

# Safety Lines

## MNOSHA continues to respond during busy COVID-19 time

Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) continues to practice social distancing by having the office closed and having staff members work remotely or telework. However, that does not mean MNOSHA is sitting on the sidelines.

### MNOSHA Compliance

From March 1, 2020, to Feb. 28, 2021, MNOSHA Compliance conducted 1,074 inspections, resulting in 1,671 citations, including the following:

- 311 complaints;
- 36 fatalities;
- 13 follow-ups; and
- 32 serious injuries.

MNOSHA Compliance received 20,244 email and phone inquiries (a 220% increase from the previous year). The inquiries included 2,133 complaints (an increase of 765 from the previous year), of which 163 on-site complaints were related to COVID-19 and resulted in 165 citations issued on inspections related to COVID-19, with 56 of them as general-duty citations. General-duty citations are issued under Minnesota Statutes § 182.653, subdivision 2, to employers that are not following provisions of the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines.

There were also 1,822 nonformal complaints processed during this time. In these cases, a letter is sent to the employer requiring it to provide a written response addressing the hazards noted in the letter within two days of receipt.

MNOSHA Compliance continues to provide a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan template and instructions for employers to use in developing their own preparedness plan. This template can be used by all industries to aid in reducing the spread of COVID-19. These documents, along with additional related information, are available online in several languages at [www.dli.mn.gov/updates](http://www.dli.mn.gov/updates).

### MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation

To provide additional guidance and clarification about requirements for the construction industry, MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation recently presented four two-hour webinars about COVID-19 Preparedness Plans for construction worksites, attended by a total of 715 stakeholders.

During this time, the MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation's Safety Grant Program continued to operate and continues to accept and approve applications for safety grants on two-month cycles. Additionally, MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation resumed scheduling its free on-site consultation visits with employers. Several consultations were initially done as virtual visits, using online video chat platforms, with the majority conducted as typical on-site visits.

MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation conducted 170 visits from March through June, 2020 – 126 initial, 29 training and 15 follow-up – during which 639 hazards were identified. During the same time period in 2019, it conducted 390 visits – 310 initial, 42 training and 38 follow-up – during which 1,645 hazards were identified.



## Minnesota OSHA renews alliance agreement with Consulate of Mexico

Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Workplace Safety Consultation renewed its alliance agreement with the Consulate of Mexico in St. Paul, Minnesota, on March 24. The agreement recognizes the joint commitment to protect workers' rights for Mexican workers in the U.S. MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation's Alliance Program establishes cooperative relationships for training, education, outreach and communication. Learn more about the Alliance Program at [www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-wsc-alliances](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-wsc-alliances).



Above: Department of Labor and Industry Commissioner Roslyn Robertson (center in white) joins Consul of Mexico Gerardo Guerrero (left of Robertson) at the Consulate of Mexico in St. Paul, Minnesota, on March 24. Assistant to the Commissioner Naheeda Hirji-Walji (right of Robertson) and MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation Director Tyrone Taylor (far right) also attended. Also pictured are staff members of the consulate.

## MNOSHA adopts four federal regulations

On Feb. 1, 2021, Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) adopted the following federal regulations as published in the *State Register* on Dec. 7, 2020.

### 1. Revising the beryllium standard for general industry

On July 3, 2018, federal OSHA published a direct final rule in the *Federal Register*, amending its existing beryllium standard in general industry by adopting several clarifying amendments to address the application of the standard to materials containing trace amounts of beryllium.

### 2. Revising the beryllium standard for general industry

On July 14, 2020, federal OSHA published a final rule in the *Federal Register*, amending its existing general industry standard for occupational exposure to beryllium and beryllium compounds to clarify certain provisions and simplify or improve compliance.

### 3. Occupational exposure to beryllium and beryllium compounds in construction and shipyard sectors

On Aug. 31, 2020, federal OSHA published a final rule in the *Federal Register* that amends its existing construction and shipyard standards for occupational exposure to beryllium and beryllium compounds to clarify certain provisions and simplify or improve compliance. This final rule does not affect the general industry beryllium standard.

