

Safety Lines

New accident reporting requirements effective; workplace poster updated

Minnesota employers must now report the following to Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA):

- all work-related fatalities within eight hours;
- all work-related inpatient hospitalizations within 24 hours;
- all work-related amputations within 24 hours; and
- all work-related losses of an eye within 24 hours.

To file the report, the employer must call MNOSHA Compliance at (651) 284-5050 or 1-877-470-6742 during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If it is outside of MNOSHA Compliance business hours, or on a weekend or holiday, the employer must call federal OSHA at 1-800-321-6742.

MNOSHA mandatory poster updated, available free

The free mandatory MNOSHA workplace poster has been revised to reflect the changes in reporting requirements. The new poster can be printed or ordered from the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry website at www.dli.mn.gov/LS/Posters.asp. The poster may also be ordered by phone at (651) 284-5042 and 1-800-342-5354.

The English version of the poster is available now; Hmong, Somali and Spanish versions will be available soon.



'Dial M for MNOSHA'

When most people think of OSHA, they probably think of the investigators who visit worksites, but another important part of all OSHA programs is to provide education through training and outreach, including simply answering phone calls.

Each day, two Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance investigators are assigned to answer incoming phone calls.

During the past fiscal year, 4,370 phone calls were answered, an increase of 12 percent from the previous year. Although some of these calls were workers filing safety or health complaints, the vast majority of the callers were looking for advice and guidance.

Even with only two staff members answering calls, the average waiting time is less than three minutes – 2:40.

These staff members also respond to questions sent to MNOSHA Compliance via email, handling 1,475 emailed inquiries during the past year.

Keep your questions coming, we'll be here to answer them: call (651) 284-5050 or email osha.compliance@state.mn.us.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY Safety and health protection on the job

Employees The Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Act (the Act) requires that your employer provide you with a workplace free of known hazards that can cause death, injury or illness. You also have the following workplace rights and responsibilities.

- You must follow all Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) standards and your employer's safety rules.
- Your employer must provide you with information about any hazardous chemicals, harmful physical agents and infectious agents you are exposed to at work.
- You have the right to discuss your workplace safety and health concerns with your employer or with MNOSHA.
- You have the right to refuse to perform a job duty if you believe the task or equipment will place you at immediate risk of death or serious physical injury. However, you must do any other tasks your employer assigns you to do. You cannot simply leave the workplace.
- You have the right to be notified and comment if your employer requests any variance from MNOSHA standard requirements.
- You have the right to speak to a MNOSHA investigator inspecting your workplace.
- You have the right to file a complaint with MNOSHA about safety and health hazards and request that an inspection be conducted. MNOSHA will not reveal your name to the employer.
- You have the right to see all citations, penalties and abatement dates issued to your employer by MNOSHA.
- Your employer cannot discriminate against you for exercising any of your rights under the Act. However, your employer can discipline you for not following its safety and health rules. If you feel your employer has discriminated against you for exercising your rights under the Act, you have 30 days to file a complaint with MNOSHA.
- Your employer must provide you with any exposure and medical records it has about you upon request.
- You have the right to participate in the development of standards by MNOSHA.

Employers You must provide your employees with a safe and healthful work environment free from any known hazards that can cause death, injury or illness and comply with all applicable MNOSHA standards. You also have the following rights and responsibilities.

- You must post a copy of this poster and other MNOSHA documents where other notices to employees are posted.
- You must report to MNOSHA within eight hours all accidents resulting in the death of an employee.
- You must report to MNOSHA within 24 hours all accidents resulting in any amputation, eye loss or inpatient hospitalization of any employee.
- You must allow MNOSHA investigators to conduct inspections, interview employees and review records.
- You must provide all necessary personal protective equipment and training at your expense.
- You have the right to participate in the development of standards by MNOSHA.

Free safety and health assistance Free assistance to identify and correct hazards is available to employers, without citation or penalty, through MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation at (651) 284-5050, 1-800-657-2776 or osha.consultation@state.mn.us.

