



News from Region IV
Serving the Southeast



Fatalities Decrease

In Region IV, there were 34 fewer fatalities than last year! Area offices implemented emphasis programs that targeted industries where the largest number of fatalities occurred with gratifying results.

All offices in Region IV utilized these programs along with extensive outreach efforts which made a huge difference in both construction fall and electrical related fatalities.

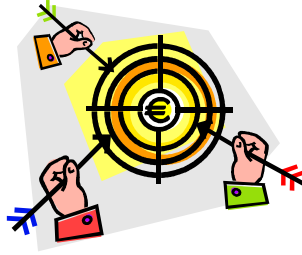
Under the Regional Fall and Electrical Emphasis Programs, compliance officers inspected worksites where employees were exposed to falls in construction as well as those sites where workers were exposed to contact with energized overhead power lines. **Since last year, fatal fall fatalities in construction declined by 13 or 25%!**

Fatalities involving electrocution from exposure to energized overhead electric power lines decreased from 22 during 2002 to 13 in 2003 – 41% reduction!

In Ft. Lauderdale, the Area Office used compliance assistance measures to address drowning hazards associated with mowing operations in the landscaping industry. Drowning during mowing operations accounted for 11 deaths during FY 2002 and 2003. Since mailing out Hazard Alert letters to over 900 employers, there have been no reported drownings in the Ft. Lauderdale jurisdiction!

Nationally, BLS data released in late September reported that workplace fatality rates in almost all categories decreased in 2002, with over **400 fewer fatalities reported.**

**Safety and Health Add Value
To Your Business
To Your Workplace
To Your Life**



Emphasis Programs

Region IV has several emphasis programs that are designed to focus on specific hazards prevalent either throughout the region or within an area office's geographical jurisdiction. These programs provide the necessary enforcement and compliance assistance elements to address special areas of concern. This year, the following Regional and Area Office Local Emphasis Programs will be in effect:

National Emphasis Programs

Nationally developed, these programs are utilized by **all area offices** where pertinent work activity exists.

Amputations: This program focuses amputations in industries where slitters, shears, slicers, saws and mechanical power presses are used.

Lead: This program focuses on industries where lead exposures present potential hazards to workers.

Silica: This program focuses on industries where silica exposures occur.

Maritime: This program targets hazards associated with long shoring and marine terminals.

Trenching/Excavation: This program targets cave-in hazards for workers in trenches and excavations.

Regional Emphasis Programs

(All offices in Region IV engage in enforcement activities under REPs.)

Electrical Hazards: Compliance officers inspect and provide outreach materials to employers performing work on/near overhead electric power lines.

Fall Hazards: Compliance officers inspect sites where fall hazards are observed.

Methylene Chloride: Compliance officers inspect work sites where methylene chloride exposures are present in SIC Codes 2521, 2541, 3086, 3089, and 7641.

Ergonomics: This program targets inspections in the bottled and canned soft drinks and carbonated waters (beverage) industries SIC Code 2086.

Area Office Local Emphasis Programs
(In addition to national and regional emphasis programs.)

Atlanta East Area Office

Warehouse and Storage: Focuses on ergonomic hazards in SIC Codes 4221, 4222, 4225 and 4226.

Silica in Concrete Products: Focuses on SIC Codes 3271, 3272, and 3273.

Atlanta West Area Office

Lead: Focuses on lead exposures in SIC Codes 3441, 3731, 3321, 3714, 3329, 5051, 3728, 7997, and 5531.

Amputations: Focuses on SIC Codes 2421, 2431, 2451, and 2511.

Frankfort Area Office

Shipyards: This Local Emphasis Program targets hazards associated with work in shipyards.

Jackson Area Office

Highway Work Zones: This LEP targets highway work zones in an effort to reduce the number of fatalities occurring in the state of Mississippi.

Jacksonville Area Office

Amputations: Focuses on SIC Codes 3444, 2434, 3496 and 3714.

Mobile

Competent Person Training in Roofing Operations: This program allows inspections to be performed at roofing operations to determine if site has the required competent person on site.

Competent Person Training for Scaffolds: This program allows inspectors to perform inspections at sites where scaffolds are used in order to determine compliance with the competent person standard.

Nashville

Maritime Cranes: Focuses on crane certification in the maritime industry, SIC 4491.

Savannah

Metal Fabrication: Focuses on SIC Codes 3441 – 3449.

Tampa

Ship/Boat Building and Repair :

Focuses on SIC Codes 3731, 3732 and 4493.

Concrete Products Manufacturers:

Focuses on silica exposures in SIC Codes 3271 and 3273.

State Plan Offices

(Raleigh, Columbia, Nashville, Frankfort)

Ship and Boatbuilders: Focuses on SIC Codes 3731, 3732, and 4493.

