

Memo to Members

Record Attendance Marks 20th Annual Conference

A record 550 people took part in the 20th annual South Dakota Safety & Health Conference on October 3 at the Sioux Falls Arena and Convention Center. The event's rich content provided insights into specific safety topics, tools for safety program management and insights into motivation and creating a culture of excellence. At members' request, the conference included daylong sessions on behavior-based safety and leadership.

"Our members are moving their safety programs to the next level, and the conference was developed with that in mind," said Cary Swenson, Executive Director of the South Dakota Safety Council. "It truly reflected the power of partnership – from the planning group, to the sponsors, staff and speakers – it was a home run."

Fifty-six South Dakota workplaces were recognized for outstanding achievement in safety at the Governor's Safety Awards luncheon (see more about the awards and award winners on page 2). The luncheon featured a humorous pep talk from "legendary" football coach Wally Bowers, an alter ego of motivational speaker Mark Scharenbroich who had earlier launched the day with an electrifying keynote.

Nine people completed the OSHA 30-Hour General Industry Training Course, inserting the conference into the middle of their week as a fifth day of training.

Thanks to our partners in presenting the conference: Sioux Empire Society for Human Resources Management, Chiropractic Associates of South Dakota, South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation, Avera, and Sanford Health.

We hope to see you next year at the *21st annual* South Dakota Safety & Health Conference, October 9, 2013!

INSIDE:

- 2 Governor's Safety Awards
- 3 News from Federal OSHA
- 4 Incident Investigation Tips
- 5 New Online Resources
- 6 New Report: U.S. and S.D. Workplace Deaths in 2011
- 7 AED Packages GHS Resources
- 8 New Report: SD Hunting Injuries Up 57 Percent in 2011



South Dakota Employers Earn Governor's Safety Awards

A select group of South Dakota employers was recognized for excellence in workplace safety and health at the Governor's Safety Awards luncheon in Sioux Falls on October 3. Fifty-six employers were honored at the luncheon, part of the 20th annual South Dakota Safety and Health Conference, coordinated by the South Dakota Safety Council.

Since 1993, the annual Governor's Safety Awards program has spotlighted South Dakota employers with above average safety records. Participants submit injury information which is compared with state and national data, as well as the entrant's past performance. Ongoing safety programs and activities are also considered. Winners are recognized at three levels: Meritorious Achievement, for better than average performance in incident rates compared to an industry as a whole; Outstanding Achievement, for continuing improvement or a continuing outstanding record; and the Award of Honor, the highest level of award. It is presented for exceptional accomplishment in reducing injuries and illnesses in the workplace and is awarded at the discretion of the judging committee. Awards were presented by South Dakota Safety Council Board Chair Marianne Von Seggern and James Marsh, Director, Division of Labor and Management, South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation.

"An effective safety program reduces injuries and costs, maximizes productivity and builds morale," said Cary Swenson, executive director of the South Dakota Safety Council. "These employers understand that safety is good business, now more than ever."

Award of Honor winners were: Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center, Sioux Falls; BAE Systems, Aberdeen; Berry Plastics Corporation, Sioux Falls; BlueLinx Corporation, Sioux Falls; Daktronics, Inc., Brookings; Lawrence County, Deadwood; Mileage Plus, Inc., Rapid City; Muth Electric, Inc.; Mitchell; Sanford USD Medical Center, Sioux Falls; SGT, Inc., Sioux Falls; South Dakota Air National Guard, Sioux Falls.

Awards for **Outstanding Achievement** went to: Applied Engineering, Inc., Yankton; Avera Behavioral Health Center, Sioux Falls; Avera Flandreau Hospital, Flandreau; Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton; Earth Resources Observation & Science Center, Sioux Falls; Sioux Rural Water System, Inc., Watertown; StarMark Cabinetry, Sioux Falls; Syngenta Supply Chain, Brookings.

