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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Michigan Worker Deaths of 2015

The 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th Michigan worker deaths of 2015 occurred on July 7, 8, 13, 14, 18, and 21, 2015. Employers and employees are urged to use extreme care and safety diligence in all work activities.

Summary of incident #13: On July 7, 2015, at approximately 2:10 p.m., a 57-year-old journeyman maintenance technician entered a robotic weld cell. The robot arm activated pinning/crushing the employee's head between a hitch plate and a metal fixture.

Summary of incident #14: On July 8, 2015, at approximately 9:45 a.m., a 53-year-old maintenance technician fell, approximately 20-feet from a platform, to the ground below.

Summary of incident #15: On July 13, 2015, at approximately 11:20 a.m., a 40-year-old laborer was working in an excavation installing a drainage system for a parking lot. While a tractor operator was emptying a load of material into the excavation, the tractor fell in, landing on the laborer, fatally injuring him.

Summary of incident #16: On July 14, 2015, at approximately 11:00 a.m., a 30-year-old feed operations manager fell to a lower level while in an area under construction at the facility.

Summary of incident #17: On July 18, 2015, approximately sometime after 7:00 p.m., a 63-year-old owner was apparently attempting to open the motorized gate at the shop entrance in order to leave the facility. The control box to open the gate is on the outside of the gate. She was on the inside. It is speculated that she reached around the gate through an opening to insert the key. She was found crushed between the gate, stationary fence, and the disconnect box.

Summary of incident #18: On July 21, 2015, at approximately 4 p.m., a 14 year old farm worker was loading hay bales onto an elevator when her clothing became entangled in the power take-off (PTO) shaft, resulting in her fatal injuries.

There were 37 MIOSHA-related deaths in 2014. 2009 saw the lowest number with 24.

If you need help or assistance in ensuring your workplace is safe, MIOSHA is here with resources to help. The Consultation Education & Training (CET) Division provides workplace safety and health training and consultations to employers and employees throughout Michigan free of charge. Contact CET today at 800-866-4674 or submit a request online at www.michigan.gov/cetrca.

Every life is precious. Our mutual goal must be that every employee goes home at the end of their shift every day!

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Tracking Fatalities

Fatalities

Program related fatalities are investigated by our enforcement divisions and information is posted on our MIOSHA website. However, many fatalities that are not program-related are also researched and are included in Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) Program statistics issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) each year. Following is an overview of what types of fatalities are included in each program.

Program Related

A fatality is recorded as "Program-Related" if the deceased party was employed in an occupation included in MIOSHA jurisdiction as defined in Public Act 154 of 1974, as amended, and the fatality appears to be related to one or more of the following conditions:

1. The incident was found to have resulted from violations of MIOSHA safety and health standards or the "general duty" clause.
2. There is an employer/employee relationship.

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)

A fatality is included in CFOI if it's the result of a traumatic injury and there is a work relationship. A traumatic injury is defined as any wound or damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to energy, such as heat, electricity, or impact from a crash or fall, or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen, caused by a specific event or incident within a single workday or shift. Included are open wounds, intracranial and internal injuries, heatstroke, hypothermia, asphyxiation, acute poisonings resulting from short-term exposures limited to the worker's shift, suicides and homicides, and work injuries listed as underlying or contributory causes of death. Heart attacks and strokes are considered illnesses and therefore excluded from CFOI unless a traumatic injury contributed to the death.

A work relationship exists if an event or exposure results in the fatal injury or illness of a person:

1. ON the employer's premises and the person was there to work.
2. OFF the employer's premises and the person was there to work, or the event or exposure was related to the person's work or status as an employee.
3. Volunteer workers who are exposed to the same work hazards and perform the same duties or functions as paid employees.

Year	Program Related Fatalities	CFOI Fatalities
2010	38	146
2011	36	141
2012	26	137
2013	27	135
2014	37	Data not yet released

For more information on the CFOI Program including annual reports, visit the DOL/BLS website at <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm>

Minimum Wage Rate for Minors

On May 27, 2014, Act 138, the Workforce Opportunity Wage Act, was passed. This Act took immediate effect, and Act 154 of 1966 Michigan Minimum Wage, was rescinded. Act 138 increased the minimum wage rate to \$8.15 per hour effective September 1, 2014.

There are two laws that govern minimum wage. Michigan law generally applies to a business in Michigan that has two or more employees age 16 or older. The Federal Fair Labor Standards Act minimum wage applies to businesses in Michigan that have a gross annual dollar revenue over \$500,000 a year or that engage in interstate commerce. A business in Michigan should follow the stricter minimum wage standard.

- Under Act 138 minors may be paid less than the \$8.15 per hour in the following circumstances:
- Training wage: newly hired employees age 16 to 19 may be paid \$4.25 per hour for the first 90 days of employment.
 - 85% rate for 16- and 17-year-olds: Act 138 allows an employer to pay an employee age 16- and 17-year-olds 85% of state minimum wage. Since state minimum wage is now \$8.15, 85% of that is \$6.93. A business that is also covered by the Federal Minimum Wage law should pay the higher federal minimum wage rate of \$7.25.

For more information about Michigan's minimum wage law please visit www.michigan.gov/wagehour or call toll-free 855-464-9243.

AGENCY INSTRUCTIONS/MEMOS ISSUED

July 14, 2015 – [Electrical Safety Work Practices for MIOSHA Personnel](#)

MEDIA

July 23, 2015 – [Steel Industries, Inc. in Livonia Awarded MIOSHA Certification for Exemplary Workplace Safety](#)

All of the MIOSHA Press Releases can be viewed from our [website](#).

VARIANCES

Variations from MIOSHA standards must be made available to the public in accordance with Part 12, Variations (R408.22201 to 408.22251). MIOSHA variations are published on the MIOSHA News website: www.michigan.gov/mioshavariances.

QUICK LINKS

[Agency/Division Instructions/Memorandums](#)
[Asbestos Program](#)
[Ask MIOSHA](#)
[Consultation Education & Training \(CET\) Division](#)
[CET Request for Consultative Assistance Services](#)
[CET Training Calendar](#)
[Construction Safety & Health Division \(CSHD\)](#)
[DVD/Video Library Service](#)
[Employee Safety, Health and Discrimination Complaint Forms](#)
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