

# Safety Lines

## Agencies urge employers to prepare for severe summer weather

By Diane Amell, MNOSHA Training Officer

Summer's severe heat, tornadoes, wildfires and more are upon us, and federal OSHA has teamed up with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to encourage employers to plan ahead for severe weather incidents this summer.

Among other recommendations, both organizations advise employers to use the OSHA Heat Safety Tool app and have a battery-powered NOAA weather radio receiver ready at all times. The OSHA heat app calculates the heat index (based on temperature and humidity) and makes recommendations about how to protect employees, based on the risk level. A battery-operated NOAA weather radio receiver allows for immediate alerts and information if severe weather is in the area (and if electrical power is out).



NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards has been called the “Voice of the National Weather Service.” It is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts official National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### Resources

- Minnesota OSHA information about heat stress and many other safety and health topics – [www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Information.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Information.asp)
- NIOSH infographic, “Protect Your Workers From Heat Stress” – [www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/pdf/niosh\\_heatstressinfographic\\_print.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/pdf/niosh_heatstressinfographic_print.pdf)
- NOAA’s “Stay Safe This Summer!” page – [www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/summer\\_safety.html#.VXIaU89Vikr](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/summer_safety.html#.VXIaU89Vikr)
- NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards – [www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr)
- OSHA’s “Emergency Preparedness and Response” information – [www.osha.gov/SLTC/emergencypreparedness](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/emergencypreparedness)
- OSHA’s Heat Safety Tool app (available for Android and iPhone, in English and Spanish) – [www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/heat\\_index/heat\\_app.html](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/heat_index/heat_app.html)

**WATER. REST. SHADE.** – *The work can't get done without them.*

## Updates to OSHA's recordkeeping rule: Minnesota's effective date approaches

By Shelly Techar, MNOSHA Management Analyst

Effective Oct. 1, 2015, in Minnesota, are the new requirements for 29 CFR Part 1904, *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*. Employers in Minnesota with more than 10 employees are required to keep a log.

The changes included revising requirements for reporting work-related fatality, injury and illness information to OSHA.



For more information, visit federal OSHA's recordkeeping Web page at [www.osha.gov/recordkeeping2014](http://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping2014) or visit Minnesota OSHA's recordkeeping Web page at [www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Recordkeeping.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Recordkeeping.asp).

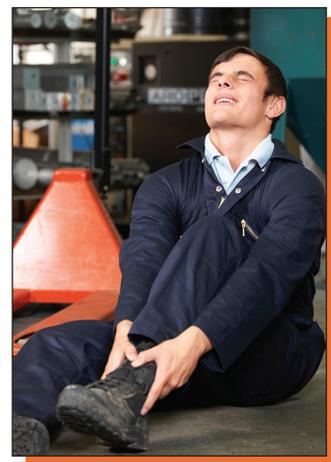
### Introductory-level recordkeeping training: webinar offered for recordkeepers outside Twin Cities

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.

The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) is offering a webinar opportunity for free introductory-level OSHA recordkeeping training. This webinar is prioritized for people unable to attend in-person seminars in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Register now – at [www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Recordkeeping.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Recordkeeping.asp) – for:

- Thursday, Sept. 17, from 10 to 11 a.m. via a webinar, with 30 minutes for questions afterward.



Topics for the session will include a review of the fundamental requirements of OSHA recordkeeping, a look at the most common OSHA errors and a discussion about the new OSHA reporting requirements.

#### 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](http://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.

If you have questions, call the DLI Research and Statistics unit at (651) 284-5025.

# Bees: a workplace hazard you may not have considered

By Diane Amell, MNOSHA Training Officer

In Minnesota, we often talk about the risks of diseases both on and off the job from mosquito bites – West Nile Virus and encephalitis – and deer ticks – Lyme disease and others. However, there is another group of insects that can pose a threat to outdoor workers – stinging insects, such as bees, hornets and wasps.

In August 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that, between 2003 and 2010, at least 83 workers in the U.S. died because of incidents involving insects, arachnids and mites. Most of the deaths were caused by allergic reactions to bee stings.

Any outdoor worker can be at risk for bee stings. Occupations mostly associated with bee stings include:

- farmers and gardeners;
- foresters;
- landscapers;
- groundskeepers;
- painters;
- roofers;
- pavers;
- construction workers;
- laborers;
- mechanics;
- truckers; and
- pest control workers.



The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has issued a “Fast Facts” card about avoiding stinging insects and first-aid measures to take in case someone is stung.

