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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Michigan Worker Deaths of 2015

The 24th and 25th Michigan worker deaths of 2015 occurred on September 17, 2015, and October 11, 2015. Employers and employees are urged to use extreme care and safety diligence in all work activities.

Summary of incident #24: On September 17, 2015, at approximately 1:30 p.m., a 22-year-old railroad construction/laborer and two other contract workers were replacing railroad ties and stones on a railway. At the same time that these workers were packing the ties and stones in place on the rail bed with a tamper machine, other employees were operating a conveyor and loading grain into a grain storage building. One wall of the grain storage building suddenly collapsed releasing grain which engulfed/crushed the railroad construction/laborer, resulting in fatal injuries.

Summary of incident #25: On October 11, 2015, at approximately 11:00 p.m., a 44-year-old laborer was struck and killed while in a construction zone by an oncoming motorist.

There were 37 MIOSHA-related deaths in 2014. 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](#).

MIOSHA Launches Local Emphasis Program to Reduce Injuries and Illnesses

On October 1, 2015, the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) launched a Local Emphasis Program ([LEP](#)) to target the siding contractors, structural steel, and pre-cast concrete construction sectors to improve overall workplace safety and health.

The LEP was developed in response to an analysis conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the 2013 national figures of non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses by industry and case types, which revealed a significant rise in injury and illness rates among these sectors. Between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016, MIOSHA plans to inspect more than 50 siding,

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structural steel, and pre-cast concrete contractors on various sized jobsites, where workers are exposed to serious safety hazards that are likely to cause serious injuries or death. The LEP applies to programmed inspections only. The number of employers, affected employees, and violations, will be tracked and compiled.

Inspections will focus on the hazards associated with these operations, which predominantly include fall protection, scaffolds, ladders, personal protective equipment, tool guarding, electrical, precast and tilt up operations, and structural steel. When an industry shows elevated injury statistics, a key strategy of MIOSHA's [Strategic Plan](#) is to increase enforcement activities, training and outreach to reduce injuries and fatalities.

The MIOSHA CET Division is available to assist you in addressing these workplace hazards. CET operates separately from MIOSHA's enforcement program. The service is free and there are no citations or penalties issued. In addition, CET can assist you in developing and implementing a comprehensive safety and health management system. CET can be contacted at 517-284-7720, or by completing a Request for Consultative Assistance (RCA) form on the MIOSHA [website](#).

New LARA FOIA Process

As of October 1, 2015, the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs launched a restructuring of the FOIA request process. All FOIA requests involving LARA and its agencies, bureaus and commissions will now be directed to a central LARA FOIA office for processing, which will be responsible for the receipt, tracking, follow-up, and coordination with requester and other agencies/bureaus and commissions, as well as the preparation of invoices, responses and closure of FOIA record requests. This will provide a single point of entry for customer requests. The bureaus/agencies/commissions will now be able to focus their resources on research, retrieval and review/redacting of records. Visit [LARA's FOIA webpage](#) for more information.

OSHA Directive Updates Inspection Procedures For Protecting Workers From Tuberculosis In Healthcare Settings

Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease caused by bacteria that are spread from person to person through the air. According to the CDC, nearly one-third of the world's population is infected with TB, which kills almost 1.5 million people per year. In 2013, 9,582 TB cases were reported in the United States, and approximately 383 of those cases were among healthcare workers. Multi-drug-resistant and extremely drug-resistant TB continue to pose serious threats to workers in healthcare settings. TB infection occurs when a susceptible person inhales droplets from an infected person who, for example, coughs, speaks or sneezes. It is the second most common cause of death from infectious disease in the world after HIV/AIDS (CDC.gov 2015).

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration updated instructions for conducting inspections and issuing citations related to worker exposures to tuberculosis in healthcare settings. MIOSHA will be adopting the federal directive [CPL 02-02-078 Enforcement Procedures and Scheduling for Occupational Exposure to Tuberculosis](#). The new CPL has been updated and reflects the updated CDC report: "Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in HealthCare Settings, 2005." According to OSHA, the revised directive does not create any additional enforcement burdens for employers; it simply updates the agency's inspection procedures with the most currently available public health guidance. The new policy updates testing methodology for screening workers for TB illness, clarifies risk classifications and reduces the frequency for TB testing for employees.

For more information on TB in Michigan please visit the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services tuberculosis control page](#). For questions about TB prevention in the workplace, contact the CET Division at 517-284-7720 or at www.michigan.gov/cet.

MIOSHA Is Now On YouTube

When you visit our channel, the first video you'll see is an introduction to the agency and the services we provide. From there, you can click on the "Videos" tab and learn about our unique initiatives, such as the matching grant program, "Take a Stand" Day, and more. We'll be adding more videos throughout the year, however, if you have any suggestions for video ideas, please submit them to MIOSHAYoutube@michigan.gov. In order to create a custom URL, we need at least 100 subscribers. Please help us reach our goal! We welcome your feedback on the [channel](#) and encourage you to share it with fellow colleagues, friends and family to help us spread the message of workplace safety and health.

AGENCY INSTRUCTIONS/MEMOS ISSUED

October 6, 2015 - [Employee Interviews in Safety and Health Investigations](#)

MEDIA

October 1, 2015 - [MIOSHA Launches Local Emphasis Program to Reduce Injuries and Illnesses](#)

October 7, 2015 - [Stryker Hosts 'Coffee with MIOSHA' in Portage; Employers and workers learn about benefits of workplace safety and health](#)

October 14, 2015 [Precision Metalforming Association, MIOSHA Renew Alliance to Advance Workplace Safety](#)

October 15, 2015 - [MIOSHA, Manufacturing Technology Mutual Insurance Company Renew Alliance to Foster Safer Workplaces](#)

October 21, 2015 - [Employers Cited for MIOSHA Violations at Holland Warehouse Totaling \\$357,000 in Proposed Penalties](#)

October 21, 2015 - [DMC Consultants, Inc. Cited for MIOSHA Violations Totaling \\$265,200 in Proposed Penalties](#)

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](#)

[CET Training Calendar](#)

[MIOSHA Training Institute \(MTI\)](#)

[Radiation Safety Section](#)

[Telephone, Mailing and Email Addresses](#)

[Wage & Hour Program](#)

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