

## Division of Workers' Compensation

This monthly e-newsletter provides updates on the Workplace Safety Programs of the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC). Both subscribers and non-subscribers of workers' compensation insurance are eligible for these services.

### Texas Workplace Injury, Illness Rate Decreased in 2014

The Texas incidence rate of nonfatal injuries and illnesses in private industry decreased to 2.4 cases per 100 equivalent full-time workers in 2014, down from 2.6 in 2013. The Texas rate is below the national rate of 3.2. The total number of nonfatal injuries and illnesses also declined 2 percent from 198,800 to 194,642. (Continued on [page 2](#))

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#### Transportation Safety Information

##### Vehicle Backing

Backing a vehicle is one of the most difficult driving techniques. While the percentage of time a driver spends in a car in reverse may be relatively small, this maneuver can result in a crash involving an obstacle, another vehicle, a pedestrian, or an animal. New drivers need to be taught safe backing maneuvers and veteran drivers should have refresher training regularly.



(Continued on [page 4](#))

#### Safety Tips

##### Flu Control

The seasonal flu is a contagious disease caused by the influenza virus. It attacks the respiratory tract (nose, throat, and lungs). A person can spread the flu starting one day before they feel sick. Adults can continue to pass the flu virus to others for an additional three to seven days after symptoms begin. Children can pass the virus for longer than seven days. Symptoms start one to four days after the virus enters



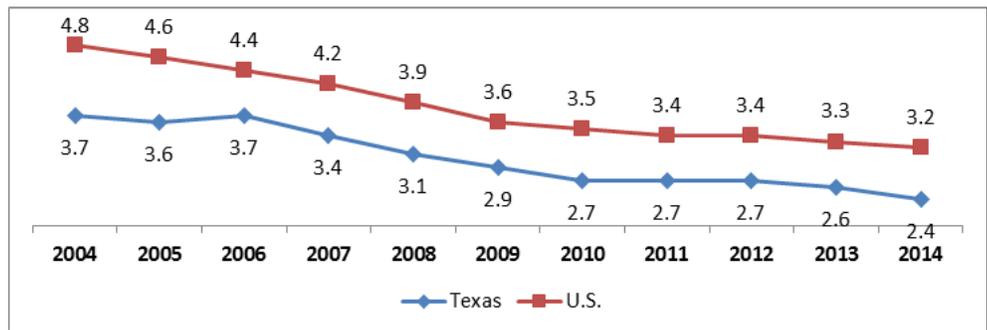
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## Texas Workplace Injury, Illness Rate Decreased in 2014 (cont.)

### *Incidence Rates per 100 Full-Time Employees for Total Nonfatal Injuries and Illnesses, Texas and U.S., Private Sector, 2004 – 2014*



(Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2015)

The 2014 nonfatal injury and illness data in this report are the latest available from the annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) conducted by the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The occupational injury and illness rates are based on a statistical sample of private businesses in Texas. Employers with questions about participating in this survey may call DWC at (866)-237-6405.

The DWC Workplace Safety program area provides various safety and health services to help reduce injuries and illnesses in the workplace, including free safety and health consultations on Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations; regional and onsite safety training; free safety and health publications; free safety training DVD loans; and the Safety Violations Hotline. For more information on these services, visit the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) website at [www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/index.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/index.html) or call (800) 687-7080. In addition, employers who carry workers' compensation insurance in Texas can obtain accident prevention services from their insurance companies at no additional charge.

### **Key Findings**

- The incidence rates for all major private industry sectors were lower than the national rates, except the information industry, which was the same at 1.4.
- The incidence rate for goods producing industries decreased from 2.6 in 2013 to 2.5

in 2014. Among these, the rate for the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting sector declined from 5.2 in 2013 to 4.6 in 2014. Likewise, the incidence rate in the construction sector decreased 8 percent.

- The service providing industries' incidence rate also decreased from 2.6 in 2013 to 2.4 in 2014. Within this group, rate decreases were seen in the professional and business services (27 percent) and retail trade (10 percent) sectors.
- Rate increases occurred in the utilities (54 percent), information (27 percent), and educational services (23 percent) sectors.
- Among all industry subsectors, couriers and messengers reported the highest incidence rate at 9.4, which was a slight decrease from 9.7 in 2013.
- The subsector with the largest decrease was leather and allied product manufacturing, which declined 70 percent from 5.3 in 2013 to 1.6 in 2014.