## Precautions for avoiding insect stings

- Wear light-colored, smooth-finished clothing, including long pants, socks and long-sleeved shirts.
- Avoid perfumed soaps, shampoos, deodorants, colognes and perfumes.
- Avoid bananas and banana-scented toiletries.
- Wear clean clothing and bathe daily.
- Wear clothing to cover as much of the body as possible.
- Avoid flowering plants when possible.
- Keep work areas clean, because some wasps thrive in places where there is discarded food.
- Remain calm and still if a single stinging insect is flying around; don’t swat at it.
- If attacked by several stinging insects at once, run to get away from them; go indoors or to a shaded area; do not jump into water.
- If a bee enters your vehicle, slowly stop where it is safe and then open all the windows.

If you have a history of severe allergic reactions to insect bites and stings, carry an epinephrine auto injector (also known as an “epi-pen”) and wear a medical alert bracelet or necklace.

**BEES ...**

## BEES ...

Workers may notice multiple bees or wasps flying back and forth from a specific area. That may mean the hive or nest is in that area, which requires extra vigilance. Employees should also keep bottles capped and food covered to avoid attracting the insects, especially yellow jackets.

### If a worker is stung by an insect

- Have someone stay with the worker to make sure he or she does not develop an allergic reaction.
- Wash the site with soap and water.
- Remove the stinger by wiping it with gauze or by scraping a fingernail over the area, making sure not to squeeze the stinger.
- Apply ice to reduce swelling.
- Do not scratch the sting.

Signs of an allergic reaction can include dizziness, breathing trouble, hives and swelling around the eyes and mouth. There may be a major drop in blood pressure and fluid build-up in the lungs. Stings on the mouth and neck can be especially dangerous because the swelling can cause suffocation. If an employee appears to be having an allergic reaction, call 911; an allergic reaction can be fatal.

A bee, wasp or hornet sting is reportable on an employer's 300 injury and illness log if the sting requires treatment beyond first aid, including an allergic reaction.

For more information, visit the NIOSH Insects and Scorpions Workplace Safety and Health Topics page at [www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/insects/#bees](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/insects/#bees).

*Some information is from "Keep safety in mind when working outdoors" by Keith Howard, in the July 2012 edition of Safety+Health magazine, visit [www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com](http://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com).*

## MNOSHA participates in successful safety, health conference



Department of Labor and Industry Commissioner Ken Peterson speaks during the Governor's Safety Awards Luncheon at the Minnesota Safety and Health Conference, May 7, in Minneapolis.

Nearly 1,400 people attended the Minnesota Safety Council's three-day Minnesota Safety and Health Conference, May 5 through 7.

Both Minnesota OSHA Compliance and Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation thank everyone who stopped by the booths, attended the sessions facilitated by MNOSHA staff members or visited with staff members at either of the two lunch events – Lunch with the Enforcers and the Governor's Safety Awards Luncheon.

Minnesota OSHA plans to return for the conference next year, May 3 through 5, and hopes you will too.

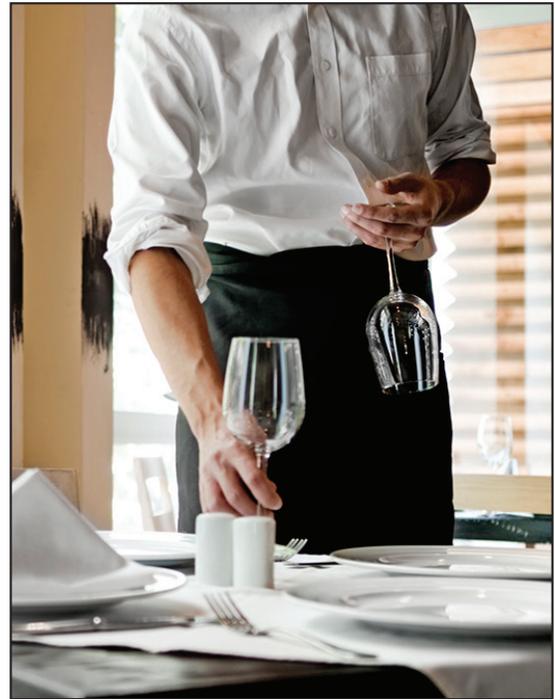
For more information, visit the Minnesota Safety Council website at [www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org](http://www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org).

## Full-service restaurant vs. limited-service eating places

By Brian Zaidman, Research and Statistics

Eating establishments are broadly classified into full-service restaurants, where patrons order while seated and pay after eating, and limited-service eating places, where patrons order or select items and pay before eating. Limited-service eating places include fast-food outlets, cafeterias, pizza delivery establishments and buffets. The injury and illness characteristics of these two types of restaurants are very different.

