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WHAT'S HAPPENING

MIOSHA ALLIANCES

Alliances are a written agreement between MIOSHA and organizations committed to workplace safety and health. An alliance provides the opportunity for organizations and MIOSHA to work together to reach out, to educate, and lead the state's employers and employees in improving and advancing workplace safety and health.

Since the inception of the MIOSHA Alliance program in July 2005, there has been a great response from organizations expressing their interest in working with MIOSHA to help improve workplace safety and health. Presently there are a total of 13 formal MIOSHA alliance agreements with a wide variety of associations in construction and general industry, and one employer alliance.

The alliance program helps build cooperative and collaborative relationships with MIOSHA. Alliance partners help promote MIOSHA activities and provide MIOSHA updates on their webpage, through ListServ, and in print media such as trade magazines. The alliance program is a win-win for all involved and provides the opportunity for organizations to connect with MIOSHA. To view the list of alliance agreements online and other information about the alliance program, click [here](#).

MIOSHA RESIDENTIAL FALL PROTECTION ENFORCEMENT POLICY UPDATED AND EXTENDED TO APRIL 16, 2012

On June 16, 2011, MIOSHA's revised Residential Fall Protection Compliance Criteria instruction went into effect. The key revision requires employees working six feet or more above a lower level to use guardrails, safety nets, or a personal fall arrest system; when conventional fall protection is not feasible or creates a greater hazard, a written site-specific plan may be used.

In order to assist residential industry in complying with the revised instruction, MIOSHA and the Michigan Association of Home Builders (MAHB) launched a Residential Fall Protection Initiative. To date, MIOSHA has conducted more than 60 residential fall protection training seminars with residential builders, suppliers, and roofing contractors around the state.

MIOSHA's original enforcement policy was set to expire on December 16, 2011, but has since been updated and extended another four (4) months to **April 16, 2012**. This will allow the residential industry adequate time and resources to comply with the revised instruction.

For more frequent updates on MIOSHA activities follow us on  [Facebook](#).

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The updated enforcement policy allows residential construction employers 30 days to correct fall protection violations that have been identified under the revised residential fall protection instruction; during this time if such employers are not in compliance at the site or another site, no additional citations or repeat citations will be issued. The updated enforcement policy will not apply in cases of a fatality, catastrophe, or serious injury resulting from a fall during residential construction activities.

Falls accounted for 29 percent of construction workplace fatalities investigated by MIOSHA over the past five years. The number one cause of death and serious injury at residential construction sites is falls. It's a recognized fact that fatal accidents can be greatly reduced when employers follow the rules and apply effective worker safeguards on every jobsite where hazards are present. These revised regulations will help protect residential construction workers from dangerous falls.

MIOSHA continues to work with the residential industry and together we are planning a Residential Fall Protection Conference on March 8, 2012, at the State Secondary Complex in Lansing. Look for more information on this soon!

OFFICE OF REGULATORY REINVENTION UPDATE

As many people are aware, Governor Snyder created the Office of Regulatory Reinvention (ORR) to review all state administrative rules and make recommendations to eliminate or modify those that are duplicative, unnecessary and/or overly burdensome.

One of the first three areas addressed was workplace safety, through the creation of a Workplace Safety Advisory Rules Committee (WSARC). Between June and December 2011, the WSARC met 12 times. The committee's work is complete and the ORR will submit recommendations to the Governor's Office in the near future.

While we cannot provide all of the details until the Governor's Office reviews the recommendations, some important issues that can be shared include:

- Changes to requirements required nationally were not considered;
- Effective workplace safety and health will be maintained; and
- There are many MIOSHA rules that are never used, are found in more than one place, or do not provide additional protections.

Once the Governor's Office has reviewed and approved the recommendations, there will be opportunities for input through public hearings and other venues before any of the suggested changes become final. We will keep you updated on their status as this process moves forward.

MIOSHA RULES AND STANDARDS UPDATE

Construction Part 10 - Lifting and Digging Equipment

The Management and Technical Services Division (MTSD) and Construction Safety and Health Division (CSDH) staff are currently working with Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs (OPLA) staff in reviewing the proposed changes and incorporation of the Federal OSHA crane rules. At this time, staff is performing a line-by-line review of the proposed standard ensuring that the rule set conforms to new requirements set forth by OPLA.

Construction Part 22 - Signals, Signs, Tags, & Barricades

CSDH and MTSD are working with an advisory committee to look at proposed changes with regards to how traffic control devices are set up and collected within construction zones. The group has met several times and should have their recommendations ready for presentation to the Construction Safety Commission in the near future.

General Industry Part 74 – Firefighting

The advisory committee to update MIOSHA's Firefighting rules is nearing completion and should have its recommendations ready to forward to the General Industry Safety Commission after the first of the year.

General Industry Part 33 - Personal Protective Equipment; Occupational Health Part 433 - Personal Protective Equipment; Construction Safety Part 6 - Personal Protective Equipment

Three separate advisory committees have been working to compare these standards for consistency in language and requirements. The work is nearing completion and should have recommendations ready to forward to the applicable Commission after the first of the year.

MEDIA

December 8, 2011 – [Pfizer Receives Michigan's Highest Award for Workplace Safety and Health Excellence](#)

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

DIVISION MEMO & AGENCY INSTRUCTION ISSUED

December 9, 2011 – GISHD-ADM-11-2 – [Whistleblower Investigations](#)

December 16, 2011 – MIOSHA-ADM-04-4R1 – [MIOSHA Emergency Management Plan](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 11, 2012 – **Occupational Health Standards Commission Meeting @ 9:30 am** – State Secondary Complex, General Office Building, 7150 Harris Drive, Lansing – Conference Room B

February 15, 2012 – **Construction Safety Standards Commission Meeting @ 9:30 am** – State Secondary Complex, General Office Building, 7150 Harris Drive, Lansing – Conference Room B

March 14, 2012 – **General Industry Safety Standards Commission Meeting @ 9:30 am** – State Secondary Complex, General Office Building, 7150 Harris Drive, Lansing – Conference Room B

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