The complete Texas nonfatal injury and illness incidence rate and number data tables by industry can be found on the TDI website at [www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/sis/nonfatalhomepag.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/sis/nonfatalhomepag.html). For additional information, contact the DWC at (512) 804-5020 or via email at [injuryanalysis@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:injuryanalysis@tdi.texas.gov).

DWC will follow up this release with more in-depth case and demographic data about the 2014 injury and illness cases involving days away from work. Additional Texas nonfatal occupational injury and illness data are available by contacting (512) 804-5020 or [injuryanalysis@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:injuryanalysis@tdi.texas.gov). Details about the national BLS injury and illness data can be found on the BLS website at [www.bls.gov/iif/](http://www.bls.gov/iif/)

**Incidence Rates of Total Recordable Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses by Private Industry Sector,  
2010-2014, Texas**

<b>Industry Sector</b>	<b>NAICS Code</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Private Industry – Nation</b>		3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2
<b>Private Industry – Texas</b>		2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.4
Goods Producing		2.8	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.5
Natural Resources and Mining	11-21	1.9	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.9
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	11	4.1	4.1	3.9	5.2	4.6
Mining	21	1.4	1.8	1.6	--	1.6
Construction	23	2.5	2.8	2.3	2.4	2.2
Manufacturing	31-33	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.0	2.9
<b>Service Providing</b>		2.6	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.4
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	42-48	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.4
Wholesale Trade	42	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.5	2.4
Retail Trade	44-45	3.9	3.6	4.1	4.1	3.7
Transportation and Warehousing	48-49	4.7	4.5	3.9	4.3	4.3
Utilities	22	2.1	4.1	2.3	1.3	2.0
Information	51	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.1	1.4
Financial, Insurance, and Real Estate	52-53	1.0	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.0
Professional and Business Services	54-56	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.1
Education and Health Services	61-62	3.4	3.4	3.2	2.9	2.7
Educational Services	61	1.9	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.6
Health Care and Social Assistance	62	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.0	2.8
Leisure, Entertainment, and Hospitality	71-72	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9
Other Services, Except Public Administration	81	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.7

**Footnotes**

Incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers and were calculated as  $(N/EH) \times 200,000$  where N= numbers of injuries and/or illnesses, EH= total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year, 200,000= base for 100 equivalent full-time employees (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year).

The NAICS Code represents the industry code from the North American Industry Classification System, 2012 Edition. For more information regarding NAICS 2012 revisions, visit the BLS website at [www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm](http://www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm).

Private industry data excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees. Totals include data for industries not shown separately.

Data for mining (Sector 21 in the NAICS – United States, 2012) include establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in oil and gas extraction and related support activities. Data for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining are provided to BLS by MSHA, U. S. Department of Labor.

Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal mining industries. These data do not reflect the changes OSHA made to its recordkeeping requirements effective January 1, 2002; therefore estimates for these industries are not comparable to estimates in other industries.

Data for employers in rail transportation are provided to BLS by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

**NOTE:** Because of rounding, components may not add to totals. A dash indicates data do not meet publication guidelines.

**SOURCE:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, in cooperation with participating state agencies. ▲

## Transportation Safety Information (cont.)

### Vehicle Backing (cont.)

These basic backing techniques can help drivers to avoid backing crashes:

- Eliminate all distractions before you operate a vehicle.
- Avoid blind-side backing whenever possible.
- Before backing up, walk around the vehicle, note obstacles, and ensure safe clearance. Look underneath the vehicle, in the blind spot on the right, and in front of the vehicle.
- After your walk-around, move the vehicle as quickly as possible so another obstacle does not have time to approach.
- Start backing up slowly at first to allow other vehicles and pedestrians who may have unexpectedly approached to safely move away.
- Watch your mirrors and constantly check for clearance on all sides.