Contact MNOSHA for a copy of the Act, for specific safety and health standards or to file a complaint about workplace hazards.

Department of Labor and Industry
Occupational Safety and Health Division
443 Lafayette Road N.
St. Paul, MN 55155-4307

OSHA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

(651) 284-5050
1-877-470-6742
osha.compliance@state.mn.us
www.dli.mn.gov

Employers, employees and members of the general public who wish to file a complaint regarding the MNOSHA program may write to the federal OSHA Region 5 office at U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Chicago Regional Office, 230 S. Dearborn Street, Room 5204, Chicago, IL 60604. OSHA 3039

MNOSHA fatalities, serious injuries investigation summaries online

Each month, Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance publishes updated summaries of its fatalities and serious-injury investigations. For the federal-fiscal-year ending Sept. 30, MNSOHA investigated 20 workplace fatalities and 85 serious injuries.

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.

Start 2016 on the 'right' foot: Recordkeeping training offered in January



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 Thursday, Jan. 21, from 9 to 11:30 a.m., at the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) in 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.

Helpful recordkeeping series online

If you are already beyond the introductory level of recordkeeping but still have questions from time to time, refer to the Recordkeeping 101 and Recordkeeping 201 series online for answers – available at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Recordkeeping.asp. These brief articles will take you from learning about classifying recorded injuries to knowing when to record injury recurrences and episodic illnesses.

2014 workplace fatality statistics released; injury, illness rates available soon

By Brian Zaidman, Research Analyst

Information about fatal workplace injuries from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) is now available on the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) and U.S. Department of Labor websites. Minnesota 2014 CFOI tables are available at www.dli.mn.gov/RS/StatFatal.asp. National fatality figures from the CFOI program are available at www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm.

The 2014 estimated numbers and rates of nonfatal work-related injuries and illnesses by industry are scheduled to be released Oct. 29. These will be followed by the Nov. 19 release of the case and demographic statistics for cases with days away from work. Minnesota statistics will be available at www.dli.mn.gov/RS/StatWSH.asp.

Fatality statistics

The CFOI program shows a preliminary total of 62 fatal work-injuries in Minnesota in 2014, a decrease from the final count of 69 fatal work-injuries in 2013. The 2013 total is below the average of 66 cases a year for 2009 through 2013. Final 2014 data from the CFOI program will be released in spring 2016.

The CFOI also provides the following statistics for Minnesota's workplace fatalities during 2014.

Industries

- Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting recorded the highest number of worker fatalities, with 21 cases, an increase from 17 cases in 2013.
- Trade, transportation and utilities had the second-highest number of fatalities, with 18 cases, compared to 16 cases in 2013.
- Construction had the third-highest number of fatalities, with seven cases, compared to 12 cases in 2013.

Types of incidents

- Transportation incidents accounted for 25 fatalities, the most for any incident type. Ten of these fatalities occurred in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry sector and 10 fatalities occurred in trade, transportation and utilities. There were 34 transportation incident fatalities in 2013.
- Contact with objects and equipment was the second most frequent fatal work-injury event in 2014, with 14 fatalities. Most of these cases involved the worker being struck by an object or equipment.
- Nine of the fatalities were due to falls, with four in construction.
- There were eight fatalities resulting from violence in 2014, compared to six fatalities in 2013.

Worker characteristics

- Men accounted for 60 of the 62 fatally injured workers in 2014.
- Workers age 55 and older accounted for 28 fatalities, with 15 of these fatalities in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry sector.
- Self-employed workers accounted for 27 fatalities, including 19 fatalities to workers in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting and four in construction. There were 18 fatalities to self-employed workers in 2013.



Roslyn Robertson retires from DLI after 30 years of service

Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation Director Roslyn Robertson has retired after working for the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) for 30 years.

Robertson began at DLI as a student worker, moved to its Labor Standards unit as an investigator, eventually becoming the manager of the Apprenticeship and Labor Standards unit.

