

**Agreement Establishing An Alliance
Between
Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration (MIOSHA)
and
Green Industry Organizations in Michigan**

Name of Participating Organization(s): Arboriculture Society of Michigan (ASM), Michigan Green Industry Association (MGIA), Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA), Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF), Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) and Utility Line Clearance Coalition (ULCC)

Purpose and Scope of Alliance:

Purpose:

The purpose of this MIOSHA Alliance is to partner with Green Industry organizations in Michigan to establish a collaborative relationship to work together to reduce and prevent injuries and illnesses in the green industry. The Alliance will promote dialogue, develop resources, promote access to training, and share information with workers in the green industry.

Target Audience:

Green industry employers and employees in Michigan. These include, but are not limited to, any business entity engaged in providing turfgrass maintenance; tree trimming, including around overhead utility lines; landscape care and maintenance services and/or installing trees, shrubs, plants, lawns or gardens; design of landscape plans and/or the construction (i.e. installation) of walkways, retaining walls, decks, fences, ponds, irrigation; and similar activities.

Major Alliance Activity:

Promote the services available through the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division including, but not limited to, safety and health hazard surveys and employee/employer training. Alliance partners will promote worker safety in the green industry to their members and work together to develop resources, fact sheets, and other training materials. Dialogue between MIOSHA and Alliance partners will increase understanding of practical application of MIOSHA standards, processes and standard interpretations that pertain to the green industry.

Alliance Benefit:

All partners will work together to develop information on the recognition and prevention of workplace hazards and communicate that information throughout the green industry. Information will be shared among MIOSHA personnel and Michigan green industry employers and employees.

Alliance Positive Impact:

Through participation and support of this Alliance, Michigan green industry organizations will promote a “workplace free of recognizable hazards” within the green industry, while improving knowledge and understanding of the fundamental requirements established by MIOSHA.

Goals and Objectives of Alliance:

- Reduce injuries and illnesses among Michigan green industry workers.
- Create and develop training programs specifically for the green industry in Michigan.

- Work with MIOSHA to establish industry best practices and green industry-related safety and health systems.
- Develop a collaborative relationship between MIOSHA and green industry organizations in Michigan to provide a safe work environment.

Outreach and Communication:

- MIOSHA will speak, exhibit, and participate at green industry sponsored conferences and events as requested and when possible.
- Partners will develop safety and health fact sheets, and other printed information for employers and employees in the industry.
- Partners will develop a resource list of websites that contains relevant information to assist employers and employees to increase their knowledge of safety and health.
- Promote the goals and objectives of this Alliance through partners' newsletters, websites, and other means of communication with their members, including reciprocal website links.
- The MIOSHA CET Division will provide free onsite consultation to assist employers with compliance and the development of a safety and health system.
- Develop best practices or case studies illustrating the business value of safety and health.
- Partners will communicate to their members the benefits of participating in the Alliance.

Training and Education:

- Collaboratively develop PowerPoint programs that can be placed on partners' websites for use in the industry.
- Develop and conduct a safety and health seminar (Employer Symposium) for the green industry, with participation from all partners, and offered a minimum of once a year during the alliance timeframe.
- Coordinate training for MIOSHA staff to increase their understanding of the hazards in the green industry.
- Develop and conduct safety and health training and promote alliance activities at partners' established conferences.

Promoting Dialogue:

- Coordinate efforts for partners to dialogue with MIOSHA through forums or round table discussions to forge innovative solutions in the workplace or to provide input on safety and health issues.
- Provide opportunities for discussion and input on MIOSHA standards and interpretations that affect the green industry.
- Meet a minimum of twice a year to advance the goals and objectives of the Alliance.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Teaming up with MIOSHA and the Green Industry Alliance partners will help the **Arboriculture Society of Michigan (ASM)** attain their mission of promoting strong ethics and high standards of practice among arboriculture/urban forestry professionals. ASM will be a contributor to the processes and a disseminator of the various proposals agreed to by all Alliance partners.
- The **Michigan Green Industry Association (MGIA)** is committed to work together with our state and national Alliance partners to foster a strong relationship of clearer communication and ongoing education to promote the highest standards, good work ethics, and safer work practices for all professional sectors of the Green Industry.
- The **Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA)** has as one of its long-term strategic goals to reduce accidents and improve worker safety in the tree care industry. We want to work openly and collaboratively with MIOSHA and our Michigan Green Industry partners, tapping TCIA's extensive safety and regulatory compliance experience, including our five year history with an OSHA national Alliance. TCIA wishes to help facilitate, and to be a key contributor to, the various initiatives our partners have identified.
- The **Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA)** is committed to developing and fostering partnerships to provide unparalleled resources for our green industry. Through this Alliance with MIOSHA, MNLA agrees to the following: Information sharing and education of MIOSHA/CET personnel to the needs of Michigan's Green Industry; provide the avenues for MIOSHA/MIOSHA's information to reach our green industry to promote safety and health awareness; provide consultation and training, through publishing articles in our monthly publication *The Michigan Landscape*; promote Alliance and MIOSHA/MIOSHA's information to the green industry by providing exhibit space at our annual trade shows, The Great Lakes Trade Exposition and the MNLA Summer Field Day; and other mutually beneficial opportunities as they arise.
- **The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA)** has created an initiative to reduce injuries, illnesses, and fatalities in the green industry. As part of this initiative, MIOSHA will work collaboratively with the Green Industry Alliance partners to promote safety and health awareness, provide consultation and training, and participate in open dialogue to increase MIOSHA staff knowledge of the green industry. MIOSHA will promote the Alliance through their website and newsletters.
- To support the Michigan Green Industry Alliance, the **Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF)** will provide MIOSHA education and training opportunities at events including the Great Lakes Trade Exposition and Field Day; promote safety and health awareness and MIOSHA's consultation services through the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program and its field staff; and publish health and safety articles in Newsnotes and on the MTF website.
- The **Utility Line Clearance Commission (ULCC)** is interested in being an Alliance partner to improve communication between MIOSHA and the line clearance industry. ULCC would like to engage in dialogue to better understand inspection, citation and abatement processes used by MIOSHA. ULCC would also like to work with MIOSHA to ensure MIOSHA standards applications and interpretation stay current with industry standards.

Outcomes of Alliance Activities:

This Alliance will provide partners an opportunity to participate in a voluntary cooperative relationship with MIOSHA for purposes of training and education, outreach and communication, and promoting a dialogue on workplace safety and health. Alliances have proven to be valuable tools for both MIOSHA and its Alliance participants. By entering into this Alliance MIOSHA is not endorsing any of the partners' products or services.