When backing a vehicle to deliver a load, follow these safety steps:

- Plan your approach and use a spotter whenever possible.
- Agree on hand signals with the spotter before beginning the maneuver.
- Use safety cones at the rear of the vehicle when parking to ensure the rear area is clear of obstacles before the vehicle is put in reverse.
- Open and secure cargo doors before backing to a dock or delivery area.
- Turn on four-way flashers and use the backing alarm or horn to indicate the intention to reverse the vehicle.
- Once the backing is completed, chock the vehicle's wheels while unloading. ▲

**Download!**

#### DWC Resources

DWC offers guidance for developing occupational driving safety programs on updated Driving Safety website at [www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/drivesafe.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/drivesafe.html).

DWC offers more than 30 driving safety publications, available in both English and Spanish, which can be downloaded from the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) website at [www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/targtransrltd.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/targtransrltd.html).

DWC features a free occupational safety and health DVD loan library. Call (512) 804-4620 for more information or visit the TDI website at [www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/avcatalog.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/avcatalog.html). The collection includes the following title related to vehicle backing:

#### *Master Driver: Backing Techniques DVD2898*

Aimed at the professional truck driver. Covers straight-line backing, sight-side backing, jacking and chasing, alley dock backing, blind side backing, and more. Modular DVD contains Hazard Perception Challenge, Commentary, Quick Review, Checklists, and Online Quiz. 16 min.

DVDs on many driving dangers can be found under the following headings:

- Driving Safety
- Transportation Safety (includes safe operation of buses and vans)
- Trucking Safety (covers both straight trucks and tractor trailers)

#### Other Resources

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) provides information on preventing backovers on its website at [www.osha.gov/doc/topics/backover/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/doc/topics/backover/index.html).

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recommends prevention procedures and controls in its *Preventing Worker Injuries and Deaths from Backing Construction Vehicles and Equipment at Roadway Construction Worksites* publication located on its website at [www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/wp-solutions/2014-125/pdfs/2014-125.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/wp-solutions/2014-125/pdfs/2014-125.pdf).

The National Safety Council offers free driving safety training and resources through its *Our Driving Concern: Texas Employer Traffic Safety Program* on its website at [www.txdrivingconcern.org/](http://www.txdrivingconcern.org/).

The Texas Department of Transportation offers brief safety advice on a number of topics ranging from aggressive drivers to work zones on its website at [www.txdot.gov/driver/share-road.html](http://www.txdot.gov/driver/share-road.html).

The Texas Department of Public Safety's *Texas Driver's Handbook* provides safety tips and information about driving laws on its website at [www.dps.texas.gov/internetforms/Forms/DL-7.pdf](http://www.dps.texas.gov/internetforms/Forms/DL-7.pdf).

The U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration offers safety resources on its agency website at <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/>.

The Network of Employers for Traffic Safety offers several resources on road safety, aggressive driving, distracted driving, and statistics on its website at <http://trafficsafety.org>.

The Governors Highway Safety Association offers news, up-to-date information on state distracted driving laws, planning tools, and other safety resources on its website at [www.ghsa.org](http://www.ghsa.org).

## Safety Tips (cont.)

### Flu Control (cont.)

the body. Some persons can be infected with the flu virus, but have no symptoms. During this time, those persons can still spread the virus to others. The flu is different from a cold; it usually comes on suddenly and can include the following symptoms:

- fever
- headache
- fatigue (can be extreme)
- dry cough
- nasal congestion
- body aches

### Avoiding the Flu

There are several precautions you can take to keep from getting the flu or spreading the virus to others:

- Talk to your doctor about getting the flu vaccine.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizing gel to reduce the risk of exposure after touching door handles, shopping cart handles, restroom facilities, and other places where there is frequent public contact with surfaces.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Get seven to eight hours of sleep each night.
- Eat nutritious food.
- Exercise regularly.
- Do not go to work when you have a fever or any other flu symptoms.

