INdiana Labor Insider

September/October 2008

Advancing the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace

Mitchell E. Daniels Jr., *Governor*

Lori A. Torres, Commissioner of Labor

An Eventful Couple of Months

Welcome to the fall edition of the *INdiana Labor Insider*. Since our last edition, we have received positive feedback on the usefulness of this publication. Thank you for your comments, please continue to send them—we take them very seriously.

From signing three alliances, continuing efforts in promoting workplace safety and health, and issuing teen labor work permits online, and winning a regional award, a lot has happened in the past two months and we want to share the news with you. You can find the news in this edition of the Insider.

Lori A. Torres
Commissioner of Labor

Additionally, the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has released the latest information pertaining to Indiana workplace fatalites. Data such as this is used to drive our efforts through our IOSHA compliance inspections and our OSHA consultation program, INSafe. While even one occupational injury, illness or fatality is one too many, Indiana has made and will continue to make great strides in workplace safety and health. A thorough analysis of the data will be released in our annual publication, ***IN Review***, however until that publication is released, please find some information below.

Although there have been some exciting developments in the past two months, one thing remains the same—our commitment to Hoosiers in the workplace. Thank you for the privilege of being able to serve you.

To your health and wealth,

Lori A. Torres
Commissioner

Indiana Reports Historic Low Workplace Fatalities in 2007

Last year, Indiana reported 127 work related deaths—the lowest number since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began tracking workplace fatalities. While one workplace fatality is one too many, the news is very encouraging.

Not only has Indiana had its best year statewide, but two of Indiana's major industries also achieved their best records in 2007. **Manufacturing** reported a reduction of 46% in fatalities (7) from 2006, and a significant improvement from the industry's high of 40 in 1997. Indiana's **Retail Trade** industry reported four fatalities, a number well below the average in that Hoosier industry.

Industries in Indiana with the highest report of workplace fatalities in 2007 include **Transportation** (32), **Agriculture** (22) and **Construction** (21). However, these industries still performed better than their previous five-year averages.

The majority of fatalities in the transportation industry were caused by motor vehicle accidents involving cars, trucks and vans. While 2007 reports indicate fewer transportation-related deaths, these types of incidents remain the primary cause of workplace fatalities. There were 62 fatalities in 2007 that involved the operation of a vehicle or material mover—down by 13 from 2006. Hoosier farms engaged in crop production were the source of 77% of the agriculture industry fatalities.

Information on injuries and illnesses will be released in October.

The Indiana Department of Labor is hiring, visit the State Job Bank for more information: http://www.in.gov/spd/jobs

Partnering for Hoosier Workplace Safety and Health

Advancing the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace is what the Indiana Department of Labor had in mind by teaming up with Indiana trade associations, a labor union and a private safety consulting firm as well as a national association at the OSHA Region V level.

The alliance agreements with the **Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors** (SMACNA) and the **Indiana Ready Mixed Concrete Association** (IRMCA) will focus on ensuring workplace safety and health. The Indiana Department of Labor will provide expertise in developing information on the recognition and prevention of workplace hazards, and expertise in developing ways of communicating such information. Both SMACNA and IRMCA will share information with the Indiana Department of Labor and industry safety and health professionals regarding best practices or effective approaches.

The SMACNA Alliance also includes the Sheet Metal Workers Local 20 and **Safety Resources**. Together, **Safety Resources** and the Indiana Department of Labor will participate in the delivery of current safety group-wide training programs for members.

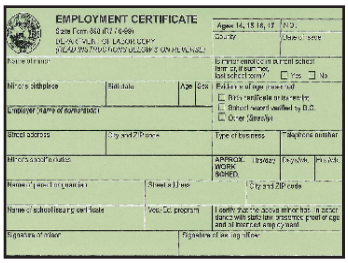
The OSHA Region V alliance with the **American Physical Therapy Association** (APTA) will focus on worker safety and health, particularly in reducing and preventing exposure to risk factors for musculoskeletal disorders and addressing ergonomic issues. OSHA Region V consists of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. Information will be shared and discussed at the state and regional levels.

