

Safety Lines

MNOSHA Compliance continues hiring, training new investigators

Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance continues to focus on securing knowledgeable and well-trained staff members to ensure all employees in the state of Minnesota have a safe and healthy place to work.

New MNOSHA Compliance investigators have a wide variety of safety and health backgrounds and experiences. After being hired, investigators are sent through MNOSHA's extensive training curriculum, with classroom instruction, federal and state standards review, and investigative observation and participation. In addition, newly hired employees attend a variety of in-depth courses through the OSHA Training Institute and are partnered with seasoned, knowledgeable staff members and mentored throughout a six-month period, being followed closely by trainers and supervisors. Investigators also attend continuing education courses throughout their career with MNOSHA Compliance.

MNOSHA Compliance has increased hiring and training new safety investigators and industrial hygienists during the past two years. The COVID-19 pandemic created new and unique challenges for MNOSHA. In addition, MNOSHA Compliance experienced

the loss of longtime investigators to retirement, in-house promotions and transfers. Throughout all of this, MNOSHA Compliance remains committed to maintaining a strong, well-trained workforce to protect Minnesota workers.



How to find open positions and apply

If you are interested in a position with MNOSHA, visit the state's Minnesota Careers Website at mn.gov/mmb/careers.

Save the date: Final Construction Seminar of the season, May 21

Join Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance virtually or in person for its next free Construction Seminar, about crane safety, at 7 a.m., Tuesday, May 21.

Cranes are one of the largest pieces of equipment used on construction sites. Does your company know how to operate them safely? Learn what the general contractor's roles and responsibilities are when there's a crane on site and what is required for lift plans, inspection records, operator's qualifications, training, renting and more, plus what ASME 30.5 covers and requires. Presented by Scott Richhert, senior technical specialist – construction, energy and marine, The Travelers Companies.

- For complete information visit the [MNOSHA Compliance: Construction Seminars webpage](#).

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 – no matter their age or experience – 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 adds value for the business and sets a good example for young workers who may not otherwise think about workplace safety and health. Supporting efforts to reduce workplace injuries and illnesses among young workers can guide them to a lifetime of successful and rewarding work experiences.

More susceptible to workplace accidents

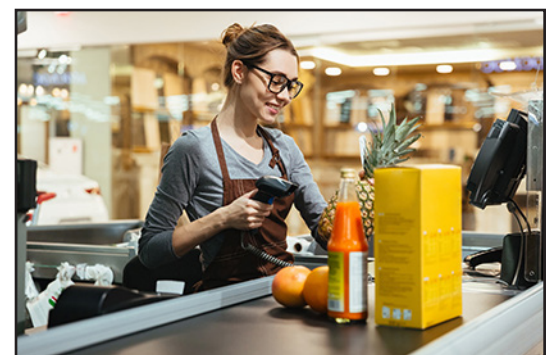
Some of the reasons why young workers are more susceptible to workplace accidents include:

- 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? – dli.mn.gov/business/workers-compensation/claim-characteristics



- Labor laws that affect Minnesota’s teen workers – dli.mn.gov/business/employment-practices/teen-workers
- MNOSHA Compliance: Grain-handling information, fatalities, inspections – dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-grain-handling-information-fatalities
- MNOSHA safety and health standards – dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-standards-and-regulations
- MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation: Free, on-site consultative services – 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 – cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2003-128pdfs/2003128.pdf
- Protecting young adults working in agriculture (webinar) – agsafetyhealth.training-source.org/training/courses
- Young workers: You have rights! – 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, 2023, MNOSHA Compliance has investigated 13 fatalities as of March 20.

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 dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-resources-all-industries.

Emergency room visits and hospitalization by worker age

By Brian Zaidman, Research and Statistics

Results available from the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses include medical treatment facility visits estimates for cases with one or more days away from work or with days or job transfer or restriction (DART). 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 figures presented here look at the percentage of DART cases with medical treatment facility visits and the median number of days away from work, job transfer or restriction. These figures are estimates for the years 2021 and 2022 combined.

Figure 1 shows the percentage of DART cases with emergency-room-only visits is 23% for the youngest workers (16 to 19 years old) and decreases to 15% among workers 35 to 44 years old, and then increases again to 19% among workers age 65 years and older. This trend might be related to the common types of injuries among workers in these age groups. Younger workers have higher rates of cases with open wounds and burns, which would be treated in emergency rooms.