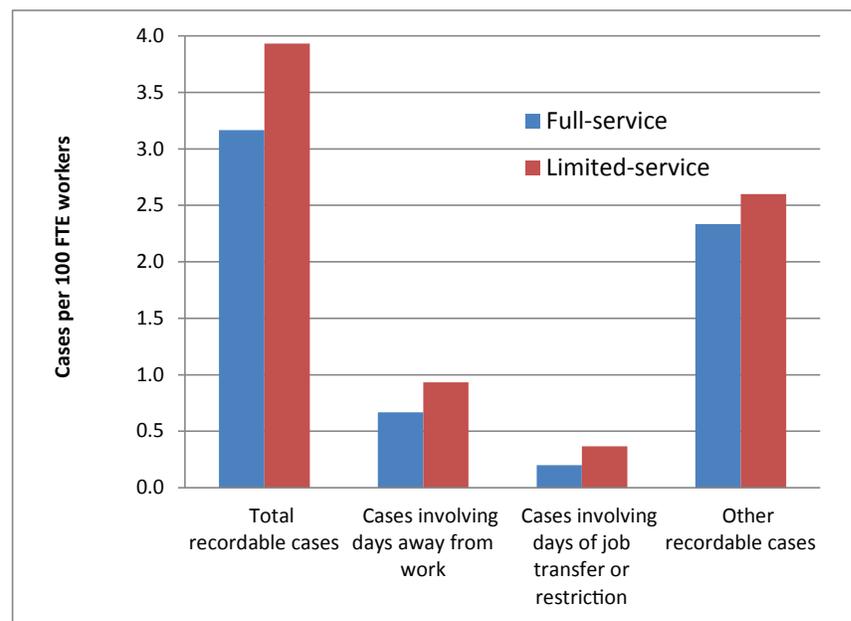
While the SOII results are based on recordable (and recorded) injuries and illnesses, the workers and work environments of these establishments may lead to undercounting the true incidence of work-related injuries and illnesses. Undocumented workers often work in restaurants and eating places, and they are much less likely than other workers to report injuries. Compared with full-service restaurants, many limited-service eating places are small units and their OSHA logs are often kept at a central location off-site, so the recordkeepers are dependent on supervisors reporting the cases to them. A recent nationwide poll of fast-food workers by the National Council for Occupational Safety and Health ([www.coshnetwork.org/managers-told-me-put-mustard-it%E2%80%9D](http://www.coshnetwork.org/managers-told-me-put-mustard-it%E2%80%9D)), which was widely reported in the news media, showed that 79 percent of the respondents had experienced a burn injury and that many were not given adequate medical care.



SOII estimates of injury rates from 2011, 2012 and 2013 were averaged to produce the chart at right, which shows the incidence rates of various case types per 100 full-time-equivalent workers. Limited service eating places had a higher rate for each injury type. The total case incidence rate for limited-service eating places is 24 percent higher than the rate for full-service restaurants.

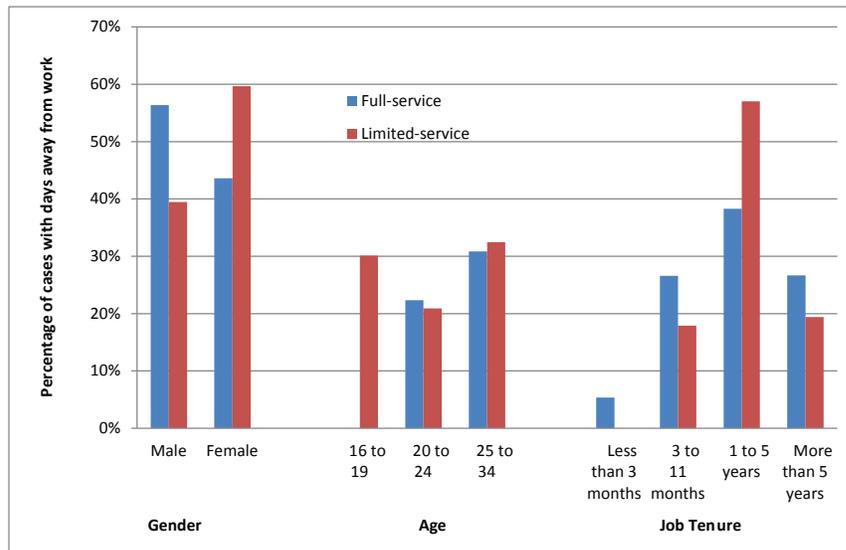
The characteristics of the cases with one or more days away from work also show interesting

**Figure 1. Average case incidence rates for full-service restaurants and limited-service eating places, 2011-2013**



differences and similarities between the two business types. For 2011 through 2013, there was an average of 310 cases in full-service restaurants and 380 cases in limited-service eating places. Injuries to men accounted for the majority of cases in full-service restaurants and injuries to women accounted for the majority in limited-service eating places. For those age groups where estimates were available for at least two years, the injured workers' age has very similar distributions. The job tenure results indicate most of the injured workers in limited-service eating places had more than one year's experience. The majority of the injuries were to the arms and hands.