Focus on Cooperative Programs

Most know OSHA for its enforcement efforts, however programs have long existed that offer a cooperative approach to occupational safety and health. There are five distinct ways in which you can take full advantage of Cooperative Programs. These are:

Alliances: The alliance program enables trade or professional organizations, business, labor organizations, educational institutions, and governmental agencies that share an interest in workplace safety and health to collaborate with OSHA to prevent injuries and illnesses in the workplace. OSHA and the organization sign a formal agreement with

goals that address training and education, outreach and communication, and promoting the national dialogue on workplace safety and health.

Alliances can be initiated at the Area, Regional and National levels.

On-Site Consultation: Small businesses (250 employees or less), particularly those in high-hazard industries or involved in hazardous operations, can use this **free** service to help improve their safety performance. Safety and health consultants work with employers to identify workplace hazards, provide advice on compliance with OSHA standards, and assist in establishing safety and health programs.

On-Site Consultation is handled by state consultation programs.

Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) – Employers that participate in the On-Site Consultation Program may seek recognition under SHARP for their exemplary safety and health programs. SHARP provides incentives and support for small businesses to develop, implement, and continuously improve safety and health programs.

SHARPS Programs are handled by state consultation programs.

Strategic Partnerships: Organizations can enter into Strategic Partnerships with OSHA to address specific safety and health issues. In a partnership, OSHA enters into an extended voluntary, cooperative relationship with groups of employers, employees, and employee representatives (sometimes including other stakeholders) in order to encourage, assist, and recognize their efforts to eliminate serious hazards and achieve a high level of worker safety and health.

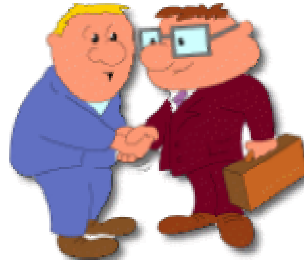
Strategic Partnerships can be initiated at the Area, Regional and National levels.

Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP): The VPP is designed to recognize and promote effective safety and health management. A hallmark of VPP is the principle that management, labor, and OSHA work together in pursuit of a safe and healthy workplace. VPP participants are work sites that have successfully designed and implemented outstanding health and safety management systems.

Voluntary Protection Programs are initiated at the Area Office level.

Region IV has a strong commitment to Cooperative Programs with established Alliances, Strategic Partnerships, Voluntary Protection Program participants, users of on-site consultation programs and SHARPS recipients. For more information about these programs visit this website: http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/compliance_assistance/index.html

Regional Strategic Partnerships



Region IV Strategic Partnerships include both national and area office partnerships that cover a broad category of safety and health issues. Partnerships are monitored periodically and have an enforcement element to assure that the aspects of the partnership are being met.

The **Department of Interior's National Park Service** and OSHA entered into a national strategic partnership in 1998 in response to the highest injury rate in the Department of Interior. The partnership aims to improve safety and health management systems and reduce illness and injury rates. There are 11 parks involved in the national partnership, and one is located in Region IV. **Cape Hatteras, North Carolina** is monitored by the Raleigh, North Carolina Area Office.

The **Jackson Area Office** is participating in a nationally developed partnership with the **Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC)** to recognize general contractors and member companies with effective safety and health programs. At the same time, the partnership is also working to reduce injuries, illnesses and fatalities affecting participating employers; reduce worker compensation costs and OSHA penalties; and identify general contractor and trade companies with effective safety and health programs.

The **Ft. Lauderdale and Georgia Area Offices** are participating with **Associated General Contractors** under a nationally developed partnership to improve safety and health at construction sites across the country. Goals of this partnership include an annual reduction of 3% in injuries, illnesses and fatalities, implementation of effective safety and health programs at partner sites and the provision of training to management, supervision and employees.

The **Atlanta East and Atlanta West Area Offices** are part of the national partnership with the **United Auto, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers (UAW), Ford Motor Company and the Visteon Corporation**. This partnership between OSHA, the international union and local chapters of the UAW at Ford Motor Company and Visteon Corporation sites in their jurisdiction aims to reduce injuries and illnesses at each location through the creation of a safety and health culture and a cooperative, non-adversarial relationship that optimizes the resources of all parties. Systematic

anticipation, identification, evaluation and control of safety and health hazards are the objective designed to continuously reduce worker injury and illness.

The **Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA)**, the **Jacksonville Area Office** and the **University of South Florida Consultation Program** have partnered to impact safety at all JEA worksites (electric power, water and sewage supply) in Jacksonville and three adjacent counties. Over 5,000 contract employees are covered by the agreement.

In **Savannah**, the area office has partnered with the nine **Chatham County** nursing homes to establish a goal of a 10% reduction in illnesses and injuries. Nursing home administrators have agreed to maintain an effective and comprehensive safety and health management system at their facilities and to train employees in hazard recognition specific to their industry.

The **Mobile and Birmingham Area Offices** have entered into a partnership with the **molten metal industries** in the state of **Alabama** to address safety and health hazards with special emphasis on reducing occupational exposure to silica, lead, and noise.

The **Area Offices in Nashville, Birmingham, Tampa, Raleigh and Ft. Lauderdale** are participating in the **United States Postal Service (USPS)/ American Postal Workers Union AFL-CIO/ National Mail Handlers Union Partnership**. This agreement was signed on April 4, 2003. This project will focus on implementing a process to aid in early identification of musculoskeletal disorders, and control of the risk factors that can cause injuries and illnesses to postal employees.