Quarterly, state alliance participants are required to report their Total OSHA Recordable and DART rates to their respective associations. The association will report the numbers to the Indiana Department of Labor in aggregate form for the purposes of tracking overall trends in injury and illnesses for the associations. Use of the OSHA consultation program, **INSafe**, is encouraged by each of the alliance associations to its members.

Alliances and partnerships provide an opportunity for parties to form a more cooperative and proactive relationship with the IOSHA and INSafe.

For additional information on the Indiana Department of Labor alliances or partnerships, please visit http://www.in.gov/dol/insafe or contact INSafe at (317) 232-2688.

Child Labor Goes High-Tech


EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATE

The Indiana Department of Labor is responsible for administering and enforcing Indiana's Child Labor laws. One requirement of Indiana's Child Labor laws is that nearly every minor seeking employment in the state must obtain an employment certificate, also known as a work permit. Historically, permits were issued as a **"green card"** bearing the state seal and form number.

In 2004, the agency developed and implemented an Internet-based system capable of issuing work permits online. The online system allows schools to process work permits more efficiently and eliminate unnecessary steps and postage required by the dated **"green card"** process. Data entered by the schools feeds into a database maintained by the Indiana Department of Labor.

This new system, however, with all its benefits and efficiencies, was never made mandatory. Many schools still use the **"green card"** system, making data pertaining to minors working in Indiana difficult to obtain. However, effective **November 1, 2008**, the Bureau of Child Labor will make the use of the system **mandatory** for all accredited schools statewide. Schools will receive offical notification from the Bureau of Child Labor soon.

All work permits issued will be maintained electronically. Our goal is to begin to utilize the more accurate and up-to-date data to determine distribution of Child Labor inspectors and areas where training in Child Labor laws would be most effective.

Deputy Commissioner Rick Ruble described this change stating, "We are taking laws from the 1930's—that have been using processes developed in the 1950's—and bringing them into 2008."

The Indiana Department of Labor is hiring, visit the State Job Bank for more information: http://www.in.gov/spd/jobs

IDOL Stands Out in Region V

On July 28, 2008, the Indiana Department of Labor was awarded the ***Wm Q. Wiehrdt Customer Service Award***. The award was presented by the U.S. Department of Labor, Region V OSHA office and highlights significant achievements in the customer service arena. Region V consists of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

"It takes the Quality, Metrics & Statistics staff, INSafe team, IOSHA inspectors and Wage & Hour staff, along with Bureau of Mines and Operations and all of us working and rowing in the same direction to make this happen," Commissioner Torres commented.

Photo: Commissioner of Labor, Lori A. Torres, accepts the Wm Q. Wiehrdt Customer Service Award from OSHA Area Director, Kenneth Gilbert. Also pictured with Commissioner Torres is the Indiana Department of Labor executive team.

It Happened Here: Dearborn County

Background: Towing capacity is a measure describing the upper weight limit that a trailer attached to a vehicle is capable of towing. There are many precautionary measures to consider in properly towing a trailer, starting with the vehicle towing capacity and including properly and legally connecting safety chains. Serious injury can occur if safety precautions are not put into place and followed.

Fatal Event: On January 25, 2008, in **Dearborn County**, a 40 year-old truck driver was fatally injured. The operator died of positional asphyxiation when he was crushed between a tow truck and a dump trailer. The operator was attempting to assist two tow truck mechanics as they were repairing the dump trailer. The tow truck was rated at 15 tons; however the trailer being towed weighed nearly 20 tons. A mechanic went beneath the trailer and cut the main cylinder into two separate pieces. A second mechanic stood between the trailer and tow truck cab holding the top half of the main cylinder, the victim sat on the fender under the trailer holding the lower half of the main cylinder. The second mechanic operated controls on the lift. When the trailer was loaded, a loud popping noise was heard. The trailer then slid off of the lift, striking and pinning the victim between the trailer and tow truck fender.

Recommendations: Safe towing and maintenance operations should include the following:

- Always follow the operating instructions of the equipment/machinery. Only qualified persons should perform maintenance services;
- Instrumentation and controls should always be checked to ensure proper operation;
- Operators must always work within the vehicle capacity and stability ratings;
- Ensure proper illumination and that there are favorable surface conditions to perform maintenance;
- Using make-shift devices to "fix" or assist in "fixing" machinery or equipment should be avoided;
- Securing and/or blocking out all moving parts is critical as well as appropriately "locking out*" all energy sources;
- Environmental hazards/carbon monoxide, diesel or exhaust should always be monitored.