**Figure 2. Distributions of selected worker characteristics, cases with one or more days away from work, 2011-2013**



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

Kraus-Anderson Construction Company's 3M Project in St. Paul, Minnesota, was recently recognized by the Department of Labor and Industry as a Minnesota Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (MNSHARP) Construction worksite.

MNSHARP Construction is a Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MNOSHA) program that recognized major-construction companies where managers and employees work together to develop safety and health programs that go beyond basic compliance with all applicable OSHA standards and result in immediate and long-term prevention of job-related injuries and illnesses. Only construction projects at least 18 months in duration are eligible for participation in MNSHARP Construction.



**Kraus-Anderson Construction Company  
3M Project, St. Paul, Minnesota**

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

## Notes from the undercount, part three:

### Do OSHA log recordkeepers use available resources to resolve OSHA log questions?

By Brian Zaidman, Research and Statistics

This is part three of 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 as part of a broader U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics research program is available online at [www.bls.gov/iif/mn\\_interviews.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/iif/mn_interviews.pdf).

While the quality of the information collected in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' 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, a wide array of resources are available to assist recordkeepers. OSHA log recordkeepers need to be comfortable with the recordkeeping requirements and know where and how to access the resources to meet their recordkeeping challenges.

The DLI survey of SOII participants collected information about the use of recordkeeping resources. The responses have been weighted to represent all SOII respondents.

#### Recordkeeping resource use

The phone interview included questions about whether the respondents used any of the following recordkeeping resources:

1. contacting Minnesota OSHA;
2. contacting federal OSHA;
3. using information on the federal OSHA recordkeeping website;
4. contacting a BLS injury and illness survey office or hotline;
5. using any other resource; or
6. not using any of these resources.

**Figure 1. Percentage of respondents using each recordkeeping resource**

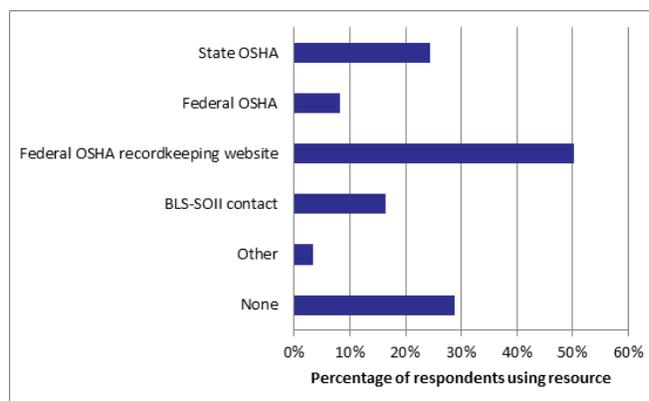
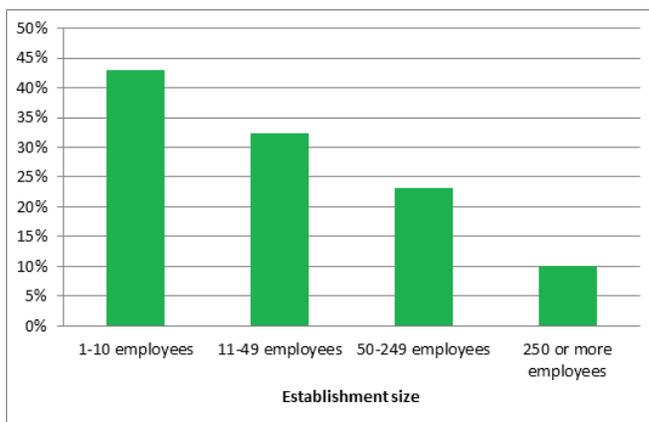


Figure 1 shows the percentage of respondents using each resource type and Figure 2 shows distribution by establishment size.

Among the choices offered, the respondents were most likely to use the federal OSHA recordkeeping website ([www.osha.gov/recordkeeping](http://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping)). Because Minnesota has a state-plan OSHA program, respondents contacted Minnesota OSHA with recordkeeping questions three times as often as they contacted federal OSHA. Use of all the resources (except "other") increased with establishment size; the smallest establishments were most likely to respond they did not use any of the resources. Among establishments with 250 or more employees, 73 percent of the respondents used the federal OSHA website, compared with only 27 percent among recordkeepers with fewer than 11 employees.