In **Savannah**, the area office is participating in the **Koch Industries Partnership**. The national agreement was signed January 14, 2003, and covers several facilities including the manufacturer's plant in Garden City, GA. Koch Industries is based in Wichita, Kansas, and encompasses a number of industries, including trading, refining, asphalt, natural gas, chemicals, and plastics. The partnership focuses on expanding the implementation of effective safety and health management systems in seven of these industries

Alliance Updates



OSHA AND NORTH FLORIDA SAFETY COUNCIL SIGN ALLIANCE

(Pictured from left to right: Joe Roesler, Compliance Assistance Specialist, OSHA, Joel Holley, Executive Director, NEFSC, James Borders, Area Director, and Shana Harvey, Director of Marketing, NEFSC.) The Jacksonville Area Office signed an Alliance with the North Florida Safety Council to reduce work zone traffic accidents by sharing information, guidance, and training resources.



OSHA AND GEORGIA NURSING HOME ASSOCIATION SIGN ALLIANCE

(Pictured from left to right: Daniel Oritz, Georgia Institute of Technology; Andre Richards, Area Director, OSHA Atlanta West; Fred Watson, Georgia Nursing Home Association; John Deifer, Area Director, OSHA Savannah Area Office and William Cochran, Assistant Area Director, Atlanta West Area Office.)

The Georgia Nursing Home Association (GNHA) and OSHA Signed an Alliance to provide GNHA's members and others with information, guidance and access to training resources that will help them protect nursing home employees' health and safety, particularly in reducing and preventing exposure to musculoskeletal disorders, bloodborne pathogens, falls workplace violence and other hazards.



OSHA, IBEW, SELCAT AND SLCC/NECA SIGN ALLIANCE

(Pictured from left to right are: Stephen Gaines, Jr., Chapter SLCC/NECA, Cindy Coe Laseter, Regional Administrator, Atlanta Region of OSHA, Robert Klein, International Vice President, 10th District, IBEW, and Virgil Melton, Director, SELCAT.)

OSHA, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBNEW), Southeastern Line Constructors Apprenticeship and Training (SELCAT), and the Southeastern Line Constructors Chapter (SLCC)/National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) signed an Alliance September 30. The Alliance will provide members and others with information, guidance, and access to training resources that will help them protect employees' health and safety, particularly in reducing and preventing exposure to electrical transmission and distribution equipment hazards.

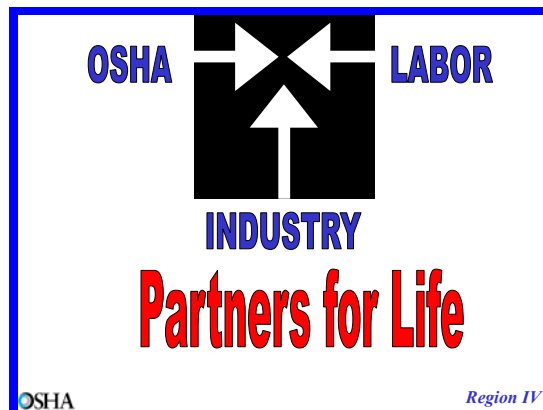
From October 1999 to September 2002, OSHA investigated 137 fatal accidents in Georgia, Alabama, Florida and Mississippi that resulted from contact with live electrical sources. Of those, 65 involved contact with energized power transmission lines and associated equipment.

VPP Update

Region IV still leads the nation with the most sites in the prestigious Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). At year end, Region IV had 273 sites enrolled in the program and had conducted a total of 52 evaluations of new site applicants! This year's total represents an increase of 72 sites since last year.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST REGION IV VPP SITES

- Springs Industries, Inc., Hartwell Yarn Plant, Hartwell, GA (**MERIT**)
- Georgia Pacific, Cross City Chip-N-Saw, Cross City, FL (**STAR**)
- International Paper, Augusta Lumber Mill, Augusta, GA (**STAR**)
- Georgia Pacific, Brunswick, GA (**MERIT**)
- Georgia Pacific, Wood I Beam Plan, Ocala, FL (**STAR**)
- Roper Corporation, Lafayette Plant, Lafayette, GA (**STAR**)
- Whellabrator North Broward, Pompano Beach, FL (**STAR**)
- International Paper, Canton Woodyard, Canton, MS (**STAR**)
- Montenay Bay, LLC., Panama City, FL (**STAR**)
- International Paper, Ballpark Woodyard, Natchez, MS (**STAR**)
- General Electric Headquarters, Atlanta, GA (**STAR**)
- Pratt & Whitney Propulsion & Russian Ops, Juniper, FL (**STAR**)
- General Electric Headquarters, Atlanta, GA (**STAR**)
- University Hospital & Medical Center, Tamarac, FL (**STAR**)
- Georgia Pacific, Vienna Plant, