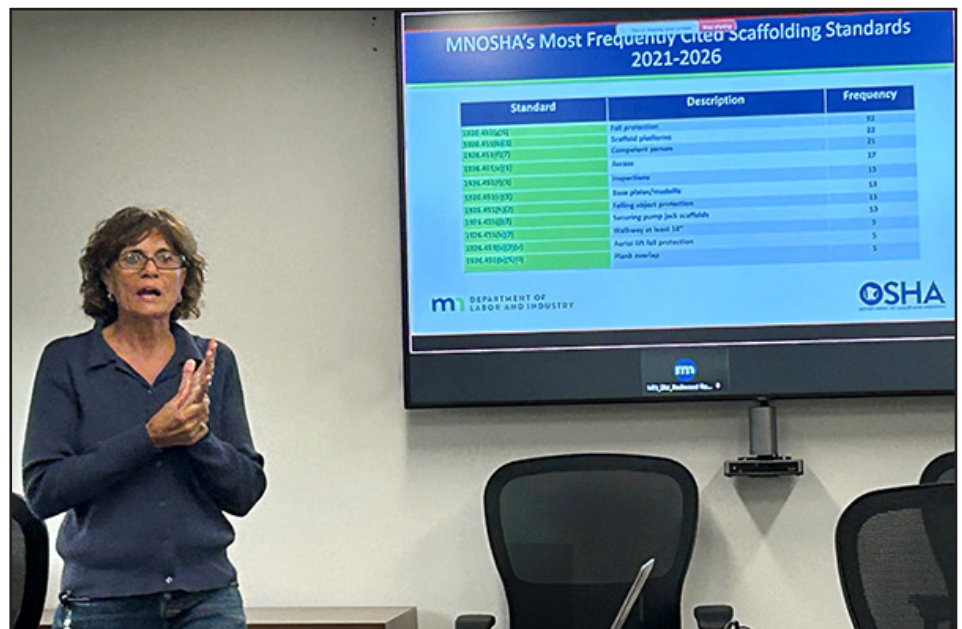


Next Construction Seminar is in-person only, addresses suicide prevention

The next free Construction Seminar, offered by Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance at 7 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 17, **will be in-person only** at the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, 443 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN ([get directions, maps to free visitor parking](#)).

“Culture of care – suicide prevention overview” will be presented by Yolanda McIntosh, director of organizational wellbeing and culture, Associated General Contractors of Minnesota. Topics to be discussed during the seminar include why construction workers are at risk for suicide, what some of the warning signs are and how you can help.

The [Construction Seminars](#) feature a presentation about a specific construction safety or health topic – with time for questions, answers and input – plus an update from MNOSHA Compliance about what's currently happening regarding investigations.



Lisa Hollingsworth, Minnesota OSHA Compliance principal safety investigator – partnerships, discusses scaffolding hazards in construction during the Sept. 15 Construction Seminar.

Free on-site safety and health consultations available upon request

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

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

Learn more and request a consultation

Web: dli.mn.gov/wsc

Email: osha.consultation@state.mn.us

Phone: 651-284-5060 or 800-657-3776



MNOSHA fatality, serious-injury investigations summaries online

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

For the federal-fiscal-year that began Oct. 1, 2025, MNOSHA Compliance has investigated 30 fatalities as of Sept. 28.

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

The summaries, plus other helpful workplace safety and health information from MNOSHA, are available on the [MNOSHA Compliance: Resources for all industries webpage](#).



Training: OSHA recordkeeping basics offered online Oct. 30

The Department of Labor and Industry is offering a free, online introductory-level training seminar about OSHA recordkeeping requirements Oct. 30, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Maintaining an accurate OSHA log of recordable work-related injuries and illnesses is an important skill that benefits employers, workers, safety professionals and government agencies.

Topics

Topics include: recordability of injuries and illnesses; classifying cases; counting time; privacy cases; how many logs to keep; maintaining logs; creating a log summary; reporting log data to OSHA; recording COVID-19 cases; and differences between OSHA cases and workers' compensation claims

More information

Learn more and register to attend (required) on the [MNOSHA Compliance: Recordkeeping standard webpage](#).

MNOSHA Compliance signs safety, health partnerships

Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance recently signed two Level 3 Cooperative Compliance Partnerships under the Construction Health and Safety Excellence (CHASE) Minnesota safety initiative. Level 3 is the peak level of the compliance partnerships, with applicants striving to be an industry leader with very comprehensive safety and health programs.

The partners and projects recently recognized are:

- **RJM Construction** and its Galtier Plaza project in St. Paul, Minnesota. The project is scheduled to be completed May 5, 2027.
- **RJM Construction** and its City of Lino Lakes Public Works Facility project in Lino Lakes, Minnesota. The project is scheduled to be completed Aug. 6, 2027.

View complete information on the [MNOSHA Compliance: Partnership programs webpage](#).



RJM Construction • Galtier Plaza • St. Paul, Minnesota



RJM Construction • City of Lino Lakes Public Works Facility • Lino Lakes, Minnesota

Minnesota OSHA's calendar of events*

October 2026

Oct. 28 **Health Care Seminar – Lessons from the field: Industrial hygiene programs, cases and emerging priorities**
dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-health-care-seminars

Oct. 30 **Training: OSHA recordkeeping basics**
dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-recordkeeping-standard

November 2026

Nov. 17 **Construction Seminar – Culture of care: Suicide prevention overview**
dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-construction-seminars

Note: This seminar is in-person only.

December 2026

Sept. 4 **Occupational Safety and Health Review Board**
dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/occupational-safety-and-health-review-board

***All dates subject to change.**

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

Minnesota's newest MNSTAR Program worksite

Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation recently recognized Douglas Machine, Inc., in Alexandria, Minnesota, as a Minnesota Star (MNSTAR) Program worksite.

The MNSTAR Program recognizes companies in which 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.

Get complete information on the [MNOSHA WSC: Minnesota Star Program](#) webpage.