- Make sure that everyone in your family uses their own toothbrush, toothpaste, and cup.
- Avoid shaking hands with other people.
- Avoid using alcohol and tobacco. ▲

## Download!

### DWC Resources

DWC offers the following flu season health-related publications:

- *Common Cold Fact Sheet*
- *Flu Control Measures for Health Care Facilities Fact Sheet*
- *Flu/Influenza Take 5 for Safety*
- *Hand Hygiene Fact Sheet*

These publications are available in both English and Spanish and can be downloaded from the agency website at [www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/index.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/index.html).

DWC features a free occupational safety and health DVD loan library. Call (512) 804-4620 for more information or visit the TDI website at [www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/avcatalog.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/avcatalog.html). DVDs on flu prevention and other health-related topics can be found under the following headings:

- Communicable Diseases
- Wellness

### Other Resources

OSHA provides a Seasonal Flu Safety and Health Topics page on the agency website at [www.osha.gov/dts/guidance/flu/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/dts/guidance/flu/index.html). This index page includes links to pages for employers and employees as well as health care and other workplaces that offer guidance, safe work practices, and downloadable posters.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides an Influenza (Flu) index page on the agency website at [www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm). The topics covered include flu basics, prevention, treatment, vaccine information, information for health professionals, and free resources such as printable materials, photos, videos, and more.

NIOSH provides a Workplace Safety & Health topic page on Seasonal Influenza (Flu) in the Workplace on the agency website at [www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/flu/guidance.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/flu/guidance.html).

## DWC Recognizes Employers with Lone Star Safety Program Awards

Commissioner of Workers' Compensation, Ryan Brannan, recently presented two companies (Southern Plastics, Inc. and Rusk County Electric Cooperative) with the DWC Lone Star Safety Award (formerly the Peer Review Safety Award), a state designation for Texas businesses with excellent safety programs that serve as models for other employers. The employers were recognized for their exemplary workplace safety programs and low rates of work-related injuries and illnesses at the companies' facilities.

"The injury rate at Texas workplaces has fallen 33 percent since 2005 thanks in large part to the outstanding efforts of employers like these," Brannan said. "When businesses promote a culture of safety by providing excellent training and empowering workers to report any hazards, everybody wins. Fewer injuries mean a more productive workplace and lower insurance premiums."



### **Rusk County Electric Cooperative – Henderson** *Electric Power Distribution Cooperative*

**Pictured:** Commissioner Ryan Brannan, Robert Bryson, Director of Safety and Training, and Richard McLeon, General Manager

Regal Manufacturing in Tyler, a metal fabrication company, is also a recent recipient of the Lone Star Safety Award.

All three companies were previously awarded a Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) designation by the state and the federal OSHA. The SHARP award recognizes small, private sector Texas employers for exemplary safety and health programs.

DWC provides a variety of services to help Texas employers provide safe and healthy workplaces, including health and safety materials and customized, onsite safety training. For more information on these services, and for eligibility criteria for the SHARP and Lone Star Safety awards, visit [www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/index.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/index.html).



### **Southern Plastics, Inc. – Kilgore** *Plastic Manufacturing*

**Pictured:** Commissioner Ryan Brannan, Jim Woodruff, Plant Manager, and Representative David Simpson

## Free OSHA 10-Hour Construction Classes

The DWC offers free OSHA 10-Hour Construction classes in both English and Spanish in Austin, Fort Worth, El Paso, and Houston, and San Antonio. Each two-day course is presented by authorized instructors and is designed to train employers and their employees in the essentials of occupational health and safety in construction. Classes cover specific OSHA standards and requirements as they apply to the construction industry and teach safety awareness, which helps in recognizing and reducing the risks of job site hazards. Participants who successfully complete the two-day course will receive an OSHA 10-Hour Construction class completion card within six to eight weeks. ▲

## Regional Safety Summit

**San Angelo — November 17, 2015**

**Region 15 Education Service Center  
612 South Irene Street**

According to the most recent data available from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the second leading cause of fatal occupational injuries in Texas in 2013 was contact with objects and equipment. Falls, slips, and trips were the third leading cause of occupational fatalities in Texas in 2013. The regional safety summits address these and other safety issues commonly encountered in the workplace. Attendees will be able to choose the sessions that are most valuable to them.

