

IN THIS ISSUE

What's Happening

[Michigan Worker Deaths of 2016](#)

[Nonprofits Receive \\$865,000 in MIOSHA Grants for Worker Protection](#)

[Agency Instructions Issued](#)

[Media](#)

[Variances](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Michigan Worker Deaths of 2016

The 30th – 36th Michigan worker deaths of 2016 occurred on September 29, October 3, 17, 22, 26, and 28, 2016. The information below shares preliminary details about the most recent fatalities reported to the Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration (MIOSHA). The description reflects information provided to MIOSHA at the initial report of the incident and are not the result of the official MIOSHA investigation.

Preliminary summary of incident #30: On September 29, 2016, at approximately 11:00 a.m., a 54-year-old owner was crushed by a stack of apple boxes that he was moving with his tractor in his orchard.

Preliminary summary of incident #31: On October 3, 2016, at approximately 10:52 a.m., a 49-year-old owner was approximately 55 feet up in the air attempting to trim a large oak tree from a private residence. The owner tied a rope around the limb that was approximately 6-8 inches in diameter and tied the other end to the bucket truck. While cutting the limb, the limb split and struck the bucket causing the owner to fall from the bucket to the ground.

Preliminary summary of incident #32: On October 17, 2016, at approximately 1:30 p.m., a 35-year-old fork lift operator was moving a trash bin on a powered industrial truck from the loading dock to a compactor. The fork lift operator was crushed between the bin and the compactor, but was able to remove himself and was found next to the fork lift. Emergency Medical Services was called and the fork lift operator was transported to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries a day later.

Preliminary summary of incident #33: On October 22, 2016, at approximately 8:15 a.m., a 62-year-old fork lift driver was attempting to change a light bulb. To access the lighting fixture, a colleague grabbed an empty apple crate with a powered industrial truck and lifted the crate with the fork lift driver inside to a height of approximately 15-20 feet. While attempting to change the light bulb, the fork lift driver fell from the apple crate.

Preliminary summary of incident #34: On October 21, 2016, at approximately 8:08 a.m., a 38-year-old pipefitter foreman was backing a 45-foot boom-lift through a bay door. He struck his back on a welded angle iron that was protruding and was pinned against it, crushing his chest. He was transported to the hospital and died on October 26, 2016.

Preliminary summary of incident #35 and #36: On October 28, 2016, at approximately 7:22 p.m., two employees were conducting lake maintenance and removing buoys from the lake for the

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season. While working from a 2006 aluminum 10-foot tracker boat, the boat began to take on water and sink. The employees in the boat called three other colleagues working in the area and advised them the boat was sinking. The two employees in the boat were in the water by the time their coworkers arrived on scene. Two of the three employees entered the water from shore in a rescue attempt. The two employees swimming from shore submerged below the surface of the water prior to reaching the employees in the boat. One of the employees in the capsized boat managed to swim to shore on his own, while the other employee in the boat was rescued by a resident of the subdivision that had driven his boat to the scene to provide rescue. After an underwater search by members of the local county dive team, the employees were located in approximately 10 feet of water. The employees were submerged for approximately 60 minutes. Resuscitation efforts were started on the employees and they were transported to the hospital where they were pronounced deceased upon arrival. None of the employees involved in the incident used or had access to personal flotation devices.

There were 29 MIOSHA-related deaths in 2015. 2009 saw the lowest number with 24. Every life is precious. Our mutual goal must be that every employee goes home at the end of their shift every day!

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](#).

Nonprofits Receive \$865,000 in MIOSHA Grants for Worker Protection

To support worker safety and health across the state, Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) Deputy Director Al Pohl announced the award of \$865,000 in Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) grants to [20 nonprofit organizations](#).

The Consultation, Education and Training (CET) grants are awarded annually on an open, competitive basis for the development and implementation of safety and health training and services.

“The grants go a long way in supplementing MIOSHA CET activities and ensuring safe, healthful workplaces throughout Michigan,” said Pohl.

The MIOSHA CET Grant Program provides additional options for safety and health education and training to employers and employees. Most of the grants focus on the performance goals identified in the MIOSHA Strategic Plan, with a particular emphasis on hazard recognition and prevention for high hazard industries.

The CET Grant Program is designed to:

- Increase the number of employers and employees receiving occupational safety and health education, training and prevention services, especially employers with less than 100 employees.
- Encourage the development of new strategies for providing occupational safety and health education, training and prevention services.
- Encourage new providers of occupational safety and health education, training and prevention services for Michigan businesses.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of those alternative strategies and providers.

The awarded projects include a wide range of training activities and proficiency levels, some of which include: crane rigging and signaling; silica safety; masonry; confined space entry; ergonomics; tree trimming and chainsaw safety; workplace violence prevention; emergency

action plans; hazard communication; lockout/tagout; machine guarding; noise exposure; electrical hazard awareness; personal protective equipment; aerial lift rescue; emergency evacuation; safety and health management system; hazard communication; youth safety; and powered industrial trucks.

“It’s a win-win for MIOSHA and our partners in workplace safety and health,” said MIOSHA Director Bart Pickelman. “The grants enable Michigan employer groups, labor organizations and other nonprofits to provide important and innovative safety and health training and services, while strengthening the agency’s collaboration with these groups to better protect Michigan’s working men and women.”

Grant recipients are required to demonstrate how their efforts will meet specific objectives and must file quarterly activity and financial reports with MIOSHA to ensure compliance with CET grant reporting requirements. MIOSHA representatives monitor the grant programs and observe each programs’ operations on-site.

The CET grants have a strong track record of increasing safety awareness in the workplace. The FY 2017 grants continue MIOSHA’s commitment to greater training on safety practices and fewer workplace injuries, illnesses and fatalities on the job.

AGENCY INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED

September 22, 2016 - [MIOSHA Leadership Institute](#)

October 13, 2016 - [Medical Services and First Aid for General Industry and Construction](#)

October 13, 2016 – [Pyrotechnics Manufacture, Storage, Sale, Handling, Use, and Display](#)

October 13, 2016 – [Workplace Violence Inspection Procedures](#)

October 17, 2016 – [Commercial Diving Operations](#)

October 20, 2016 – [Blight Removal Involving Asbestos, Lead and Cadmium – State Emphasis Program \(SEP\)](#)

MEDIA

October 11, 2016 – [Nonprofits Receive \\$865,000 in MIOSHA Grants for Worker Protection](#)

October 20, 2016 - [Two Northern Michigan Companies Again Recognized; for Exemplary Workplace Safety](#)

October 27, 2016 – [MIOSHA Urges Safety to Prevent Tree Trimming Fatalities](#)

All of the MIOSHA press releases can be viewed on 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/mioshavariations.

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