### 4. Cranes and derricks in construction: Railroad roadway work

On Sept. 15, 2020, federal OSHA published a final rule in the *Federal Register* that amends its "Cranes and derricks in construction" standard. Federal OSHA is revising the standard for cranes and derricks in construction to provide specific exemptions and clarifications with regard to the application of the standard to cranes and derricks used for railroad roadway work. These exemptions and clarifications recognize the unique equipment and circumstances in railroad roadway work and reflect the pre-emption of some OSHA requirements by regulations promulgated by the Federal Railroad Administration. The revised standard provides a clearer understanding of which regulatory requirements are applicable, resulting in a more effective regulatory program and, ultimately, improved safety.

# Safety Grant Program awards funds for safety, health projects

The Safety Grants Program awards funds, with a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$10,000, to qualifying employers for projects designed to reduce the risk of injury or illness to their employees. The grants are designed to promote safety and health in the workplace, especially in high-risk industries.

To be eligible, the applicant must:

- be a Minnesota employer in business for at least two years;
- have at least one employee;
- have current workers' compensation insurance;
- have an on-site hazard assessment conducted by Minnesota OSHA or another approved entity listed within the application; and
- have an on-site hazard assessment report that recommends specific practices or equipment that will reduce the risk of injury or illness to employees working there.



## Examples of equipment funded

- Equipment to minimize ergonomic risk factors – patient lifts, material handling equipment
- Equipment to improve air quality – ventilation systems, silica dust controls and tools designed with dust controls, respiratory protection including welding helmets designed as powered-air purifying respirators
- Other hazard controls – machine guarding, personal protective equipment (PPE), fall-prevention and personal fall-arrest systems, trench boxes, other excavation cave-in protection
- Specialized equipment for confined-space entry – air-monitoring equipment, air blowers, retrieval systems
- Emergency equipment – eyewash stations, fire and smoke detection systems, emergency lighting systems
- Workplace violence prevention equipment – barriers, secured access, surveillance systems

## Training for equipment purchase

Vendors, manufacturer's representative or others must have the required experience to provide the needed training. The grant application must include:



- who will provide the training;
- the trainer’s credentials;
- what the training will include;
- how the training relates to the equipment purchase;
- a copy of training materials that will be used; and
- how the training is consistent with OSHA regulations.



## Tuition reimbursement

Classes must be offered at an accredited institution, such as colleges, technical schools or organizations. The application must include:

- a description of the course offering, including the course name and the entity offering the course;
- the names and titles of those who will attend;
- the job functions and how the training will impact injury-prevention efforts;
- a copy of the brochure, catalog or syllabus; and
- how training is consistent with OSHA regulations.

Complete information about the Safety Grant Program is online at [www.dli.mn.gov/workplace-safety-and-health/get-assistance/safety-programs-and-grants](http://www.dli.mn.gov/workplace-safety-and-health/get-assistance/safety-programs-and-grants).

## Free on-site safety and health consultations available

Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Workplace Safety Consultation offers free, voluntary and confidential workplace safety and health assistance to Minnesota businesses, with a priority for small businesses.

MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation provides a wide variety of free services, including on-site and virtual consultation, training, education and outreach in general industry and in construction settings. Its program areas include safety grants, safety committees, ergonomics assistance, workplace violence prevention and incentive programs for those that want to go beyond meeting safety and health requirements for their worksite.

Services are provided by safety and health experts who are highly qualified occupational safety and health professionals. The program is separate from Minnesota OSHA Compliance inspection activities and no citations are issued as part of a consultation visit.

Email: [osha.consultation@state.mn.us](mailto:osha.consultation@state.mn.us) • Phone: 651-284-5060 • Web: [www.dli.mn.gov](http://www.dli.mn.gov)



# Employee safety, health: Young workers deserve our attention, training

Thousands of teen workers enter the workforce each year. For many, it's their first time working and they are unfamiliar with their rights and responsibilities under existing labor laws and Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MNOSHA) standards.

All workers have a right to a workplace free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause serious injury or harm.

## Employers should promote safety, health

Employers must provide the information, orientation, and necessary tools and equipment to guide workers in making appropriate choices when performing their work. Employers can help promote worker safety and health by:

- providing adequate job orientation and training, which sets expectations early about how work will be performed;
- maintaining a clean, organized work area;
- providing and maintaining necessary machine safeguards and personal protective equipment; and
- providing adequate supervision.

Actively preventing occupational injuries and illnesses not only adds value for the business, it also sets a good example for young workers who may not otherwise think about their safety and health, when working. Supporting efforts to reduce workplace injuries and illnesses among young workers can guide them to a successful and rewarding work experience throughout their lifetime.

## More susceptible to workplace accidents

Some of the reasons why young workers are more susceptible to workplace accidents include:

- unfamiliarity with the work and lack of adequate job-orientation and training;
- inadequate supervision;
- pressure to accept the job assignment – doing what's asked of them, working fast, just getting the job done;
- hazardous equipment and work environments; and
- being assigned work that is not age or skill-level appropriate.

## Resources

### From the Department of Labor and Industry

How do teen workers get injured? – [www.dli.mn.gov/business/workers-compensation/claim-characteristics](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workers-compensation/claim-characteristics)

Labor laws that affect Minnesota's teen workers – [www.dli.mn.gov/business/employment-practices/teen-workers](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/employment-practices/teen-workers)



MNOSHA Compliance: Grain-handling information, fatalities, inspections – [www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-grain-handling-information-fatalities](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-grain-handling-information-fatalities)

MNOSHA safety and health standards – [www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-standards-and-regulations](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-standards-and-regulations)

MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation: Free, on-site consultative services – [www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/our-areas-service/minnesota-osh-workplace-safety-consultation](http://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/our-areas-service/minnesota-osh-workplace-safety-consultation)



### From other organizations

NIOSH Alert: Preventing deaths, injuries and illnesses of young workers – [www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2003-128/pdfs/2003128.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2003-128/pdfs/2003128.pdf)

Protecting young adults working in agriculture (webinar) – <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/6426950413661223170>

Young workers: You have rights! – [www.osha.gov/youngworkers](http://www.osha.gov/youngworkers)

## MNOSHA fatality, serious-injury investigations summaries online

Each month, Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance publishes current, updated summaries of its fatality investigations and serious-injury investigations. For the federal-fiscal-year that began Oct. 1, 2020, MNOSHA Compliance has investigated 18 workplace fatalities through April 28.

The information provided about each investigation is: the inspection number, date of incident and worksite city; the type of business and number of employees; a description of the event; and the outcome of the MNOSHA Compliance investigation. The summaries, plus other helpful workplace safety and health information from MNOSHA, are available at [www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-resources-all-industries](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-resources-all-industries).

## How do workers get injured?

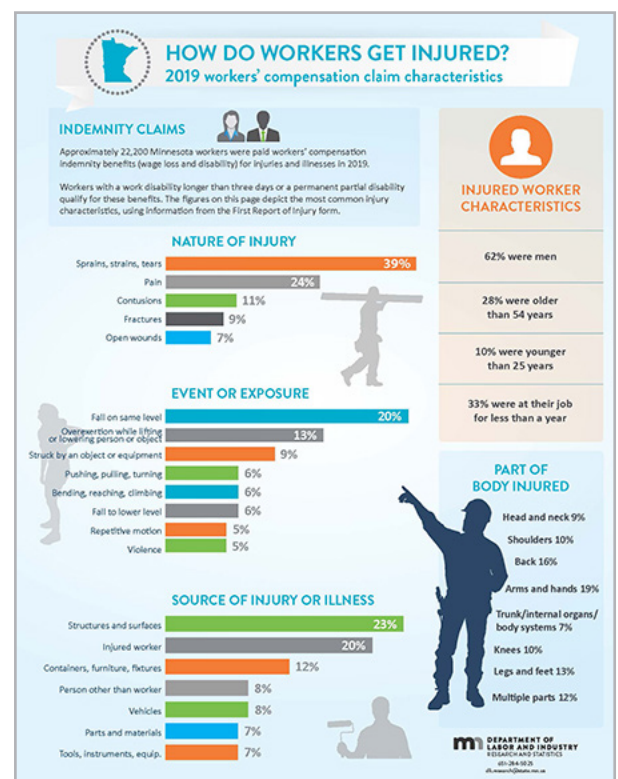
### Claim characteristics flyer updated with 2019 data

Approximately 22,200 Minnesota workers were paid workers' compensation indemnity benefits (wage loss and disability) for injuries and illnesses in 2019.

- Sixty-two percent of these workers were men.
- Twenty-eight percent were older than 54 years.
- Ten percent were younger than 25 years.
- Thirty-three percent were at their job for less than a year.

View the updated one-page flyer online at [www.dli.mn.gov/business/workers-compensation/claim-characteristics](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workers-compensation/claim-characteristics).

Also available on the webpage, workers' compensation claim characteristics flyers for teens and for the logging industry.



# Situational awareness can save your life

Half of all accidents and injuries could probably be eliminated through situational awareness – the practice of paying attention to your surroundings, not just passing through them. At work, employees who take the time to observe their workplace surroundings and take action to correct problems, such as spilled liquids or oil, slipping hazards, missing machine guards, the smell of fumes or gas, will create a significantly safer workplace. Outside of work, people can scan their surroundings and take common sense precautions to help them stay safe.

Minnesota, the rest of the United States and the world have taken significant hits concerning unusual crises or problems that have affected us inside and outside the workplace in the past year-and-a-half. Facing situations such as workplace violence, political and cultural divide, civil unrest, a global pandemic, isolation, mental illness and active shooter incidents has left government officials, health experts and employers perplexed, sometimes causing them to give conflicting information, which only leads to more confusion and unease in the public.

Although the employer is ultimately responsible for their employees' safety, workplace conditions can sometimes change minute by minute. And employees must oversee their own safety at times, especially when they are separated from the main work location – working at a jobsite or in a client's home, traveling and staying overnight in an unfamiliar location, working in areas where their health and safety may be in jeopardy. Taking some of the simple steps below could help keep employees safe.

## Observe your surroundings

Use your five senses – and trust your sixth sense – to warn you of any impending danger or problems. Realize some areas that appear safe in the morning may not be safe in the evening.

- Observe your surroundings, but avoid staring at anyone for long periods of time, which may seem aggressive to some people.
- Your phone can be your friend or enemy. Use preset emergency numbers on your phone for speed dialing and call your employer if conditions change where you are located, but do not get distracted by your phone or use it for general texting or entertainment if it takes your attention away from your surroundings. The state will give emergency warnings for storms, road closure or public safety hazards, such as curfews, so keep your phone charged and ready for use. Remember you can also text 911 if you are unable to talk.
- Observe who could help and who may hinder a situation if one arises. What can be used as a barrier or a weapon?
- Do not appear to be a victim or be overly aggressive. Predators look for vulnerable, distracted and easy prey. This does not mean you should invite aggression by appearing challenging, arrogant or aggressive. It is important to be confident and aware of your surroundings. Don't look like a tourist, even if you are one.
- Pay attention to your intuition, that sixth sense. If a situation feels wrong, it probably is. Your body and mind can process millions of pieces of information quickly and can often detect danger before it fully reveals itself.



## Have two exit plans

Always have two exit plans, so if one becomes blocked, you can still leave a situation. Remember, an exit door is not the only exit, you can use a window or whatever else you can think of. If you are disabled or otherwise hindered physically, it is important you have a plan in place if you cannot run or fight.

- Park your vehicle in a manner so you won't be blocked in.
- If you cannot get to your car safely, look for a safe area you can get to.
- The GPS on your phone may help you get to a safe place.



## Try de-escalation techniques

De-escalation techniques are an important skill everyone should learn. Such techniques can help calm a tense situation, so those involved don't become more heated and agitated. Courses are offered in-person and online, which could give employees confidence in handling difficult situations. Those who are situationally aware may notice others' body language, mood changes and other warning signals even before a situation escalates.

## Take advantage of MNOSHA WSC's free training and job-hazard assessment

Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation offers free, confidential training, workplace hazard assessment and workplace violence prevention, including situational awareness for hazards within the workplace and job-hazard analysis. If you are interested in this free service, it can be done virtually or face to face.

For more information, contact MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation at [osha.consultation@state.mn.us](mailto:osha.consultation@state.mn.us), 651-284-5060 or 800-657-3776, or visit [www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-wsc-free-site-safety-and-health-consultation-assistance](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-wsc-free-site-safety-and-health-consultation-assistance).



# Recordkeeping notes: You can still report your log summary to OSHA

While March 2 was the deadline for electronically reporting your OSHA Form 300A (log summary) data for calendar-year 2020, the reporting system is still active. Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) encourages employers to send their log summary information using the federal OSHA data collection website.

## History

In May 2018, MNOSHA adopted the federal regulation to improve tracking of workplace injuries and illnesses. MNOSHA did not adopt Appendix A – Partially Exempt Industries. What this means is all Minnesota establishments with 20 or more employees are now required to submit their OSHA Form 300A data to federal OSHA. The Injury Tracking Application (ITA) Login page is at [www.osha.gov/injuryreporting/ita](http://www.osha.gov/injuryreporting/ita).

## Frequently asked questions

### Q: When do I need to submit my data to OSHA?

A: Establishments that are required to submit their data will have to submit all the required information by March 2 of the year after the calendar year covered by the form or forms (for example, by March 2, 2022, for the forms covering 2021).

### Q: Why am I submitting my data at the federal injury tracking application?

A: MNOSHA does not have a separate data collection application and uses the federal injury tracking application.

### Q: On the Injury Tracking Application Login it says not all establishments are covered by this reporting requirement. Do I still have to submit my information?

A: Yes, MNOSHA did not adopt the industry exemptions, so all industries in Minnesota are required to submit their data.

### Q: What is the size requirement for me to submit my data?

A: If you had establishments with 20 or more employees at any time during the previous year, you are required to submit your data for those establishments.

### Q: If I reported my data to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, do I still need to report to OSHA?

A: Yes, these are separate programs and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is prohibited by federal law from sharing data with OSHA. The U.S. Department of Labor is working on a solution to reduce duplicate reporting.

### Q: How does OSHA define employees?

A: All employees on your payroll, whether they are labor, executive, hourly, salary, part-time, seasonal or migrant workers are considered employees. For more detailed information about covered employees visit [www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1904/1904.31](http://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1904/1904.31).



**Q: Do part-time, seasonal or temporary workers count as employees in the criteria for number of employees?**

A: Yes, each individual employed in an establishment at any time during the calendar year counts as one employee, including full-time, part-time, seasonal and temporary workers. Workers from temporary help agencies are included in the count for your establishments.

**Q: Do I have to have 20 employees for the whole year to have to submit my data?**

A: If your establishment had 20 or more employees at any time during the previous year, you are required to submit your data.

**Q: How does OSHA define an establishment?**

A: An establishment is a single physical location where business is conducted or where services or industrial operations are performed.



For step-by-step instructions about using ITA, refer to the “Job Aids (How-to documentation)” located on the ITA webpage at [www.osha.gov/injuryreporting](http://www.osha.gov/injuryreporting).

## Free, online Construction Seminar on May 18

Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance’s free, online Construction Seminars feature a presentation about a specific construction safety or health topic – with time for questions, answers and input – plus an update from MNOSHA Compliance about what’s currently happening regarding investigations.

### Online May 18, 7 to 9 a.m. – Safety for mobile, elevating work platforms

Mobile, elevating work platforms, including aerial lifts and scissor lifts, are found on almost every construction jobsite. As an excellent best-practice, workers on such jobsites should now be trained about the new “Safe Use” standard, ANSI A92.

Attend this seminar for a discussion about how to use this equipment safely and how to train workers and supervisors.

Presenter Jay Tyrrell, APi Supply Inc., is a seasoned trainer about the use of mobile, elevating work platforms and will share his experiences.

Learn more about Construction Seminars, view past presentations and get the Webex meeting link for the coming session at [www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-construction-seminars](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-construction-seminars). To be placed on the mailing list for future Construction Seminars, contact MNOSHA Compliance at 651-284-5375 or [osha.compliance@state.mn.us](mailto:osha.compliance@state.mn.us).



# Recordkeeping 201, part 11: Combining, splitting establishments

By Breca Tschida, Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation, and Brian Zaidman, Research and Statistics

## Do multiple locations mean multiple logs?

Each business establishment needs a separate OSHA log. Usually, business establishments consist of one business location contained in one building, but some business establishments might consist of multiple buildings. For other businesses, their organizations are so complex that multiple logs are needed for a single location. This edition of Recordkeeping 201 uses OSHA e-correspondence ([www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/faq-search](http://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/faq-search)) to clarify how businesses should decide how many logs to use. A separate OSHA log summary form must be prepared for each OSHA log.

## Combining multiple locations into a single log

When a business has multiple buildings or multiple locations, it is sometimes tempting to keep a single OSHA log to simplify recordkeeping. However, OSHA only allows businesses to use a single log when their locations are in close proximity to each other. In two responses to questions about proximity of establishments, OSHA e-correspondence explains that close proximity means separation of less than one mile. There is an exception for businesses that operate in a campus environment, with multiple buildings across a large area that is all considered one business. College campuses, corporate campuses and some health care centers can be considered campuses for recordkeeping purposes.

You must maintain a set of OSHA forms (including the 300A log summary) for each individual establishment in operation for more than a year. An employer may combine two or more physical locations into a single establishment only when:

- the employer operates the locations as a single business operation under common management;
- the locations are all located in close proximity to each other (within one mile); and
- the employer keeps one set of business records for the locations, such as records about the number of employees, their wages and salaries, sales or receipts, and other kinds of business information.

For example, one manufacturing establishment might include the main plant, a warehouse a few blocks away and an administrative services building across the street.

## Splitting locations into multiple logs

Normally, one business location is considered one establishment. Under limited conditions, the employer may consider two or more separate businesses that share a single location to be separate establishments. An employer may divide one location into two or more establishments only when:

- each of the establishments represents a distinctly separate business;
- each business is engaged in a different economic activity;
- no one industry description in the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) applies to the joint activities of the establishments; and
- separate reports are routinely prepared for each establishment about the number of employees, their wages and salaries, sales or receipts, and other kinds of business information.

For information about industry descriptions for NAICS codes, visit [www.census.gov/naics](http://www.census.gov/naics).

Another reason to consider when deciding how many injury and illness logs to maintain is the employer's obligation to provide access to the logs for employees and their representations (Recordkeeping Regulations Section 1904.35). An employee, former employee, personal representative or authorized employee representation can ask for copies of current and stored logs (up to five previous years) for an establishment the employee or former employee has worked in. The log(s) you provide depend on how you have defined the work establishment on your log(s).

A business that has several establishments can still maintain the information in one computer file; however, it must be able to produce separate logs and log summaries for each separate establishment.

# MNOSHA Compliance signs safety, health partnerships

Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance recently signed five Level 3 Cooperative Compliance Partnerships on three projects. Level 3 is the peak level of MNOSHA Compliance partnerships, with applicants striving to be an industry leader with very comprehensive safety and health programs.

The partnerships were all signed under the Construction Health and Safety Excellence (CHASE) Minnesota agreement, between Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Minnesota and MNOSHA Compliance.

The partnerships acknowledge the importance of providing a safe, healthful work environment in construction and seek a working relationship that creates mutual trust and respect among all parties – including project owners and construction workers – involved in the construction process. Participants may achieve three award levels: basic, intermediate and peak.

## Projects and partners

### Kindeva – Woodbury, Minnesota

- Rachel Contracting

### Byllesby Dam Project – Cannon Falls, Minnesota

- The Boldt Company
- PEC Solutions (Parsons Electric)
- VEIT

### Hmong Academy – St. Paul, Minnesota

- Mortenson Company

## More information

Complete information about MNOSHA's Cooperative Compliance Partnerships is online at:

- [www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-partnership-programs](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-partnership-programs).



Rachel Contracting • Kindeva • Woodbury, Minnesota



The Boldt Company, PEC Solutions and VEIT • Byllesby Dam Project • Cannon Falls, Minnesota



Mortenson • Hmong Academy • St. Paul, Minnesota

## 2021 national safety stand-down preventing falls, May 3 through 7



For the eighth year, Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) joins federal OSHA and others, is promoting and participating in the National Safety Stand-down to Prevent Falls in Construction, May 3 through 7, to raise awareness among employers and workers about preventing falls, which account for the highest number of deaths in the construction industry.

During the stand-down, employers and workers are asked to pause their workday to talk about fall prevention in construction and discuss topics such as ladder safety, scaffolding and roofing work safety.

Federal OSHA has a [national stand-down website](#) with information about how to conduct a successful stand-down. Afterward, employers can provide information about their event and receive a personalized certificate of participation.

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## 2021 Virtual Minnesota Safety and Health Conference, May 4 and 5



Now in its 87th year, the Minnesota Safety and Health Conference is the oldest and largest gathering of workplace safety and health professionals in the region. Most educational sessions will offer the ability to interact with the presenter and other attendees. In addition, the two-day event includes expanded opportunities for attendees to connect in the online Expo area and to meet vendors face to face in their own virtual rooms.

The annual Governor's Workplace Safety Awards, given to the best in Minnesota, will be presented during the opening session both days.

Be sure to catch Department of Labor and Industry representatives:

- **Minnesota OSHA Director James Krueger**  
Minnesota OSHA update – Tuesday, May 4, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.; and
- **Research and Statistics Senior Research Analyst Brian Zaidman**  
COVID-19 claims in Minnesota's workers' compensation system – Tuesday, May 4, 1 to 2 p.m.

Learn more and register at [www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org/conf/index.cfm](http://www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org/conf/index.cfm).

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## Safe + Sound Week, Aug. 9 through 15, 2021



Safe + Sound Week, Aug. 9 through 15, is a nationwide event each August that recognizes the successes of workplace health and safety programs and offers information and ideas about how to keep America's workers safe.

