

MINNESOTA

Occupational Safety and Health Administration — MNOSHA

SIGNATURE PROJECTS

Minnesota OSHA Compliance's Excavation Safety Stand-down

Excavation employers and employees participated in Minnesota OSHA Compliance's first Excavation Safety Stand-down, April 17 through 21, 2017, helping to raise awareness about preventing excavation accidents. During the one-week campaign, employers and employees were asked to pause their workday to talk about excavation safety and discuss ways to protect employees from hazards during excavation projects. The stand-down was part of Minnesota OSHA ongoing emphasis on excavation and trench safety to provide employers with lifesaving information and educational materials about how to plan ahead to prevent accidents and protect employees.



At least 11 companies and 248 employees participated in Minnesota OSHA Compliance's first Excavation Safety Stand-down in April 2017.

National safety stand-down

Minnesota OSHA partnered with key national safety and health groups, and leading employers and employer organizations, for the voluntary National Safety Stand-down to Prevent Falls in Construction, May 8 through 12, 2017, to encourage employers to talk directly to their employees about fall hazards and to reinforce the importance of fall prevention. Participating construction companies stopped work for a safety stand-down meeting about a related safety topic – such as ladder safety, scaffold safety or fall protection equipment – to provide information about hazards, protective methods and the company's safety practices, policies, goals and expectations.

St. Croix Bridge Project

Minnesota OSHA Compliance continued its partnership agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation and two contractors for a joint venture for construction of the St. Croix bridge superstructure. This was a separate partnership designed to establish a cooperative effort to ensure safety and maintain open communication among the partners.

This major construction project replaced the 80-year-old Stillwater Lift Bridge with a four-lane bridge that connects expressways on both sides of the St. Croix River. The superstructure project consisted of constructing piers and precast segment components, along with ramp bridges connecting to Minnesota Hwy. 36, the Minnesota Hwy. 36 box-girder approach bridge and a structure connecting that bridge to the one crossing the river. The extra-dosed bridge design is unique to Minnesota and to North America. The job started in 2014 and was completed in August 2017.



Ninety-one percent of the 1,407 programmed inspections Minnesota OSHA Compliance conducted were in emphasis programs. Seventy-six percent of inspections conducted in these emphasis programs resulted in citations issued.

EMPHASIS PROGRAMS

In federal-fiscal-year 2017, Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance conducted inspections under 18 local and national emphasis programs. MNOSHA Compliance's key areas of inspection emphasis continued to be workplaces with high injury and illness rates as determined by data obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Ninety-one percent of the 1,407 programmed inspections MNOSHA Compliance conducted were in these emphasis programs. Seventy-six percent of inspections conducted

in these emphasis programs resulted in citations issued.

MNOSHA Compliance has chosen to take a joint safety and health approach when conducting emphasis inspections for certain industries, including meatpacking, health care, foundry and grain facilities. To ensure MNOSHA Compliance provides consistent and effective enforcement under these emphasis programs, specialty groups were created, including both safety and health OSHIs, and the staff members were provided training specific to the industry.

ENFORCEMENT

Malt manufacturer

A malt manufacturer employee was fatally injured after being entangled in the rotating scraper of a machine used to move grain. The employer was cited for failure to use lockout/tagout procedures, failure to provide point of operation guarding on the rotating machine and failure to equip the machine with an emergency stop button. A total of four serious citations were issued, with more than \$50,000 in penalties.

Excavation contractor

An excavation contractor was cited after an employee suffered fatal crushing injuries when the excavation being worked in collapsed. Before the accident, two employees were working adjacent to a trench box in an excavation. The employees were able to get inside the trench box before the excavation wall collapsed, but were buried when the wall caved in over the top of the box. Minnesota OSHA Compliance issued eight serious citations related to the accident, with \$104,375 in penalties.