The other trend shown in Figure 1 is the percentage of cases with overnight hospitalization. The hospitalization trend increases from 0% among the youngest workers to 2.2% for workers in the two oldest age groups. This age trend is consistent with many other health care measures showing higher hospitalization rates for older persons.

Figure 2 shows the median number of days away from work, in job transfer or with a job restriction (DART days). For workers with an emergency room visit only, the median number of DART days increases with worker age. However, the median DART days does not follow a consistent trend for workers with overnight hospitalization. The median reaches more than 100 days for workers in both the 25- to 34-year age group and the 35- to 44-year age group, then drops to below 40 days for workers between 45 and 64 years before increasing to 70 days for workers 65 years and older. Additional analysis is needed to understand how a mix of injuries affects the median DART days. It is likely the small estimated number of hospitalized cases might affect the stability of this trend.

Figure 1. Percentage of cases with emergency room visits or hospitalization, cases with one or more days away from work, job transfer or job restriction, 2021 and 2022

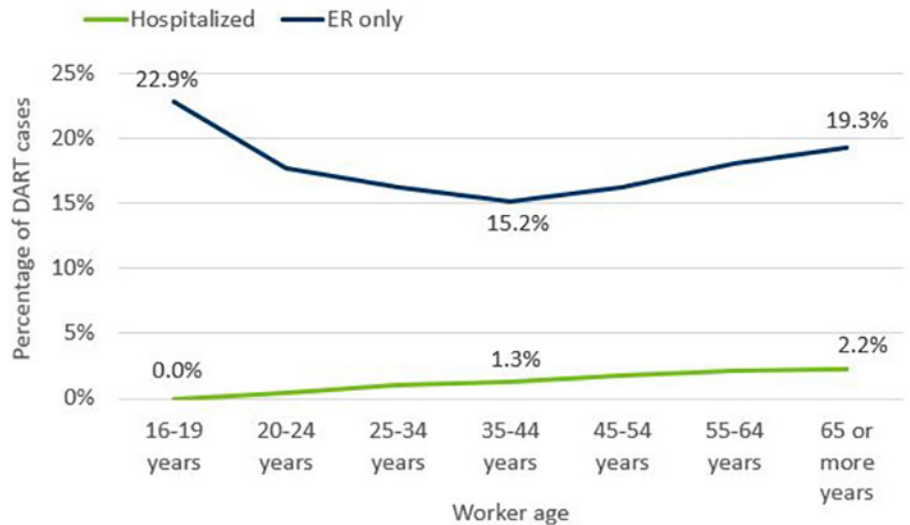
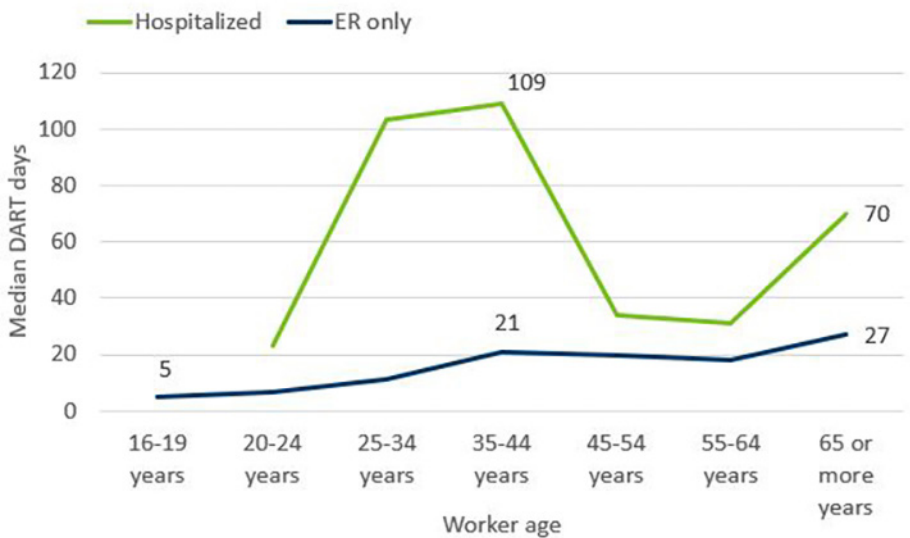