Later, she was appointed as DLI's Assistant Commissioner for Workplace Safety. She has worked as the Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation director for the past three years.



Emergency scenarios keep state agencies trained, prepared

Vigilant Guard 2015, an emergency preparedness exercise of the Minnesota National Guard, took place Aug. 22 through 28 (learn more online at www.minnesotanationalguard.org/VG15). During the weeklong event, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division teamed up with the National Guard to plan a one-day exercise for state agencies on Aug. 25.

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry was one of a dozen state agencies that participated in the Functional Exercise scenario involving the derailment of trains carrying Bakken oil, anhydrous ammonia and chlorine. During the exercise, while local responders dealt with the resulting fire, state agencies dealt with the consequences of the accident, such as noxious plumes, evacuation of residents from homes and institutions, road closures, office closures, housing needs and more.



The exercise was an opportunity to ensure emergency notification systems operated properly, responders to the State Emergency Operations Center were able to use the emergency system software, and individual agency communications and capabilities were prepared. The exercise scenarios helped identify strengths and gaps in state agency plans and improvements are now underway.

Information about how to prepare for disasters is available on the Department of Public Safety website at www.dps.mn.gov.

Construction Seminar, Nov. 17: 'Rescue plans, crisis management'

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.

"Rescue plans, crisis management" is the Nov. 17 topic, an in-depth look at what needs to be done to have effective emergency and rescue plans.



Get complete information and register at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/ConstructionSeminars.asp.

Workplace illness rates in Minnesota

By Brian Zaidman, Research and Statistics

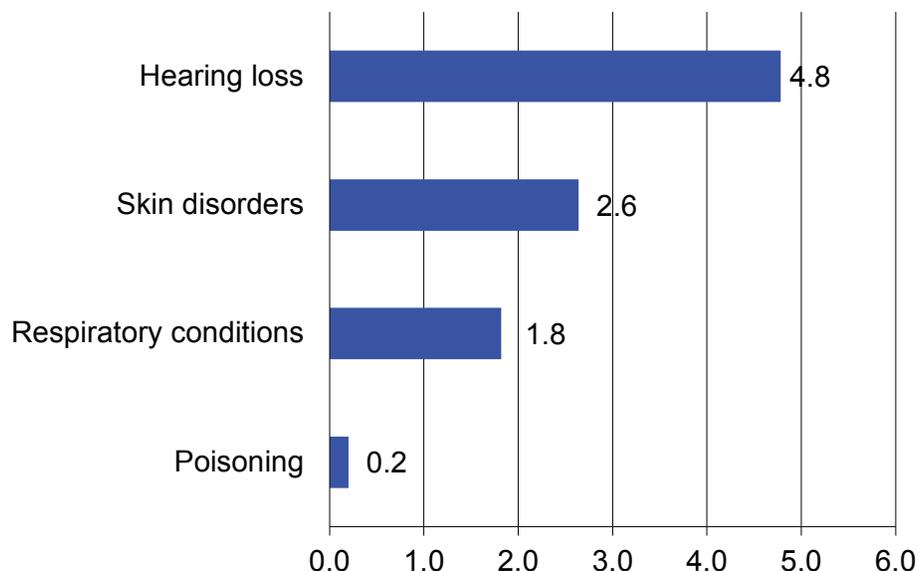


The OSHA log includes checkboxes to enable recordkeepers to identify four specific types of illnesses: skin disorders, respiratory conditions, poisoning and hearing loss. These boxes are checked for all related recordable cases, even those without any days away from work. The log summary includes totals for these columns and the survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) asks participating establishments to report these illness totals. In 2013, there were an estimated 1,900 OSHA recordable cases with one of these illnesses, out of a total of 81,200 injury and illness cases.

Due to the relatively low number of illness cases, the incidence rates are calculated to cases per 10,000 full-time-equivalent workers so safety professionals and researchers can follow trends. However, another result of the small numbers and the SOII estimation process is that the number of cases and the case rates can experience relatively large year-to-year changes. The figure shows the three-year average rate for the illnesses.