Biodiesel fuel manufacturer

In September 2016, Minnesota OSHA Compliance settled a case with a biodiesel fuel manufacturer. The company was originally cited in September 2013 under six sections of the Process Safety Management (PSM) standard (1910.119). Of issue in the legal proceedings was a tank in the process, including the volume of this tank that was necessary to bring the total quantity of flammable liquid in the process above the 10,000-pound threshold for coverage under PSM. The company contended this tank should be considered a storage tank and be exempt under the standard, Minnesota OSHA Compliance contended the tank was an integral part of the process and its contents were not in storage. The administrative law judge ruled in favor of Minnesota OSHA Compliance. The case was appealed to the Occupational Safety and Health Review Board and then the Minnesota Court of Appeals. The initial ruling was upheld.

OUTREACH

Presentations

In federal-fiscal-year 2017, Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance conducted 101 presentations to 3,609 participants. Ninety-nine percent of outreach presentations were in emphasis industries, including construction – with a focus on excavation and confined spaces. Eight outreach training sessions specific to the new silica standard were presented to more than 755 employer representatives.

Excavation Safety Stand-down

In April 2017 MNOSHA Compliance sponsored its first Excavation Safety Stand-down. At least 11 companies and 248 employees participated in the stand-down effort by requesting a certificate of participation via MNOSHA's website.

Construction Seminars

MNOSHA Compliance conducted five Construction Seminars in federal-fiscal-year 2017, reaching 388 participants. The Construction Seminar series was developed to help members of the construction industry who are responsible for worksite safety to stay current with MNOSHA Compliance standards. The Construction Seminar series provides a forum for members of the construction trades and their employers to discuss issues and experiences with the speaker, their peers and MNOSHA Compliance investigators. Topics included: silica in construction (presented twice, in May and September 2017);

partnerships; electrical safety; and excavation safety.

Safety conferences

MNOSHA continued its strong working relationship with the Minnesota Safety Council. MNOSHA continues to participate in major safety conferences throughout the state, including staffing information booths at three separate exhibitions in federal-fiscal-year 2017. All three were well attended, with significant interest at the MNOSHA booth.

Newsletter

MNOSHA continues to publish its quarterly newsletter Safety Lines. Topics included: carbon monoxide; powered industrial trucks; hazards in the grain industry; respiratory protection; metalworking lathe hazards; heat stress; downed power line hazards; safe patient-handling; the Excavation Safety Stand-down; and more.



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PARTNERSHIPS

Minnesota STAR (MNSTAR) Program

In federal-fiscal-year 2017, one new organization achieved full MNSTAR Program status. In addition to this new participant: 10 employers received full recertification, with the associated five-year exemption; one employer remains in MERIT status; one employer was placed into a two-year rate reduction as part of its recertification visit; and two MNSTAR Program participants voluntarily withdrew from the program.

Federal-fiscal-year 2017 ended with 36 active MNSTAR Program employers; two are construction participants and the remainder are general industry participants.

General industry participants in the MNSTAR Program have a three-year (2014 through 2016) average rate that is 53 percent below the current U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics rate for total recordable cases and 56 percent below the current rate for “days away restricted transfer.” The MNSTAR Program construction participants, both of which are resident contractors at a MNSTAR Program participant’s site, are 75 percent below the current U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics rate for total recordable cases and 62 percent below the current rate for “days away restricted transfer.”

Partnerships with construction contractors

Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance’s construction safety and health partnerships with the Minnesota Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors (MN ABC) and with Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Minnesota are designed to help reduce the number of injuries, illnesses and fatalities at participating construction industry employers.

In both programs, the partnership is managed by the association and has three levels. Level 1 requires the employer to maintain the minimum requirements of a safety and health program. Level 2 requires a more comprehensive safety and health program. Level 3 is MNOSHA’s Cooperative Compliance Partnership (CCP) program, whereby MNOSHA Compliance will provide compliance assistance for a specific project. To qualify, contractors must be at Level 2 for a minimum of one year and can then apply for participation in the CCP program for construction projects expected to last at least six months, but fewer than 18 months.

In federal-fiscal-year 2017, MNOSHA partnered with 16 different AGC/MN ABC contractors at 15 Level 3 construction sites.



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