The following employers received awards for **Meritorious Achievement**: Avera Dells Area Health Center, Dell Rapids; Avera Hand County Memorial Hospital, Miller; Avera Milbank Area Hospital, Milbank; Avera Sacred Heart Majestic Bluffs, Yankton; Avera Yankton Care Center, Yankton; Dean Foods North Central, LLC, Sioux Falls; Fall River Health Services, Hot Springs; Fugro Horizons, Rapid City; GCC Ready Mix, Aberdeen; City of Huron; 3M, Brookings; John Morrell & Company Hambone Unit, Sioux Falls; John Morrell & Company Sliced Bacon Unit, Sioux Falls; Menno Olivet Care Center, Inc., Menno; Northwestern Energy, Huron; Orion Food Systems, LLC, Sioux Falls; Otter Tail Power-Big Stone Plant, Big Stone City; POET, LLC, Sioux Falls; Polaris Sales, Inc., Vermillion; PrairieSons, Inc., Brandon; RPM & Associates, Inc., Rapid City; Sapa Extrusions, Yankton; Scull Construction Service, Inc., Rapid City; ShurCo, LLC, Yankton; Sioux River Ethanol dba POET, Hudson; Sioux Valley Energy, Colman; Site Work



James Marsh, Department of Labor and Regulation, at the Governor's Awards Luncheon.

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Specialists, Inc., Rapid City; Smith Equipment, Watertown; Smith Plumbing, Inc., Pierre; South Dakota Achieve, Sioux Falls; South Dakota Army National Guard, Rapid City; South Dakota Wheat Growers, Chamberlain; South Dakota Wheat Growers, Woonsocket; South Dakota Wheat Growers Association Coop, Aberdeen; South Dakota Wheat Growers Bath Fertilizer, Aberdeen; South Dakota Wheat Growers West Terminal, Aberdeen; Sweetman Construction Company, Sioux Falls; Tessier's, Inc., Sioux Falls; Tremco, Inc., Spearfish; Xcel Energy Angus Anson, Sioux Falls.

News from Federal OSHA

Direct final rule on cranes and derricks in demolition/underground construction. Federal OSHA has issued a [direct final rule and notice of proposed rulemaking](#) that applies the requirements of the August 2010 cranes and derricks in construction standard to demolition work and underground construction. It will apply the same crane rules to underground construction and demolition that are already being used by other construction sectors, and will streamline OSHA's standards by eliminating the separate cranes and derricks standard currently used for underground and demolition work. The rule will become effective November 15, 2012, unless OSHA receives a significant adverse comment by September 17.

Report on VPP is released. An [internal OSHA report](#) on the agency's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) has been posted on the OSHA website. The report, presented to OSHA Administrator Jordan Barab last November, recommends action in several areas, including internal controls, administration of the program, consistency, enforcement and measures to track VPP performance. A key focus of the internal review team was the issue of fatalities at VPP sites.

Alternative program for whistleblower complaints. Federal OSHA is launching an [alternative dispute resolution \(ADR\) pilot program](#) for complaints filed with OSHA's Whistleblower Protection Program. ADR can assist complainants and employers in resolving their disputes in a cooperative and voluntary manner.

The program will be implemented in two OSHA regions and offer two voluntary methods of ADR: early resolution and mediation. When a whistleblower complaint is filed with OSHA in one of the pilot regions, the parties will be notified of their ADR options and may work through an OSHA regional ADR coordinator to use these methods.

Directive on workplace violence. A recently-released directive from federal OSHA provides general guidance for investigating/inspecting a workplace in response to an incident of violence. It's the first instruction issued by OSHA in this area and is not intended to require an OSHA response to or citation for every complaint or fatality. States such as Minnesota that operate their own OSHA program are strongly encouraged by federal OSHA to adopt this instruction for use with their general duty clause, state-specific workplace violence standard, or other applicable authority under state law. See "[Enforcement Procedures for Investigating or Inspecting Workplace Violence Incidents](#)" online.