**Figure 2. Percentage of respondents not using any resources by establishment size**



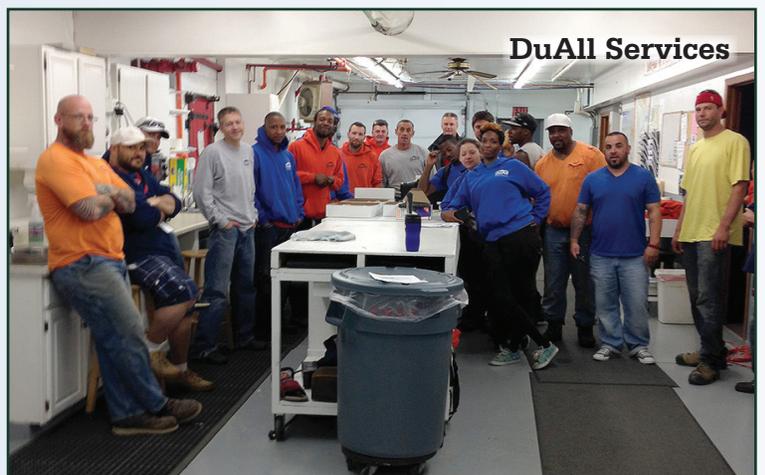
# Construction workers 'stand-down' for safety in June



Construction employers in Minnesota paused to discuss fall prevention with their employees during the National Safety Stand-down to Prevent Falls in Construction, May 4 through 15.

Minnesota OSHA partnered with key national safety and health groups, leading employers and employer organizations for the 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.



# OSHA answers

## frequently asked questions

As part of its continual effort to improve customer service and provide needed information to employers and employees, Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance answers the most frequently asked questions from the previous quarter.

### **Q.** What posters are we required to display? Can we be cited if we do not have them?

### **A.** Minnesota requires these five posters be displayed:

1. Age discrimination;
2. Minimum wage rates (changing Aug. 1, 2015);
3. Safety and health on the job (also known as the state OSHA poster);
4. Unemployment; and
5. Workers' compensation.

These free posters are available in English, Spanish, Hmong and Somali, and can be obtained by printing them directly from the DLI website or ordering them online, by phone, by email or by U.S. mail.

Visit [www.dli.mn.gov/LS/Posters.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/LS/Posters.asp) for complete information about the posters.

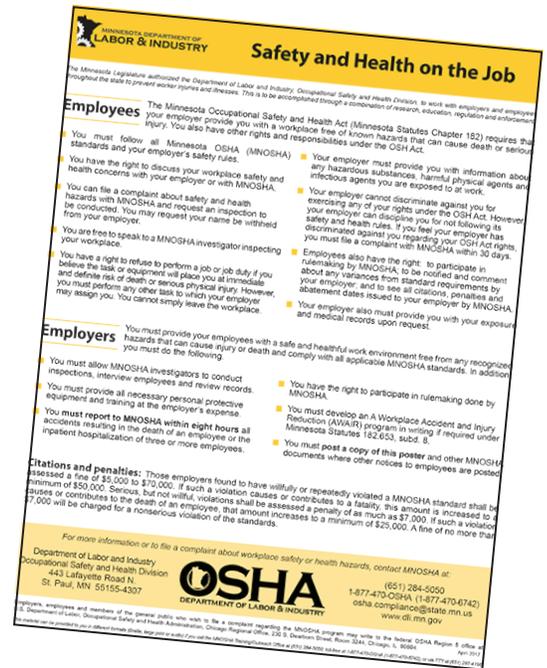
Citations and penalties can be issued for violations of the state statute; however, they are rarely issued for first-time violations. The exception would be if there is evidence that the employer was attempting to deprive workers of their rights.

There are also three mandatory federal posters that must be displayed. Information about ordering these posters is also online at [www.dli.mn.gov/LS/Posters.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/LS/Posters.asp).

### **Q.** I had two OSHA inspections in the same year. How is that possible?

### **A.** Employers can be subject to an inspection from Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) in a number of ways.

- The employer appeared on a programmed (also known as routine) inspection list. Employers are selected for programmed inspections based on factors such as illness and injury rates or current special emphasis programs.
- An employee was fatally or seriously injured.



- An investigator noticed a possible imminent-danger hazard at a site or MNOSHA received a report of an imminent-danger hazard.
- An employee filed a complaint.
- Minnesota OSHA received a referral.

For more information about inspection scheduling and priorities, see the Minnesota OSHA Workplace Inspections booklet at [www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/PDF/inspectionbooklet.pdf](http://www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/PDF/inspectionbooklet.pdf).

**Do you have a question for Minnesota OSHA? To get an answer, call (651) 284-5050 or send an email message to [osha.compliance@state.mn.us](mailto:osha.compliance@state.mn.us). Your question may be featured here.**

## 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 place a request for a speaker, visit [www.dli.mn.gov/Speakers.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/Speakers.asp).