*For additional information on Lockout/Tagout, please visit http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/controlhazardousenergy/index.html .

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Recognizing Excellence

Recognizing Excellence spotlights Hoosier employers and their employees for their efforts in achieving status in either the Indiana Voluntary Participation Program (VPP) or Indiana Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (INSHARP). The Indiana Department of Labor congratulates the following employers and employees for their efforts to ensure Hoosier occupational safety and health. For further information on Indiana's exemplary safety and health programs please visit http://www.in.gov/dol.

INSHARP

New: Cook Pharmica, LLC (Bloomington, IN)
Recertification: City of Jasper (Jasper, IN)

VPP

Recertification: IR VonDuprin (Indianapolis, IN)

Training Opportunities

The Indiana Department of Labor works with the **Indiana Chamber of Commerce**, **Indiana Manufacturers Association** (IMA), **Risk Management Services** (RMS) and **Safety Management Group** (SMG) to provide safety and health training scholarships.

More information on scholarship and training opportunities may be found on our website at http://www.in.gov/dol/3520.htm.

Date	Sponsor	Class
09/04 - 09/05/08	SMG	OSHA Construction 10-Hour (Indianapolis, IN)
09/08/08	SMG	Confined Space Entry (Indianapolis, IN)
09/09/08	RMS	Effective Ergonomics (Indianapolis, IN)
09/09/08	Chamber	Lockout/Tagout (Indianapolis, IN)
09/10/08	Chamber	Forklift Safety (Indianapolis, IN)
09/10/08	SMG	First Aid/CPR (Indianapolis, IN)
09/10 - 09/11/08	IMA	OSHA General Industry 10-Hour (Fort Wayne, IN)
09/11 - 09/12/08	RMS	Basic Electrical for the Non-Electrician (Indianapolis, IN)
09/23 - 09/26/08	SMG	OSHA Construction 30-Hour (Indianapolis, IN)
09/25/08	RMS	OSHA Recordkeeping
09/26/08	RMS	Subpart E& Lifesaving Equipment* (Indianapolis, IN)
10/02 - 10/03/08	SMG	OSHA Construction 10-Hour (Indianapolis, IN)
10/07 - 10/08/08	Chamber	OSHA General Industry 10-Hour (South Bend, IN)
10/07 - 10/09/08	IMA	OSHA General Industry 30-Hour (Indianapolis, IN)
10/08 - 10/09/08	Chamber	OSHA General Industry 10-Hour (Fort Wayne, IN)
10/09 - 10/10/08	RMS	OSHA Construction 10-Hour (Indianapolis, IN)
10/10/08	Chamber	Forklift Safety (Fort Wayne, IN)
10/13/08	SMG	Scaffolding (Indianapolis, IN)
10/23 - 10/24/08	SMG	OSHA Construction 10-Hour (Indianapolis, IN)
10/24/08	RMS	SubpartFFireProtection&Prevention*(Indianapolis,IN)
10/30 - 10/31/08	SMG	OSHA General Industry 10-Hour (Indianapolis, IN)

*Indicates free seminar, contact sponsor for additional details.

Save a Date for the INgov Roadshow!

Back for round two, the INgov Roadshow hits the Indiana highways in September and October 2008. Consisting of an overview of the free resources and services available and a networking session, the INgov Roadshow is a must attend for any small business representative.

The event is being sponsored by local-area Chambers of Commerce and is ***free*** to attend, but registration is required. Events will be held in Columbus, Lafayette, Marion, New Albany, Terre Haute and Valparaiso. Additional information, event dates and registration may be found at http://www.IN.gov/confreg. Please phone 1-800-988-7901 with any questions.

The INdiana Labor Insider is a bi-monthly newsletter of the Indiana Department of Labor. To subscribe or unsubscribe to this publication, please email INSafe at insafe@dol.in.gov .

402 West Washington Street, Room W195 • Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 232-2655 • http://www.in.gov/dol

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