Improvements to CSA Target High Risk Truck and Bus Companies

The U.S. Department of Transportation has announced several improvements to its Compliance Safety Accountability (CSA) enforcement program that will enable it to more quickly identify and address high-risk truck and bus companies with compliance concerns. The [changes](#) (which came in response to public comments) will be implemented in December 2012.

Incident Investigation Tips

When we receive phone calls from members on how to investigate an incident, a key question we hear is: what is OSHA looking for in this process? So, here are some tips on how to conduct an investigation. We hope they will make your job easier and more effective.

What is an *incident*? It is an unplanned, undesired event that disrupts the completion of an activity. It can happen because of an oversight, an omission, or a lack of control of the circumstances. It can also occur because of an error in the management system.

One of the key elements of an effective safety performance system is incident investigation. The nature of investigation is reactive since the event has already happened, but it is a window of opportunity to identify the root cause of the incident through First Aid logs, your organization's incident investigation forms, First Report of Injury, formal committee investigation, and outside investigations.

Why should employees report incidents?

- Minor injuries can turn into major ones with complications.
- Your worker's compensation forms need to be completed within ten days and the OSHA logs must be completed within seven days.
- Reporting also can identify patterns and trends for the company.

But why do employees fail to report these incidents? Some common reasons are:

- Fear of discipline
- In a hurry
- Don't want to damage the incentive program
- Macho attitude
- Peer pressure
- Want to avoid being the center of attention

The supervisor is the key to safety efforts. Supervisors are closest to processes and employees, and hopefully they have the authority to get things done. Ninety percent of incidents happen because of unsafe acts. It is important to understand and follow OSHA's incident response priorities, including:

- Protect yourself and others
- Care for the injured
- Account for employees
- Minimize damage
- Preserve evidence

- Find causes
- Document
- Correct
- Follow up



Your interviewing techniques are

also very important

in discovering the root causes of incidents. Interview techniques can include the following:

- Use open-ended questions
- Don't use leading questions
- Listen. Listen. Listen.
- Interrupt, if necessary
- Rephrase, if necessary
- Get suggestions
- Express appreciation

Why preserve the evidence? Why is it important?

- Possible litigation
- Memory lapses
- Items can be moved, removed, misplaced
- Items can be overlooked
- Machinery settings can be changed
- Instrument readings can be changed
- Weather and environmental conditions can affect the evidence

Key points to remember:

- Incident response priorities (see above)
- Think prevention. Minimize blame.
- Find root causes. Consider management systems.
- Recommend solutions
- Assign accountability
- Follow up
- Accident investigation is an opportunity!

Questions? You can reach us at sdsc@southdakotasafetycouncil.org or 605-361-7785 / 800-952-5539.

A Click Away: New Online Resources



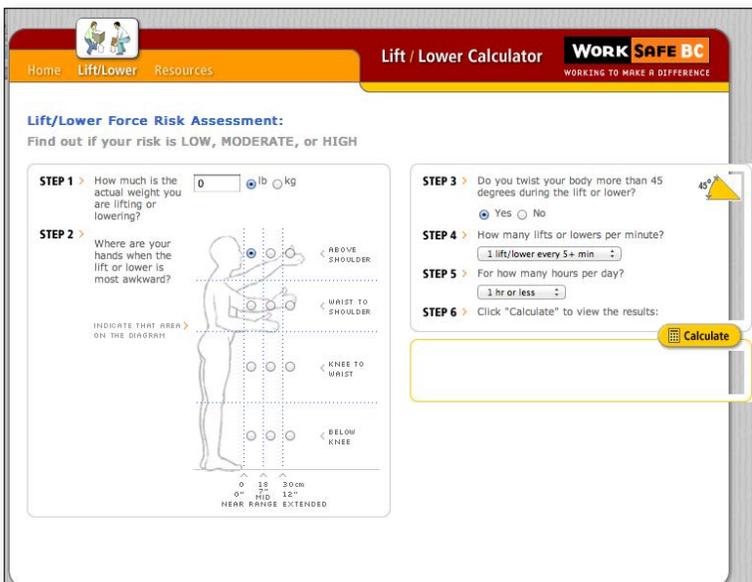
New video shows how to respond to a workplace shooter

