

SAFETY VIOLATIONS HOTLINE

Information for Texas Employers

Workplace safety and health hazards can arise in any workplace at any time. Providing your employees with the ability to report such hazards without fear of retribution will benefit you as an employer. The Safety Violations Hotline is a way for you to stay informed about workplace conditions of which you may be unaware.

Every year, workplace hazards result in injuries, illnesses, and fatalities involving Texas employees. One of the goals of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC) is to promote safe and healthy work environments.

By law, as an employer you are responsible for providing a safe work environment for your employees. The Safety Violations Hotline provides your employees an opportunity to report workplace safety and health hazards that could cause injury, illness, or death and be involved in the process to correct the hazard(s). An employer may not suspend or terminate the employment of or otherwise discriminate against an employee for using the Safety Violations Hotline to report in good faith an alleged violation of an occupational health or safety law.

Employers must provide written notice to employees and post notices in the workplace to inform employees about workers' compensation issues and the Safety Violations Hotline. Specific notice requirements and language can be found in 28 Texas Administrative Code §110.101, and the notices can be downloaded from the TDI website at <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/rules/ruletoc.html>.

Working together to make a difference.

What is the Safety Violations Hotline?

The Safety Violations Hotline is a confidential, bilingual, 24-hour reporting service, accessible by toll-free telephone line or online submission. The Hotline allows Texas employees to take an active role in preventing workplace injuries, illnesses and fatalities by reporting unsafe working conditions to the TDI-DWC. After a report is received, the TDI-DWC works with employers and insurance carriers (if applicable) to help eliminate workplace safety and health hazards.

Employees can report workplace hazards to the Safety Violations Hotline by calling 1-800-452-9595 or completing the online form at <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/hotline.html>.

How can the Safety Violations Hotline help me?

- Prevent workplace injuries, illness and fatalities.
- Proactively eliminate workplace safety and health hazards.
- Prevent citations and/or fines that regulatory agencies may impose for workplace safety and health hazards.
- Control damage of equipment and materials.
- Potentially reduce workers' compensation and medical costs.
- Improve employee morale.
- Reduce lost workdays/days away from work.
- Develop a cooperative partnership among the employer, employees, insurance carrier, and the TDI-DWC.

How does the Safety Violations Hotline work?

The Safety Violations Hotline is designed to ensure both the validity and correction of reported safety and health hazards.

After a report of a hazard is received, the following steps are taken to address the report.

- The TDI-DWC contacts the employer and, if applicable, its workers' compensation insurance carrier.
- The hazardous situation is investigated by the employer and, if applicable, the insurance carrier.
- The employer corrects the hazard.
- The employer or insurance carrier notifies the TDI-DWC that the hazard has been corrected.
- If requested to do so, the TDI-DWC notifies the person who reported the hazard of the final results of the report investigation.
- The case is closed.