Figure 2. Median days away from work, job transfer or job restriction among workers with emergency room visits or hospitalization, 2021 and 2022



Spring, summer 2024 safety and health observations

National Stand-down to Prevent Struck-by Incidents – April 15 through 19

The National Stand-down to Prevent Struck-by Incidents is a voluntary opportunity for employers to stop work to talk directly to employees, focusing on struck-by hazards and reinforcing the importance of training and prevention. Struck-by incidents are the second leading cause of death among construction workers and the leading cause of injuries in the construction industry.

Learn more: cpwr.com/research/research-to-practice-r2p/r2p-library/other-resources-for-stakeholders/struck-by-hazards



National Safety Stand-down to Prevent Falls in Construction – May 6 through 10

The National Safety Stand-down to Prevent Falls in Construction raises fall hazard-awareness across the country in an effort to stop fall fatalities and injuries. Fatalities cause by falls from elevation continue to be a leading cause of death for construction employees, accounting for 395 of the 1,069 construction fatalities nationally recorded in 2022 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. During this week, construction employers are asked to pause their work, standing-down with employees to discuss fall safety and prevention.

Learn more: osha.gov/stop-falls-stand-down



Minnesota Safety and Health Conference – April 30 and May 1

Learn about the most recent safety and health knowledge and tools to increase your effectiveness in the workplace at the 2024 Minnesota Safety and Health Conference at Mystic Lake Center, April 30 and May 1, in Prior Lake, Minnesota. On Tuesday, April 30, be sure to catch the Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) update, presented by MNOSHA Compliance Director James Krueger, at 10 a.m., and MNOSHA: Ergonomics and Warehousing, presented by Ron Anderson and Breca Tschida, MNOSHA Compliance, at 1:30 p.m.

Learn more: msc.imiscloud.com/MNSC/Conference/2024-Safety-Health-Conference.aspx



Safe + Sound Week – Aug. 12 through 18

Safe + Sound Week 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.

Learn more: osha.gov/safeandsoundweek



Apply now: Ergonomics safety grants available to specific industries

As part of the legislative session in 2023, the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) received additional one-time funding to administer a Safety Grant Program specifically designed to aid employers covered under Minnesota Statutes section 182.677 (Ergonomics). Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Workplace Safety Consultation is administering the program and funds available to:

- **health care facilities** – specifically, hospitals with North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes 622110, 622210 or 622310, outpatient surgical centers with NAICS code 621493 and nursing homes with NAICS code 623110;
- **warehouse distribution centers** – specifically, employers with 100 or more employees in Minnesota and NAICS codes 493110, 423110 to 423990, 424110 to 424990, 454110 and 492110; and
- **meatpacking sites** – specifically meatpacking or poultry processing sites with 100 or more employees in Minnesota and NAICS codes 311611, 311612, 311614 or 311615.

Designated employers covered by workers' compensation insurance, and those approved as self-insured employers, are eligible to apply for safety and health matching grants to abate ergonomics-related hazards in their workplace. The safety and health hazards must have been identified in an on-site survey conducted by one of the following:

- a MNOSHA Compliance safety and health investigator;
- a MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation safety and health consultant;
- an in-house employee safety and health committee;
- a workers' compensation insurance underwriter;
- a private safety and health consultant; or
- a person under contract with Minnesota's Assigned Risk Plan.

The on-site safety and health survey must have resulted in specifically recommended safety and health practices or equipment, training for purchased equipment or tuition reimbursement designed to reduce the risk of musculoskeletal disorders to employees. Costs eligible for program participation are all or part of the cost of purchasing and installing recommended equipment intended to prevent musculoskeletal disorders, training required to operate recommended equipment, tuition reimbursement related to identify ergonomic-related issues, the cost of operating or maintaining the equipment, or the cost of purchasing or renting real property to meet criteria established by the on-site safety and health survey.

Whether the grant application is approved does not diminish, delay or absolve the employer of any obligation to abate hazards as required by law.