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



**Cintas – Maple Grove, Minnesota**

Cintas was recently recognized by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry for its achievement as a Minnesota Star (MNSTAR) worksite at its Maple Grove location. MNSTAR is a Minnesota OSHA program that recognizes worksites where managers and employees work together to develop safety and health management systems.

Based in Ohio, Cintas currently serves more than 700,000 businesses throughout North America, providing customized service programs for uniforms and apparel, facilities services, first aid and safety, fire protection, document management, cleanroom resources, flame resistant clothing and promotional products.

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

## **Alert:**

### **Bloodborne pathogens and laundry service workers**

#### **Initiative**

This safety alert aims to heighten awareness of the potential exposure of laundry service workers to bloodborne pathogens during the handling of laundry contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious material (OPIM). It is intended to bring this hazard to the attention of employers and employees of professional laundry services that accept laundry from medical and dental facilities. The content of this alert is also applicable to medical facilities with their own internal laundry service.

The OSHA bloodborne pathogens standard (1910.1030) requires employers to assess work tasks to determine if workers have occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious material. Occupational exposure is defined as “reasonably anticipated skin, eye, mucous membrane or parenteral contact with blood or OPIM that may result from the performance of an employee’s duties.”

#### **Description of the hazard**

When a laundry service receives laundry from medical or dental facilities, occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens can be anticipated for laundry service workers who handle the laundry. Laundry contaminated with blood or OPIM creates the risk of exposure, particularly if the laundry is grossly contaminated.

Excessive handling and agitation of laundry contaminated with blood or OPIM can add to the risk of exposure. In addition, the potential for contact with contaminated sharp instruments – most commonly syringes and razors – exists if sharp instruments are collected within the laundry. If workers are not aware of the exposure risk they will be more susceptible to disease.

#### **Controlling and eliminating the hazard**

By following good hygiene practices, the risk of actual disease transmission from contaminated laundry will be negligible. Good work practices for laundry personnel include the following:

- Handle contaminated laundry as little as possible and with minimum agitation to minimize the potential for contamination of the air and those who are handling the laundry. If laundry must be sorted, grasp the edge of each item and lift it to unravel the item, minimizing any shaking of the item. This method also allows any other items caught in the laundry to be released.
- When emptying a laundry bag, grab the bottom corners of the bag and allow the laundry to fall out. Do not reach into the bag to grasp the laundry items.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including impermeable gloves.
- Provide a sharps container in the area where laundry is handled to readily dispose of any sharp instruments that may have been caught within the laundry.

When laundry is received from a medical or dental facility, it must be identifiable as potentially infectious. This can be accomplished by labeling the laundry with a biohazard symbol, coded color (red) or using another means of communication.



If the laundry is not identified as potentially infectious, universal precautions must be followed by all laundry service personnel in the facility. Universal precautions assume all laundry is contaminated, requiring the use of specified procedures and PPE.

The areas where contaminated laundry is handled must be routinely cleaned and disinfected. Use EPA-registered germicides that are effective against hepatitis B and HIV (see EPA Lists D and E).

### **For more information**

Employers and employees can get more information about this issue and applicability of an exposure control plan by reviewing:

- OSHA bloodborne pathogens standard 29 CFR 1910.1030 – [www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodbornepathogens/standards.html](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodbornepathogens/standards.html);
- OSHA letters of interpretation relative to bloodborne pathogens – [www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owasrch.search\\_form?p\\_doc\\_type=INTERPRETATIONS&p\\_toc\\_level=3&p\\_keyvalue=1910.1030&p\\_status=CURRENT](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owasrch.search_form?p_doc_type=INTERPRETATIONS&p_toc_level=3&p_keyvalue=1910.1030&p_status=CURRENT);
- Minnesota OSHA Compliance directive CPL 2-2.44G: Bloodborne pathogens standard 29 CFR 1910.1030 – [www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Directives.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Directives.asp); and
- applicable Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines – <http://search.cdc.gov/search?query=laundry%2C+infection+control&utf8=%E2%9C%93&affiliate=cdc-main>.

To learn more about Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation and the voluntary, confidential workplace safety and health assistance available to Minnesota employers, visit [www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc.asp).

To request safety and health consultation services from Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation, visit [www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/Assistance.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/Assistance.asp), email [osha.consultation@state.mn.us](mailto:osha.consultation@state.mn.us) or call (651) 284-5060 or 1-800-657-3776.

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## **WSC continues alliance with the Minnesota Dental Association**

Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation (WSC) has renewed its alliance with the Minnesota Dental Association to provide training and guidance about topics of safety and health pertinent to dental clinics. Topics include: bloodborne pathogen and tuberculosis exposure control; hazard communication/GHS; safe patient-handling; personal protective equipment; and general safety and health overviews for designated safety coordinators. The goal of the alliance is to continue educational opportunities to help dental clinics understand safety and health standards, be aware of potential occupational injury and illness risks and implement methods to control the risks.