### Session Descriptions

#### ***Components of an Effective Accident Prevention Program***

Managing how you protect your employees at work can limit how often injuries occur as well as the severity of the injuries. A good management plan also can reduce the costs related to workplace injuries and illnesses.



### Session Options

Session Time	Option 1	Option 2
Morning	Components of an Effective Accident Prevention Program	OSHA Written Programs and Training Requirements
Afternoon	Requirements of a Comprehensive Hazard Communication Program	Walking and Working Surfaces, Exit Routes, and Emergency Action Plans

This session will explain how to create an effective and comprehensive safety program in the workplace. The presentation will explore seven core components commonly found in effective safety programs, cover program best practices, and discuss the positive effects of implementation. (3 hours)

#### ***Requirements of a Comprehensive Hazard Communication Program***

Exposure to hazardous chemicals in the workplace can be harmful to employees' health. Some chemicals may also be safety hazards and cause fires, explosions, and other serious accidents. A comprehensive hazard communication program will help employers and employees understand the effects of chemicals found in the workplace, how to prevent exposure, and what to do in an emergency. Written hazard communication programs have specific requirements to meet OSHA General Industry standards. This session will cover OSHA's requirements for materials inventory, labeling, safety data sheets, and employee training. Attendees will receive information and skills needed to conduct training in their own workplace that complies with OSHA's requirements. (3 hours)

## Regional Safety Summit (cont.)

### ***OSHA Written Programs and Training Requirements***

This session will review topics including lockout/tagout, emergency action plans, and hearing conservation. Attendees will learn when written programs must be implemented, what must be covered when conducting training, and the proper frequency of training. (3 hours)

### ***Walking and Working Surfaces, Exit Routes, and Emergency Action Plans***

Slips, trips, and falls account for numerous workplace injuries every year. Maintaining clean, dry, and uncluttered work environments can help prevent many of these incidents from occurring. Part one of this session will explain OSHA's General Industry standards pertaining to walking and working surfaces, including requirements for floor and wall openings, loading docks, stairways and ladders, and general housekeeping.

Part two of this session will cover the OSHA requirements for exit routes, emergency action plans, and fire prevention plans. Attendees will learn the components, maintenance, safeguards, and operational features of exit routes as well as the essential elements of emergency action plans, fire prevention plans, and general fire protection best practices. (3 hours) ▲

## Register!

To register, visit the TDI website at [www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/regional.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/regional.html) or call (512) 804-4610. The registration fee is \$50 per person (register five people and get registration for a sixth person free). Registration includes course materials and a CD with all four presentations.

## Custom Onsite Training

The DWC offers affordable safety training courses that can be delivered onsite to businesses, groups, and trade associations. Training focuses on industries or occupations that experience high incidences of injuries, illnesses, and fatalities in Texas.

The DWC offers more than 30 onsite courses, including:

### ***First Aid/CPR***

This First Aid course, based on the American Heart Association protocol, includes:

- cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
- automated external defibrillator (AED)
- potential liability and responsibility of the first aid rescuer
- contents and use of the first aid kit
- safety for the victim and rescuer
- protection from potential bloodborne pathogens
- activation of the first link of the chain of survival
- assessment of the victim
- post-emergency actions
- medical emergencies (chest pain, heart attack, stroke, etc.)
- injury emergencies (Length: 6-8 hours.)

The DWC Training Program Descriptions guide at [www.tdi.texas.gov/pubs/videoresource/ghsphstrainingp.pdf](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/pubs/videoresource/ghsphstrainingp.pdf) provides information on other course content and length. The cost for onsite training varies according to the travel costs to the training location. Many courses can be presented at no cost to any business/industry via teleconference or webinar. ▲

## Book Your Training Class!

To request training, or for more information, call (512) 804-4610 or email [safetytraining@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:safetytraining@tdi.texas.gov).

## OSHA Update

### OSHA Revises Publication to Protect the Safety of Firefighters

To better protect firefighters, OSHA has revised its manual, *Fire Service Features of Buildings and Fire Protection Systems*.