Hearing loss is the most common recordable illness, followed by skin disorders. They have had these same relative positions for nine of the past 10 years; only in 2006 were skin disorder cases more common than hearing loss cases.

Average incidence rate per 10,000 FTE for specific illnesses, all recordable cases, Minnesota, 2011-2013



Minnesota's newest **MNSHARP** worksites



Two worksites were recently recognized by the Department of Labor and Industry as Minnesota Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (MNSHARP) worksites.

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.



**Ceramic Industrial Coatings,
Osseo, Minnesota**

Ceramic Industrial Coatings

Ceramic Industrial Coatings, Osseo, Minnesota, is a leading supplier of industrial coatings to wood, metal and concrete markets. The primary focus is developing and manufacturing wood coatings for the millwork, cabinet and furniture industries, including solvent- and water-based coatings, stains and custom colors for a variety of markets and uses.

Digital Tool and Automation

Digital Tool and Automation, Ramsey, Minnesota, focuses on precision tooling, parts and components using its strengths in milling, electric discharge machining, water jet cutting, turning and grinding for industries from medical to the military. It is also versed in web press components and wear parts, weapons and parts for the aerospace and medical industries.



**Digital Tool and Automation
Ramsey, Minnesota**

Learn more at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/MnSharp.asp

Notes from the undercount, part four: **Special focus on recordkeeping in hospitals**

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, the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) undercount survey included extra sampling to enable special reports about three industries that experience high numbers of injuries and illnesses and that are also Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) emphasis industries: hospitals, nursing homes and fabricated metals manufacturing.

Because these are emphasis industries, the injury and illness case rates are tracked as one measure of the effectiveness of MNOSHA programs; therefore, the accuracy of the OSHA logs used to compute the rates is a matter of interest. Special reports to employers and recordkeepers in these three industries are being produced to improve OSHA log quality.

The report about hospitals, the first report in this series, will be available in October on the DLI website at www.dli.mn.gov/RS/StatWSH.asp.

It presents information about:

- the need for improved OSHA log recordkeeping in hospitals;
- how some OSHA log data are collected through the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses;
- potential sources of error in OSHA log data;
- survey results from 54 hospital log recordkeepers; and
- tips and resources for improved log recordkeeping.

The survey found that 26 percent of the hospital log recordkeepers had not received any log recordkeeping training. Training was an important factor in how recordkeepers understood which cases need to be recorded on the log, counted days away from work and updated their logs. Log recordkeeping training was related to hospital

size; while only 17 percent of the recordkeepers at hospitals with 250 or more workers had not received training, 54 percent of the recordkeepers at smaller hospitals were untrained.

Without accurate OSHA log records, it is difficult for hospital administrators and safety personnel to understand the effectiveness of their workplace safety programs and to benchmark their establishment's measures against industry benchmarks. Without accurate OSHA log records, it becomes difficult for the Bureau of Labor Statistics to produce accurate industry benchmarks and for Minnesota OSHA to understand the effectiveness of its workplace safety and compliance programs.

DLI offers free recordkeeping training seminars in-person and online. The next recordkeeping seminar is Jan. 21 (see page 2 for more information).



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 is the difference between a safety inspection, a health inspection and a joint inspection?**

A. During a safety inspection, a safety investigator looks for safety hazards, such as electrical hazards, missing machine guarding, fall hazards and improper scaffolding.

During a health inspection, an industrial hygienist or health investigator focuses on exposures to physical agents – such as heat stress or noise, hazardous substances and infectious agents – such as bloodborne pathogens. Both safety investigators and health investigators receive some cross training in the other discipline to enable them to perform more comprehensive inspections.

During a joint inspection, both a safety investigator and a health investigator conduct the inspection. These are typically scheduled when a facility appears on both the safety and health programmed inspection lists or when an employee complaint contains both alleged safety and health hazards.

Q. **What personal protective equipment is necessary when I'm cutting dry bricks? Is the use of wet methods required?**

A. Cutting dry bricks can create several hazards that would require personal protective equipment (PPE). Chief among these is the silica-containing dust generated by the work. Uncontrolled cutting can produce dust levels above the permissible exposure limits (PELs), so controls must be used whenever feasible.

Wet methods are one of the controls that can be used to reduce dust levels. Federal OSHA recommends wet methods be used whenever possible. Vacuum dust collection systems also reduce the dust levels and have the advantage of keeping the worksite dust-free. Vacuum dust collection systems should be used when wet methods are not feasible.

If controls are insufficient, or while controls are being installed, a half-face or disposable respirator with an N, R or P-95 rated filter should be worn up to dust levels 10 times the PEL. For dustier levels, a full-facepiece respirator must be worn. Respirators are recommended whenever there is exposure to silica-containing dust.

MNOSHA answers FAQs, continues ...

Flying particles are another brick-cutting hazard; therefore, eye and face protection are recommended. Handling the abrasive materials may require the use of gloves. Finally, protection from noisy saws should be considered and hearing protection worn.

To see a video comparison of the amount of dust generated by cutting concrete block using dry and wet methods, visit the NIOSH Silica: Engineering Controls for Silica in Construction – Cut-off Saws Web page at www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/silica/cutOffSaws.html.

For more information about sawing concrete block, see the federal OSHA factsheets:

- Controlling Silica Exposures in Construction While Operating Handheld Masonry Saws (OSHA 3627) at www.osha.gov/Publications/silica/OSHA_FS-3627.pdf; and
- Controlling Silica Exposures in Construction While Operating Stationary Masonry Saws (OSHA 3631) at www.osha.gov/Publications/silica/OSHA_FS-3631.pdf.

Q. Is fall protection needed when raising an employee up using a basket on a forklift in general industry?

A. First, any basket or personnel lift to be used with a powered industrial truck, such as a forklift, must have the approval of the forklift manufacturer or a certified professional engineer. If the equipment manual from the manufacturer firmly states the forklift is not to be used for elevating personnel, it cannot be – under any circumstances. If an approved basket is available it should be secured to the lifting carriage or forks.

ANSI/ITSDF B56.1-2012 Safety Standard for Low Lift and High Lift Trucks requires that employees working in such baskets use fall protection: “Workers who weigh less than 220 pounds can choose between a safety belt or a full body harness. Workers who weigh 220 pounds or more are required to wear a full body harness.” Federal OSHA recommends full body harnesses be worn by all employees, regardless of weight.

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.

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.

Moving workplace safety, health beyond the minimum

Compliance with OSHA standards is a minimum; however, compliance with these standards alone does not necessarily translate to effective management of worksite safety and health. Why? Compliance with standards alone does not guarantee an employee-driven process, with support from management and direction from front-line supervisors, who are involved in establishing and maintaining long-term compliance. Also, a work process may have unique issues that are not directly mandated by an OSHA safety or health standard.



To manage worksite safety and health most effectively, assessment of the work practices and conditions must be done, with close attention paid to how the “end-point” is reached. Without guidance, training and proper equipment workers assigned a task will do what they feel is necessary to get the task completed as quickly as possible, paying less attention to the potential safety and health risks as long as they can complete the task. This thought process can often lead to short-term successes but, ultimately, the result may be injury or illness to one or more workers, eliminating the perceived “savings” gained by more short-sighted thinking.

Assessment of the tasks and work conditions must be done to determine how work can be performed more effectively, while minimizing risks to workers. This process must be supported by management and involve workers who perform the tasks to ensure credible and comprehensive assessments are performed. The assessment will reference OSHA and other safety and health standards to ensure all potential risks are considered and control measures taken to minimize the risk to workers.

Many successful employers have implemented a “Lean” process that incorporates attributes of safety and health management: Improving worksite safety corresponds to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of how work tasks will be performed.

The safety and health recognition programs administered under MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation (WSC) emphasize the attributes that contribute to an effective safety and health management system. These programs will not only evaluate compliance with OSHA standards, but will also validate the implementation of attributes that ensure an effective safety management system. Employers that apply for recognition in these programs either have a system that is currently effective or work with WSC to implement the necessary attributes.

Two recognition programs are available for employers that have the commitment to implement and maintain a system that keeps worker safety and health a part of the overall work process.

MNSTAR Program

The Minnesota Star (MNSTAR) Program is a partnership program designed for employers that go above and beyond the minimum requirements of OSHA standards. MNSTAR Program participants have exemplary safety and



health management systems and, through their own self-evaluation process and continual improvement, maintain an effective safety management system. This approach allows MNOSHA to focus enforcement resources toward employers that are truly in need of their intervention.

MNSTAR Program employers see the benefit of higher productivity and lower injury and illness rates because of the safety and health management systems they have in place. It is typical to see the most successful and productive employers are also the safest. Employees receive the benefit of working for an employer where safety is highly valued. MNSTAR Program employers receive the benefit of lower injury and illness rates, exemption from program-planned MNOSHA Compliance inspections, higher production and an increased culture of workplace satisfaction.

MNSHARP

The Minnesota Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (MNSHARP) is designed for small employers that are working to improve their safety and health management systems. MNSHARP is designed to assist small employers in identifying, correcting and managing hazardous conditions in the workplace.

SAFETY • HEALTH • EXCELLENCE



OSHA • MANAGEMENT • LABOR

Employers are always trying to do more with less and may not have dedicated staff members to manage safety and health. Through MNSHARP, the employer can use WSC consultants as a compass to point them in the right direction and show them what it means to have an effective safety and health management system. Safety is not one-size-fits-all and every employer has to deal with its own business-specific hazards. WSC consultants can help employers manage site-specific hazards and achieve the goals that are set.

WSC has staff members specifically dedicated to working with employers in its partnership programs. To learn more about MNSTAR Program or MNSHARP, contact Ryan Nosan at (651) 284-5120 or ryan.nosan@state.mn.us.

Employers that are not yet ready to consider the MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation recognition programs are encouraged to take steps to improve the management of safety and health in their workplace by working with WSC consultants and other entities to actively assess work conditions and to initiate a site-specific discussion about safety and health issues.

MNSTAR employers mentor others striving for safety, health excellence

The Minnesota Star (MNSTAR) Program is a safety and health recognition program designed for employers that have implemented an exemplary safety and health management system. Before achieving MNSTAR Program status, employers must demonstrate their safety and health management effectiveness during a full-service health and safety consultation visit from Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Workplace Safety Consultation (WSC) and subsequent assessments focusing on their management system.

After becoming a MNSTAR Program worksite, employers are available to mentor other Minnesota employers seeking to improve their effectiveness in managing workplace safety and health. Upon request, WSC will put those employees striving for safety and health excellence in contact with a MNSTAR Program participant that can assist with a safety and health focus.

For more information about the MNSTAR Program or its mentors, contact MNSTAR Program Director Ryan Nosan at ryan.nosan@state.mn.us or (651) 284-5120 or visit www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/Mnstar.asp.

MNSTAR Program participant update

Minnesota currently has 39 Minnesota Star (MNSTAR) Program worksites. Of these 39 sites, 37 are classified as general-industry worksites and two are resident contractors at the Flint Hills Refinery. In federal-fiscal-year 2015 (Oct. 1, 2014 through Sept. 30, 2015) three worksites achieved MNSTAR Program status:

- Bosch Security Systems in Burnsville achieved full MNSTAR Program status, with its initial certification Dec. 1, 2014, through Dec. 1, 2017;
- Cintas Corporation in Maple Grove achieved full MNSTAR Program status, with its initial certification Feb. 15, 2015, through Feb. 15, 2018; and
- Thomson Reuters-Core Publishing Solutions in Eagan achieved full MNSTAR Program status, with its initial certification Sept. 1, 2015, through Sept. 1, 2018.