The initial alliance was a big success. Nearly 400 employees representing more than 200 dental clinics participated in training sessions about developing an exposure control plan for bloodborne pathogens.

Establishing productive alliances with stakeholders interested in workplace safety and health continues to be a priority for WSC. Leveraging the added resources and industry perspectives from stakeholder groups creates opportunities for more focused, relevant discussion about safety and health topics that pertain to the group.

For more information about alliances, visit [www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/Alliance.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/Alliance.asp).

## Advisory board works to protect temporary workers

An advisory board that was established to promote discussion and raise awareness about the safety of temporary workers met for the second time on April 28 at Hennepin County Technical College.

The Temporary Workers Safety Advisory Board meeting focused on establishing action items to accomplish the mission of the group – “To improve the safety of temporary workers in Minnesota.” Board members, representing private industry, staffing agencies, academia and government (Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation (WSC)), presented their perspectives about temporary worker safety, specifically what constitutes effective management of temporary worker safety and what progress has been made by staffing agencies and industry to more effectively manage temporary worker safety.

### Key points of discussion

- There is a need for job-hazard analysis of work tasks to identify risks and determine methods to manage those risks. Agencies need to be more involved in the assessment of a job – to visit the worksite and become familiar with the job requirements, expectations, injury/illness risks and existing safeguards.
- Some employer worksites need to rectify the lack of training provided.
- There needs to be better controls to ensure that only agreed-upon work will be assigned to temporary workers. It’s not uncommon to have temporary workers assigned to work tasks that were not initially agreed upon and that they are not adequately prepared to accomplish.
- Both the staffing agency and the host employer need to understand the value of worker safety and how that supports their businesses.
- Staffing agencies need to assess the host employer’s value with regard to worker safety. Some agencies have not accommodated host employers if their approach to safety is not reciprocal. The host employer’s safety history should be reviewed using its injury and illness recordkeeping documents and other sources.
- Workers need to understand the risks. They may not know what could happen to them.
- The staffing agency and the host employer share the obligation to keep workers safe.
- Temporary workers must be treated the same as traditional, permanent workers.
- The staffing agency and host employer need to establish a working relationship that clarifies responsibilities toward temporary worker safety.
- There should be audits of temporary workers by both the staffing agency and the host employer to measure the performance of the worker and of all those involved in assigning and supervising work done by the temporary worker.
- There must be greater accountability on both sides to meet OSHA-mandated requirements.

### Next steps

The advisory board will now:

- create a “tool box” of information (such as a guidebook and checklist) to help agencies and employers determine their responsibilities for keeping temporary workers safe;
- identify venues for conducting outreach and education sessions, focusing on existing professional association conferences for private industry, human resources and staffing agencies; and
- create a train-the-trainer course for staffing agency personnel.

The board will meet again in late summer or early fall.

## WSC Safety Grant Program:

### *Financial support for employers workplace safety, health efforts*

The Safety Grant Program, administered by Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation, awarded 140 safety grants – totaling more than \$1 million – to public and private sector employers during state-fiscal-year 2014. The Safety Grant Program supports projects to reduce the risk of occupational injuries and illnesses by awarding matching-funds up to \$10,000 to qualifying employers.

Types of industry that received grants include: construction, manufacturing, long-term-care facilities, logging, automotive and other service industries, and municipalities. Examples of equipment purchased include those use for:

- fall protection;
- safe patient-handling;
- material handling;
- workplace violence prevention;
- exhaust ventilation;
- logging;
- trenching/excavation;
- machine guarding; and
- air-contaminant monitoring.

Grant projects are based on findings and recommendations of a written hazard assessment. Qualified applicants must be able to initially fund the project. The safety grant award provides a reimbursement of matching funds after the project is completed.

### Summary of grant projects approved in state-fiscal-year 2014

#### **Construction**

In construction, falls are a leading contributor to serious work-related injuries and a leading cause of construction-related deaths. The grant program awarded 29 grants, totaling \$243,425, to construction employers for equipment related to fall protection.

These grant projects provided construction employers with better fall-protection options, enabling easier access to equipment and greater availability for more workers to use.

#### **Manufacturing, warehousing, service, public employer**

Safety grants were also awarded for a number of projects that reduced the risks of musculoskeletal disorders associated with manual lifting and material handling. Thirty manufacturing, warehousing, service and public employer worksites were awarded safety grants, totaling \$210,402, for material lifting, positioning and transport equipment, as well as other specialized tools and equipment to reduce ergonomic risks associated with manual lifting and moving.



