

# **SAFETY VIOLATIONS HOTLINE – *Information for Texas Employers***

Workplace safety and health hazards can arise in any workplace at any given 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 an extensive number of injuries, illnesses and fatalities involving Texas employees. One of the goals of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation 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).

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.state.gov/wc/indexwc.html> under "online services".

## ***Working together to make a difference.***

### ***What is the Safety Violations Hotline?***

The Safety Violations Hotline is a bilingual, 24-hour, toll-free telephone line that allows Texas employees, to take an active role in preventing workplace injuries, illnesses and fatalities by reporting unsafe working conditions to the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC). After a report is received, TDI-DWC safety inspectors work with employers and insurance carriers to help eliminate workplace safety and health hazards.

### ***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, there are several steps taken to address the report*

- TDI-DWC contacts the insurance carrier and/or employer.
- The hazardous situation is investigated by the insurance carrier and/or the employer.
- The employer corrects the hazard.
- The employer or insurance carrier notifies TDI-DWC that the hazard has been corrected.
- If known, TDI-DWC notifies the person who filed the report of the hazard.
- The case is closed.

### ***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 carriers and TDI-DWC.