The city of Houston, Texas, recently released a six-minute video showing a fictional shooting spree in an office setting and providing information about how to survive. Office buildings are considered among the most likely locations for a mass shooting to take place. The lifesaving tips in “[Run, Hide, Fight](#)” include:

- Run if a safe path is available. Always try to escape or evacuate even if others insist on staying.
- If it’s not possible to get out safely, find a place to hide. When hiding, turn out lights, remember to lock doors and silence the ringer and vibration mode on your cellphone.
- As a last resort, working together or alone, use improvised weapons and fight.
- The Houston Mayor’s Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security produced the video.

Ergonomic calculators from our neighbor to the north

A couple of excellent ergonomics calculators are available online courtesy of WorkSafeBC in British Columbia. The “[Lift/Lower](#)” Calculator calculates the maximum weight a worker can safely lift by assessing a number of variables, including the amount of weight being lifted, the position of the arms when lifting, whether twisting of the torso occurs, frequency and duration.



The “[Push/Pull/Carry](#)” calculator estimates the amount of force that can be used during pushing and pulling, and the amount of weight that can be carried. Variables include gender, height of hands, distance and frequency.

WorkSafeBC is an independent agency mandated by the Canadian government to promote the prevention of workplace injury, illness, and disease; and to provide rehabilitation and workers’ compensation services.

OSHA: Updated Compliance Variance Website

OSHA has announced enhancements to its [compliance variance](#) webpage. To improve public access to, and understanding of, the variance approval process, the page will now list [variance applications denied by OSHA](#), as well as those approved by OSHA. This newly available information illustrates which requirements employers have failed to meet when applying for a variance.

A variance is a regulatory action that permits an employer to deviate from the requirements of an OSHA standard under specified conditions. OSHA may grant a variance to employers who can prove their alternative method, condition, practice, operation, or process provides the employer’s workers with a workplace as safe and healthful as required by the applicable OSHA standard.

New Report: U.S. Workplace Deaths in 2011

A preliminary total of 4,609 fatal work injuries were recorded in the United States in 2011, down from a final count of 4,690 fatal work injuries in 2010, according to results from the [Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries](#) (CFOI) program conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Note that this number is expected to rise when final data is published in the spring of 2013. Over the last three years, increases based on additional information have averaged 166 fatalities per year or about 3 percent of the revised total.

The rate of fatal work injury for U.S. workers in 2011 was 3.5 per 100,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers, compared to a final rate of 3.6 per 100,000 for 2010.

Key preliminary findings of the 2011 CFOI include:

- Fatal work injuries in the private construction sector



declined to 721 in 2011 from 774 in 2010, a drop of 7 percent and the fifth consecutive year of lower fatality counts. Construction deaths are down nearly 42 percent since 2006.

The BLS states that economic conditions may explain much of this decline. Despite this drop, construction accounted for the second most fatal work injuries of any industry sector in 2011 (transportation and warehousing had the most.)

- Violence and other injuries by persons or animals accounted for 780 deaths, or about 17 percent of the fatal injuries in the workplace in 2011. This includes 458 homicides and 242 suicides.
- Work-related deaths in the private mining industry (which includes oil and gas extraction) were down 10 percent in 2011 after an increase of 74 percent in 2010. Coal mining fatalities fell to 17 in 2011 from 43 in 2010.
- Fatal work injuries in private truck transportation rose 14 percent in 2011 – the second consecutive year that counts have risen in this sector after reaching a series low in 2009.
- Work-related deaths increased among non-Hispanic black or African-American workers and among Hispanic or Latino workers in 2011, but declined among non-Hispanic white workers (down 3 percent).
- Fatalities involving workers 55 years of age and older as well as workers under the age of 18 were both lower in 2011, but fatal work injuries among workers in the 20-24 year-old age group were up nearly 18 percent.