### **Health care**

Twenty-three companies in the health care industry, mainly long-term-care facilities, received safety grants, totaling \$157,919, for safe-patient-handling equipment.

This equipment mainly included ceiling- and floor-based patient lifts that minimize the manual lifting and moving of patients. It also included electric, height-adjustable beds that allow a patient to be positioned at an ideal working height for transferring and repositioning.

### **Other industries**

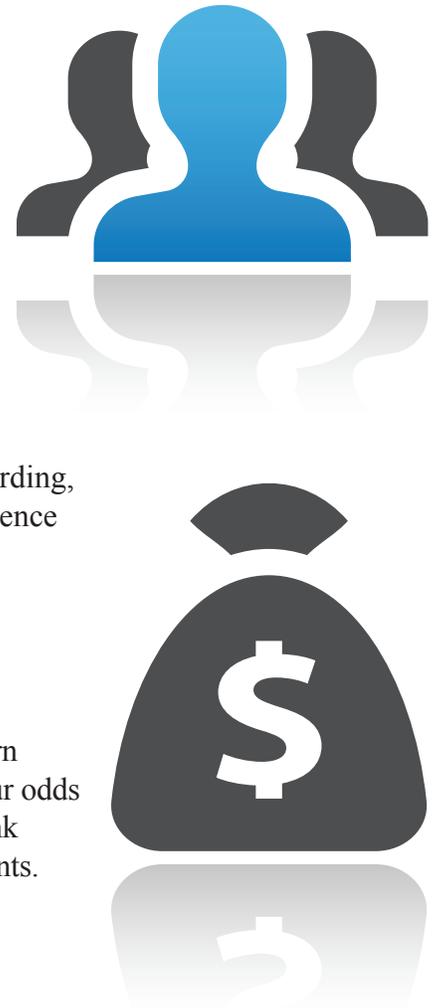
Other projects of note included ventilation systems to reduce worker exposure to airborne contaminants, light curtain systems for machine guarding, controlled-access and security equipment to supplement a workplace violence prevention program, specialized personal protective equipment and other fall-prevention equipment for nonconstruction industries.

### **Apply for a safety grant**

Visit [www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/Grants.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/Grants.asp) to access the online application, learn what information to prepare before applying and get tips for improving your odds of receiving a safety grant. The Safety Grant Program priority industries link shows what types of industries are considered higher priority for safety grants.

### **More information**

For more information, contact the safety grants administrator at (651) 284-5162, 1-800-731-7232 or [dli.grants@state.mn.us](mailto:dli.grants@state.mn.us).



## **WSC provides safety training, certification to student groups**



The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) is supporting two summer youth programs that prepare individuals to enter registered apprenticeship training: UnderConstruction; and Guadalupe Alternative School (GAP) YouthBuild Program.

In June, both groups visited DLI to receive OSHA-10 safety training and certification from Mike Seliga, Andy Smoka and Bill Stuart of Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety

Consultation. The students learned about many safety topics, including the use of personal protective equipment and fall-protection precautions.

UnderConstruction is in its 11th year of operation and boasts a zero-injury record. GAP YouthBuild Program offers high school students a career pathway focused on construction training and the development of work-readiness skills.

## MNOSHA Compliance signs safety, health partnerships

Minnesota OSHA Compliance recently signed three Level 3 Cooperative Compliance Partnerships with Hunt Electric, M.A. Mortenson Company and Q3 Contracting, Inc.

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.

Hunt Electric and M.A. Mortenson Company both signed partnerships for the Methodist Hospital project in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, which is scheduled for completion in 2016 – Sept. 20 for Hunt Electric’s work and July 1 for M.A. Mortenson Company’s work.

Q3 Contracting, Inc. signed its partnership for the 2015 Xcel Energy EMPRP project that stretches from Park Street and Maryland Ave. to St. Albans and Pleasant Avenue in St. Paul, Minnesota. The project is scheduled for completion Nov. 14, 2015.

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](http://www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Partnerships.asp).



**Hunt Electric and M.A. Mortenson Company  
Methodist Hospital project, St. Louis Park, Minnesota**



**Q3 Contracting, Inc.  
2015 Xcel Energy EMPRP project, St. Paul, Minnesota**

### **Save the dates: 2015/2016 Construction Seminar schedule**

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

**The dates are: 2015 – Sept. 15 and Nov. 17; and 2016 – Jan. 19, March 15 and May 17.**

Learn more online at [www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/ConstructionSeminars.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/ConstructionSeminars.asp). Get on the Construction Seminar mailing list by calling (651) 284-5375 or emailing [osha.compliance@state.mn.us](mailto:osha.compliance@state.mn.us).