

Executive Safety Update

The Monthly News Bulletin of the Construction Safety Center

Vol. 17, Issue 8 – February 2010

US Department of Labor's OSHA announces 'OSHA Listens' public meeting to solicit comments and suggestions from stakeholders

Public meeting scheduled for March 4 in Washington, D.C.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced a public meeting, "OSHA Listens," to solicit comments and suggestions from OSHA stakeholders on key issues facing the agency. The meeting is re-scheduled for March 4 from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. EST in Washington, D.C.

"Public involvement in the government's activities is a priority for this administration and is important to enhancing OSHA efforts to protect the safety and health of workers," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA Dr. David Michaels. "This public meeting gives us an opportunity to hear your ideas, suggestions and comments on key issues facing this agency."

Some of the questions OSHA invites public input on include:

- What can the agency do to enhance and encourage the efforts of employers, workers and unions to identify and address workplace hazards?
- What are the most important emerging or unaddressed health and safety issues in the workplace, and what can OSHA do to address these?
- How can the agency improve its efforts to engage stakeholders in programs and initiatives?
- Are there additional measures to improve the effectiveness of the agency's current compliance assistance efforts and the onsite consultation program to ensure small businesses have the information needed to provide safe workplaces?
- What specific actions can the agency take to enhance the voice of workers in the workplace, particularly workers who are hard to reach, who do not have ready access to information about hazards or their rights, or who are afraid to exercise their rights?
- The public meeting will be held at the Frances Perkins Building auditorium, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, D.C.

Those unable to attend may send written comments to OSHA Docket Office, Docket Number OSHA-2010-0004, Technical Data Center, Room N-2625, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20210, or submit them via e-mail to stakeholder.meeting@dol.gov. Identify all comments with the docket number.

For more information on the scope of the meeting, attending the meeting or providing written comments, refer to the *Federal Register* notice at http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=21302.

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20th Annual Construction Safety Conference & Expo a Success!

CHICAGO – The Construction Safety Council hosted its 20th Annual Construction Safety Conference February 16 -18, 2010 in Rosemont, IL. Over 600 participants, speakers and exhibitors were in attendance over the three days...a great turnout given today's construction climate. The caliber and expertise of the presenters was outstanding this year.

Dr. John Howard, director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health delivered the keynote address on Tuesday, February 16. Over 60 sessions were offered throughout the three days. There were some old favorites, such as sessions on fall protection, power line safety and workers' compensation issues. Additionally, sessions on electrical safety, industrial hygiene issues and workzone safety were presented to give a full range of sessions to choose from. In addition, over 80 exhibitors were on hand to demonstrate the latest innovations in safety and health products and services. Some great prizes were given away throughout the event.

In honor of its 20th year, the Construction Safety Council hosted a Safety Awards Banquet during lunch on Wednesday, February 17. Awards for outstanding efforts in safety and health and training were awarded along with student scholarships. The lucky recipients were as follows:

Student Scholarships

Mike Nilsen - University of Minnesota Duluth

Josh Check - University of Wisconsin-STOUT

Jose Hinojosa - East Carolina University

David M. Grum - University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Outstanding Training Efforts Award

Aldridge Electric

Hero Award

Robert Rush and Steve Lafkas

Survivor Award

Michael Foggie

John Maronic Memorial Award - Federal Health and Safety Professional of the Year

Michael G. Connors

Construction Safety Association (CSA) - Robert M. Farrell Award

James P. McInerney

Raising The Bar Award

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Safety and Health Hall of Fame International Induction (SHHOFI)

David MacCollum

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Each year, the conference brings together a diverse audience, including construction owners/users, contractors, researchers, government officials, safety and health professionals, unions, and workers to share information and ideas about effective safety and health interventions and how to move best practices from inception to practical implementation.

Conference proceedings will be available soon on our website at www.buildsafe.org. If you would like more information, please contact us at 800-552-7744.

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OSHA releases workplace injury and illness information *Data represents administration's "Open Government" policy*

Every year since 1996 the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has collected work-related injury and illness data from more than 80,000 employers. For the first time, the Agency has made the data from 1996 to 2007 available in a searchable online database, allowing the public to look at establishment or industry-specific injury and illness data. The workplace injury and illness data is available at http://www.osha.gov/pls/odi/establishment_search.html as well as Data.gov.

OSHA uses the data to calculate injury and illness incidence rates to guide its strategic management plan and to focus its Site Specific Targeting (SST) Program, which the agency uses to target its inspections.

"Making injury and illness information available to the public is part of OSHA's response to the administration's commitment to make government more transparent to the American people," said David Michaels, Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA. "This effort will improve the public's accessibility to workplace safety and health data and ensure the Agency can function more effectively for American workers."

Information available at the Data.gov and www.osha.gov Websites includes an establishment's name, address, industry, associated Total Case Rate (TCR), Days Away, Restricted, Transfer (DART) case rate, and the Days Away From Work (DAFWII) case rate. The data is specific to the establishments that provided OSHA with valid data through the 2008 data collection (collection of CY 2007 data). This database does not contain rates calculated by OSHA for establishments that submitted suspect or unreliable data.

Data.gov provides expanded public access to valuable workforce-related data generated by the Executive Branch of the federal government. Although the initial launch of Data.gov provides a limited portion of the rich variety of Federal datasets presently available, the public is invited to [participate](#) in shaping the future of Data.gov by suggesting additional datasets and site enhancements to provide seamless public access and use of federal data.

More information about the Department of Labor's Open Government Web site is available at <http://www.dol.gov/open/> where there are links to the latest data sets, ways to connect with Department staff, and information about providing public input that will make the Department's site and its work more useful and engaging.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to assure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov>.