No state funds will be distributed until all grant documents are signed by all parties and the safety grant project is completed, including payments for all items in the project. Costs incurred before all parties have signed the grant document must not rely on grant approval. Invoices dated before the fully executed grant agreement are not eligible for this program.

Grants are limited to a total maximum match of \$10,000 per project. No grant will be awarded for more than half the amount of the approved project. Grant applications submitted by the application deadlines of Oct. 15 and Dec. 15, 2023, will be evaluated and processed so that grant contracts or denial letters can be issued within the two months following each application deadline.

For more information, contact MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation at dli.grants@state.mn.us, 651-284-5060 or 800-731-7232, or visit the [Safety Grant Program -- ergonomics](#) webpage.

Safety grants available for all other industries

MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation also administers the Safety Grant Program for all other industries. Its requirements are much the same as the ergonomics-related grants. Get complete information or apply on the [MNOSHA WSC Safety Grant Program](#) webpage.

Reviewing the basics: Recordkeeping training offered online April 26

Maintaining an accurate OSHA log of recordable work-related injuries and illnesses is an important skill that benefits employers, workers, safety professionals and government agencies. The Department of Labor and Industry is offering a free, online introductory-level training session about OSHA recordkeeping Friday, April 26. **Registration is required.**

Date, time, registration

- **April 26** – 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.; [register now](#) (required)

Topics

- Recordability of injuries and illnesses
- Differences between OSHA cases and workers' compensation claims
- Classifying cases
- Counting time
- Privacy cases
- How many logs to keep
- Maintaining logs
- Creating a log summary
- Reporting log data to OSHA
- Recording COVID-19 cases



More information

For more information about the training session, visit dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-recordkeeping-standard.

Translated materials, Language Line available via DLI website

The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) posts its available translated materials online at dli.mn.gov/about-department/translated-materials. It has documents available in Chinese, Hmong, Karen, Somali and Spanish. A few other documents throughout the website are available in additional languages.

Also, the DLI website now provides Google Translate, allowing visitors to choose the language for the website text.

In addition, DLI has access to Language Line, a free language translation phone service for limited-English speakers. If DLI help is needed, view the contact information at dli.mn.gov/about-department/about-dli/contact-us, call and a DLI employees will get in touch with an interpreter in the needed language.



MNOSHA Compliance signs safety, health partnerships



Hunt Electric Corporation and J.E. Dunn Construction • HHS Red Generator Replacement – HCMC • Minneapolis



Minnesota OSHA Compliance recently signed four Level 3 Cooperative Compliance Partnerships at three construction worksites.

The worksites recognized were:

- **Hunt Electric Corporation and J.E. Dunn Construction** – HHS Red Generator Replacement – HCMC, Minneapolis;
- **Lyon Contracting, Inc.** – Avalon Apartments in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota; and
- **Rice Companies** – Coborn’s Otsego in Otsego, Minnesota.



Lyon Contracting, Inc. • Avalon Apartments • Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota

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.



Rice Companies • Coborn’s Otsego • Otsego, Minnesota

Participants may achieve three award levels: basic, intermediate and peak.

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.

Get complete information about the Cooperative Compliance Partnerships at [MNOSHA Compliance: Partnership programs](#).

Minnesota OSHA's calendar of events*

April 2024

April 26 *Training: OSHA recordkeeping basics*
dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-recordkeeping-standard

May 2024

May 16 *Occupational Safety and Health Review Board*
dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/occupational-safety-and-health-review-board

May 21 *Construction Seminar: Crane safety*
dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-construction-seminars

June 2024

June 7 *Occupational Safety and Health Review Board*
dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/occupational-safety-and-health-review-board

June 21 *Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Council*
dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/occupational-safety-and-health-advisory-council

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

See more at dli.mn.gov/about-department/about-dli/events-minnesota-osh

Free on-site safety and health consultations available

Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation offers free consultation services, where employers can find out about potential hazards at their worksites, improve safety management systems and apply for grants to abate safety standards.

The program targets small, high-hazard businesses. It is separate from Minnesota OSHA Compliance inspection activities and no citations are issued as part of a consultation visit.

Learn more and request a consultation

Web: dli.mn.gov • Email: osha.consultation@state.mn.us • Phone: 651-284-5060 or 800-657-3776