Successful safety and health programs can proactively identify and manage workplace hazards before they cause injury or illness, improving sustainability and the bottom line. Participating in Safe + Sound Week can help get your program started, energize an existing one or provide a chance to recognize your safety successes.

Learn more at [www.osha.gov/safeandsoundweek](http://www.osha.gov/safeandsoundweek).

## Tracking medical treatment facility visits

By Brian Zaidman, Research and Statistics

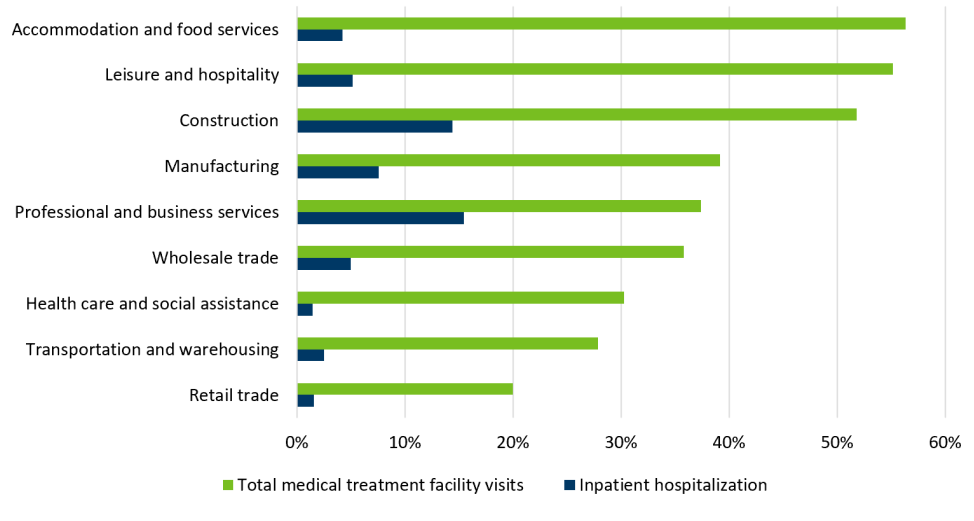
Results available from the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses includes estimates for the number of cases with one or more days away from work (DAFW cases) with medical treatment facility visits. Medical treatment facility visits include inpatient overnight hospitalization only, emergency room treatment only, and visits treated both in the emergency room and inpatient overnight hospitalization. Emergency room treatment excludes treatment in urgent care facilities, health units within business establishments, infirmaries and clinics.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has published three tables showing national estimates of medical treatment facility visits for 2019. They are available at <https://www.bls.gov/iif/soii-data.htm/#summary>, see tables EH1, EH2 and EH5.

This article provides an exclusive view of medical treatment facility visit estimates for Minnesota’s private ownership establishments in 2019. Table 1 presents estimates for private ownership DAFW cases by gender, age, industry and occupation. For each category entry, the table shows the estimated number of cases, cases with any medical treatment facility visit and cases with inpatient overnight hospitalization. The table also shows the percentage of DAFW cases in each category entry with any medical treatment facility visits and with inpatient overnight hospitalization. Category entries for industry and occupation exclude entries with fewer than 500 total cases with one or more days away from work. Figure 1 highlights the range of medical treatment facility visits by industry sector.

As shown in Table 1, 35% (6,330) of the 18,120 private ownership DAFW cases had treatment in an emergency room and/or were an overnight inpatient in a hospital. Six percent of the injured workers had an inpatient overnight hospitalization. There were no gender differences in total medical treatment facility visits, although 8% of men were hospitalized overnight as compared with only 2% of women. While 40% of the injured workers age 65 and older were treated in an emergency room or hospitalized, 41% of injured workers between 20 and 24 years old were also treated at a facility. Inpatient hospitalizations were more common for workers between 45 and 54 years old than for other age groups.

**Figure 1. Percentage of cases with medical treatment facility visits by industry sector, cases with one or more days away from work, Minnesota, private ownership establishments, 2019**



Among the industry sectors, medical treatment facility visits were more common among injured workers in accommodations and food services (56%), leisure and hospitality (55%) and construction (52%) (see also Figure 1). Retail trade had the lowest percentage of injured workers with medical treatment facility visits (20%). Looking at inpatient hospitalizations, professional and business services had the highest percentage (15%) while health care and social assistance had the lowest percentage of cases (1%), with retail trade at 2%.