The manual explains how fire personnel can resolve an incident sooner and in a safer manner if a building design is tailored to meet their needs during an emergency. The manual includes the following:

- new chapters on water supply and integrating design elements to protect fire personnel during a building's construction, occupancy, and demolition phases
- additional photos to help explain concepts
- new chapters on the following:
  - energy conservation
  - emergency power
  - room and floor numbering

The manual is aimed at helping emergency responders during fires and other emergencies such as hazardous material releases, emergency medical care, non-fire rescues, and terrorist attacks.

The manual can be downloaded from the Fire Safety index page on OSHA's website at [www.osha.gov/SLTC/firesafety/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/firesafety/index.html). ▲

### Free Help with OSHA Compliance

The DWC provides free help with compliance for small and medium-sized businesses, with priority given to high-hazard industries, through its OSHCON Program. OSHCON is a non-regulatory program, and its professional safety and health consultants are available to help you identify and eliminate occupational hazards in your workplace, whether or not your company carries workers' compensation insurance. Benefits for employers participating in the OSHCON program include prevention of work-related injuries and illnesses; confirmation to their employees and customers of their commitment to safety; public acknowledgement of their safety efforts; monetary savings to the company by reducing workers' compensation costs and other costs associated with work-related injuries and illnesses; and protection of company assets such as employees, equipment, supplies, products, and facilities. ▲

### Find Out More About OSHCON!

For information about the OSHCON program and help with OSHA standards, contact the DWC at (800) 252-7031, Option 2, or by email at [OSHCON@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:OSHCON@tdi.texas.gov); or visit the OSHCON website at <http://txoshcon.com/>.

## NIOSH Update

### **New Oil and Gas Extraction Worker Fatality Data Published**

NIOSH has published a new report entitled *Oil and Gas Extraction Worker Fatalities, 2014 Mid-Year Report: January 1, 2014-June 30, 2014*, using data from the Fatalities in Oil and Gas Extraction (FOG) database. FOG is a new internal NIOSH system that collects detailed information about land-based and offshore oil and gas extraction fatalities in the U.S. It is used to inform NIOSH, the oil and gas industry, and other stakeholder groups, and to guide interventions that will prevent future loss of life in this industry.

The publication can be downloaded from the agency website at [www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2015-239/default.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2015-239/default.html). ▲

### **DWC Workplace Safety Job Postings**

There are many benefits to working for the State of Texas and DWC, as detailed on the agency website at [www.tdi.texas.gov/jobs/index.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/jobs/index.html).

A complete listing of positions currently available can be viewed at [www.tdi.texas.gov/jobs/jobs.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/jobs/jobs.html).

## Safety DVDs Featuring Workplace Wellness

The DWC Resource Center contains approximately 4,000 DVDs in its library, including more than 28 DVDs on workplace wellness. Some titles are available in both English and Spanish. Titles and descriptions of these DVDs can be found under the “Communicable Diseases” and “Wellness” subject headings.

### **Colds and Flu DVD2296, DVD2296S**

Discusses differences and similarities between colds and flu. Reviews preventive measures and appropriate treatments of each. 5 min.

### **Handwashing: Avoiding Germs and Viruses at Work DVD1583ES**

Explains the importance of handwashing and offers effective handwashing suggestions. 9 min.

### **Preventing the Spread of Contagious Illness DVD1836**

Includes information about seasonal flu, avian flu, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus (MRSA) in addition to swine flu. Discusses prevention, personal responsibility to avoid spreading illness, decontaminating work areas, special MRSA precautions, responding to a potential infection, and more. Also covers how to prepare for and respond to a pandemic illness. 20 min ▲

### **Book Your DVDs!**

The DWC Resource Center catalog and information on how any Texas employer or employee can check out safety DVDs for free are available at [www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/avcatalog.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/avcatalog.html).

## Upcoming Safety Observances

**December 1-31**  
***“3D Month” – Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month***

**December 6-12**  
***National Handwashing Awareness Week***

**January 1-31, 2016**  
***National Radon Action Month***

**February 1-28**  
***American Heart Disease Awareness Month***

**February 1-7**  
***National Burn Awareness Week***

**March 1-31**  
***Workplace Eye Wellness Month***

**March 20-26**  
***National Poison Prevention Week***

## Upcoming Free Traffic Safety Workshops for Employers

Officials representing the National Safety Council *Our Driving Concern Texas Employer Traffic Safety Program* will be conducting the following free employer train-the-trainer traffic safety workshops.