Fatal Occupational Injuries in South Dakota, 2011

(Preliminary; numbers in individual categories may not equal total)

Total: 31 (compared to 2010 – 36; 2009 – 24; 2008 – 30; 2007 – 22)

Transportation incidents: 14

Contact with objects and equipment: 7

Violence and other injuries by persons or animals: 5

Fires and explosions: 3

Twenty-four of those who died were wage and salary workers; seven were self-employed. Thirty were men. Preliminary data identifies 29 as white (non-Hispanic). Twenty-two were employed in private industry and nine in state or local government.

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(J.J. Keller)

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(J.J. Keller)

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(J.J. Keller)

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To Order

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OFF THE JOB

New Report: SD Hunting Injuries Up 57 Percent in 2011

In 2011, 55 hunting and shooting sports-related incidents were reported in South Dakota, including one death. The total number of incidents increased by about 57% from the previous year and was 45% higher than the 10-year average, according to a new report from the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP). Overall, 2011 had the highest number of hunting and shooting sport-related incidents since 2005.

Incidents include injuries from firearms, bows and other causes. Thirty-eight incidents were related to pheasant hunting, three to big game (deer), two to waterfowl and seven to hunting other species. Five incidents were related to non-hunting activities. Where hunter education completion could be determined, the data indicates 20 people involved as shooters had received hunter education while nine had not.

GFP lists the four basic rules of hunter firearm safety:

- Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
- Keep the action unloaded and open if not actively hunting.
- Be sure of your target and what is beyond your target.
- Keep your finger outside and alongside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.



“The biggest thing is making sure that when you’re following through on that game that you have the awareness to stop your swing,” said Ronald Kolbeck, president of the South Dakota Hunter Education Instructors Association, quoted in the Sioux Falls *Argus Leader*. “Always be thinking about the safe zone of fire. Let the bird get up in the air — see blue behind the bird.”

Find more firearm safety tips at <http://gfp.sd.gov/outdoor-learning/hunter-education/>.

How important is it for hunters to wear blaze orange? Check out an engaging video from the South Dakota Department of Games, Fish and Parks for a graphic demonstration. The five-minute video includes segments that challenge the viewer to find hunters in wooded settings who are not wearing blaze orange, and demonstrates levels of visibility depending on the type and amount of blaze orange that is worn. See <http://gfp.sd.gov/outdoor-learning/hunter-education/>.

Seasonal Safety Tips Available Online

Looking for seasonal safety tips to share in an employee newsletter or to post or hand out? Check our online fact sheet library. The following are just a few of the topics you’ll find:

[Halloween Safety](#)

[Frostbite and Hypothermia](#)

[Winter Driving and Survival Tips](#)

[Home Fire Safety Checklist](#)

[Winter Storms](#)

[Home Heating Safety](#)

Also see the brochures:

• [Carbon Monoxide: The “Invisible” Killer](#), PDF (English); [El Monóxido de Carbono: El Asesino “Invisible”](#), PDF (Spanish)

• Fire Safety, PDF (Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia website) [English](#), [Cambodian](#), [Chinese](#), [Spanish](#), [Vietnamese](#)

The information in the Memo to Members is compiled from sources believed to be reliable. We’ve exercised reasonable care to assure its accuracy, but make no guarantees. The South Dakota Safety Council makes no representation or guarantees of results and assumes no liability in connection with the information contained in the Memo, including whether such information or suggestions are appropriate in all circumstances. Statements attributed to other sources do not necessarily reflect the opinion or position of the South Dakota Safety Council.

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