Treatment at medical facilities also varied widely among the occupations, with the highest percentage (50%) of the injured workers in management, business and financial occupations receiving treatment at a facility nearly three times higher than the lowest percentage (17%) for workers in sales and related occupations. The percentage of DAFW cases with inpatient hospitalization was highest among workers in management, business and financial occupations, and lowest for workers in sales and service occupations.

For any given grouping of workers (such as gender, age, industry and occupation), the percentage of DAFW cases with treatment at emergency rooms and inpatient overnight hospitalizations within any category depends on the distribution of injuries within that group, the propensity of the workers to report injuries that do not need treatment at a medical facility and the availability of alternative facilities (such as urgent care centers and on-site facilities).

**Table 1. Medical treatment facility visit estimates, cases with one or more days away from work, Minnesota, private ownership establishments, 2019**

Characteristic	DAFW cases	Total medical treatment facility visits	Inpatient overnight hospitalizations	Total medical treatment facility visits as percentage of DAFW cases	Inpatient overnight hospitalizations as percentage of DAFW cases
Total	18,120	6,330	1,040	35%	6%
Gender:					
Men	10,440	3,790	860	36%	8%
Women	7,610	2,550	180	34%	2%
Age:					
16 to 19	580	190	–	33%	–
20 to 24	1,500	610	–	41%	–
25 to 34	3,870	1,440	160	37%	4%
35 to 44	3,770	1,400	230	37%	6%
45 to 54	3,650	1,330	330	36%	9%
55 to 64	3,750	1,010	260	27%	7%
65 and older	870	350	40	40%	5%
Industry sector (minimum 500 cases):					
Construction	1,390	720	200	52%	14%
Manufacturing	3,420	1,340	260	39%	8%
Wholesale trade	1,200	430	60	36%	5%
Retail trade	2,500	500	40	20%	2%
Transportation and warehousing	1,580	440	40	28%	3%
Professional and business services	1,550	580	240	37%	15%
Health care and social assistance	4,160	1,260	60	30%	1%
Leisure and hospitality	1,360	750	70	55%	5%
Accommodation and food services	1,190	670	50	56%	4%
Occupation (minimum 500 cases):					
Management, business, financial	680	340	210	50%	31%
Health care practitioners and technical	1,590	540	40	34%	3%
Service	4,340	1,620	90	37%	2%
Sales and related	1,210	210	30	17%	2%
Office and administrative support	510	170	20	33%	4%
Construction and extraction	1,370	650	190	47%	14%
Installation, maintenance and repair	1,510	480	40	32%	3%
Production	2,520	970	120	38%	5%
Transportation and material moving	3,820	1,100	210	29%	5%

Dashes indicate data does not meet publication guidelines or are too small to be displayed.  
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, March 30, 2021.

# Minnesota OSHA's calendar of events\*

## May 2021

- May 3-7** *National Safety Stand-down to Prevent Falls in Construction*  
[www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-falls](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-falls)
- May 7** *Training: Basics of OSHA recordkeeping*  
[www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-recordkeeping-standard](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-recordkeeping-standard)
- May 14** *Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Council*  
[www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/occupational-safety-and-health-advisory-council](http://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/occupational-safety-and-health-advisory-council)
- May 18** *Construction Seminar – Safety for mobile, elevating work platforms*  
[www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-construction-seminars](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-construction-seminars)

## June 2021

- June 4** *Occupational Safety and Health Review Board*  
[www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/occupational-safety-and-health-review-board](http://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/occupational-safety-and-health-review-board)

## August 2021

- Aug. 20** *Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Council*  
[www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/occupational-safety-and-health-advisory-council](http://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/occupational-safety-and-health-advisory-council)

## September 2021

- Sept. 10** *Occupational Safety and Health Review Board*  
[www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/occupational-safety-and-health-review-board](http://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/occupational-safety-and-health-review-board)

## November 2021

- Nov. 19** *Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Council*  
[www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/occupational-safety-and-health-advisory-council](http://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/occupational-safety-and-health-advisory-council)

## December 2021

- Dec. 3** *Occupational Safety and Health Review Board*  
[www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/occupational-safety-and-health-review-board](http://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/occupational-safety-and-health-review-board)

***\*All dates subject to change.***

See more at [www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/about-dli/events-minnesota-osh](http://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/about-dli/events-minnesota-osh)