Cintas, Maple Grove

In addition to the worksites that achieved MNSTAR Program certification during 2015, Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation (WSC) also completed nine recertification visits. The recertification visits take precedence over any new certification to ensure MNSTAR Program worksites keep their certifications active and in good standing. Recertification visits consist of a full hazard survey, employee interviews, injury and illness examination, and program/policy review.

Having a dedicated MNSTAR team has allowed WSC to build strong working relationships with its partners and has helped open lines of communication from site to site. The current stakeholders continue to promote the program to their clients, which has led to an increase of inquiries into the program. In addition to promoting the program, MNSTAR Program worksites are willing to share best practices, which allows all employers the chance to become safer and healthier.

WSC takes part in Latino small-business event

In August, Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation (WSC) participated in the Latino Economic Development Center's "Face to Face With the Experts 2015" event, a series of interviews with local Latino business owners to discuss occupational hazards and workplace safety inspections.

During a series of 15-minute interviews, WSC Director Roslyn Robertson and WSC Safety Consultant Principal Bill Stuart discussed workplace safety and health concerns of local Latino business owners. The conversations ranged from establishing a safety program for potential business owners to specific questions regarding worker safety and health. WSC has already agreed to and conducted one on-site consultation visit as a result of these interactions; other consultations visits are expected to occur during the next several months.

The Latino Economic Development Center is working to strengthen communication between business experts and members of the Latino business community. All attendees had the opportunity to learn more about options and services available from several business experts, empowering participants to make better personal and business decisions.

WSC plans to continue working with the Latino Economic Development Center and business owners within the Latino community to help them provide a socially responsible business culture for all.

Active-shooter drill:

Gun violence erupts at Duluth workplaces

Two of Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation’s (WSC’s) consultants participated in an “active-shooter drill” June 23, at St. Luke’s Hospital in Duluth, Minnesota. Medical and law enforcement professionals converged for the exercise that was designed to prepare participants for a real emergency.

Approximately 70 people took part in the training, including the Duluth Police Department, Duluth Fire Department, St. Louis County Fire and Rescue Squad, and volunteers who acted as patients and victims.

During the drill, four workplace violence scenarios were portrayed using real guns with blank ammunition. The WSC consultants were active participants in two of the four scenarios and were able to stand back to observe the final two scenarios.

“It really puts into perspective how challenging workplace violence is, especially in health care,” said Vikki Sanders, WSC workplace violence prevention coordinator.

Drill organizer Mike Marturano, St. Luke’s Hospital safety officer, said its staff is trained to run, hide and fight. When he took his job 15 years ago, such training wasn’t even a thought.

“That’s the time we live in now, so we have to be prepared for anything that’s going on out there,” Marturano said. “This seems to be the number one thing people have issue with right now. We do this because of the community and we are here to serve them. We want to make sure we are as ready as we possibly can be.”



MNOSHA Compliance signs safety, health partnerships

Minnesota OSHA Compliance recently signed Level 3 Cooperative Compliance Partnerships with Hunt Electric, Kraus Anderson, Parsons Electric and M.A. Mortenson Company.

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 signed its partnership agreement for the API Training Center and Office Building in New Brighton, Minnesota.

Kraus-Anderson signed its partnership agreement for the City Place Phase 2 – S.E. Retail project in Woodbury, Minnesota. The project is scheduled for completion June 30, 2016.

M.A. Mortenson signed a partnership agreement for its Ridgeview Professional Building project in Waconia, Minnesota, scheduled for completion April 20, 2016.

M.A. Mortenson and **Parsons Electric** jointly signed partnership agreements for the AC Marriott Hotel project in Minneapolis, scheduled for completion Sept. 1, 2016.

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 about the partnership programs at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Partnerships.asp.



**Hunt Electric, API Training Center and Office Building
New Brighton, Minnesota**



**Kraus-Anderson, City Place Phase 2 – S.E. Retail
Woodbury, Minnesota**



**M.A. Mortenson, Ridgeview Professional Building
Waconia, Minnesota**



**M.A. Mortenson and Parsons Electric
AC Marriott Hotel, Minneapolis**