- Amarillo - Monday, December 7, 2015  
1 – 5 p.m.  
TxDOT Office, North HR Conference Room,  
5715 Canyon Drive, Amarillo, TX, 79110
- Austin - Monday, February 1, 2016  
8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
DWC Office, 7551 Metro Center Drive,  
Suite 100, Austin, TX 78744

Space is limited. Register online at [www.txdrivingconcern.org](http://www.txdrivingconcern.org).  
For more information, call Lisa Robinson at 512-466-7383 or email at [lisa.robinson@nsc.org](mailto:lisa.robinson@nsc.org).

## Report Unsafe Working Conditions

**T**he DWC Safety Violations Hotline is a bilingual, 24-hour, toll-free telephone line that allows Texas employees to confidentially report unsafe working conditions to the DWC. By law, your employer is responsible for providing a safe work environment for you.

While working, you may encounter safety and health hazards that could cause injury, illness, or death. The Safety Violations Hotline allows you, the employee, to take an active role in preventing workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities. After DWC receives a report of a work-related safety or health issue, its safety inspectors will work with the employer and insurance carrier to help eliminate hazards.

Employers are prohibited by law from retaliation, and may not suspend, terminate the employment of, or otherwise discriminate against an employee for using the telephone service to report in good faith an alleged violation of an occupational safety or health law. ▲

## Report a Safety Violation

Report workplace safety or health hazards to the Safety Violations Hotline by calling (800) 452-9595 or use the online form at [www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/hotline.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/hotline.html). Reports of violations may be made anonymously.

For questions about workers' compensation claims, call the DWC at (800) 252-7031. To report other non-safety related workplace issues, contact 2-1-1 Texas by dialing 211 on your telephone for information about how to get in touch with the appropriate agency.

## CONTACT US!

### FREE HELP WITH OSHA COMPLIANCE

- Occupational Safety and Health Consultation (OSHCON) Program  
[www.txoshcon.com](http://www.txoshcon.com)  
**(800) 252-7031 Option 2**  
[OSHCON@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:OSHCON@tdi.texas.gov)

### SAFETY AND HEALTH RESOURCES

- Free Safety and Health Publications  
[www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/index.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/index.html)
- Free Audiovisual Loans  
[www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/avcatalog.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/avcatalog.html)  
**(512) 804-4620**
- Safety Training Courses and Seminars  
**(512) 804-4610**  
[safetytraining@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:safetytraining@tdi.texas.gov)
- Helpful Safety and Health Resource Links  
[www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/govunivlinks.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/govunivlinks.html)

### OCCUPATIONAL INJURY AND ILLNESS DATA

- Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII)  
[www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/sis/nonfatalhomepage.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/sis/nonfatalhomepage.html)  
**(512) 804-5020**  
[InjuryAnalysis@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:InjuryAnalysis@tdi.texas.gov)
- Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)  
[www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/sis/fathomepage.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/sis/fathomepage.html)  
**(512) 804-5020**  
[CFOI@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:CFOI@tdi.texas.gov)

### REPORT A SAFETY VIOLATION OR HAZARD

- Safety Violations Hotline  
Reports are taken in both English and Spanish and may be made anonymously.  
[www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/hotline.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/hotline.html)  
**(800) 452-9595**

### RETURN-TO-WORK PROGRAM ASSISTANCE

- [www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/rtw/index.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/rtw/index.html)  
**(512) 804-5000**

Subscribe to email alerts when the Safety & Health Update newsletter is published online at [www.tdi.texas.gov/alert/dwcsafetyhealth.html](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/alert/dwcsafetyhealth.html). You will also receive information on occupational safety and health matters, safety tips and publications, upcoming training events, training DVD loans, and OSHA updates.

Please forward this newsletter to friends and colleagues interested in preventing workplace injuries and illnesses. Have a safe day!

DWC Resource Center  
(512) 804-4620  
[ResourceCenter@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:ResourceCenter@tdi.texas.gov)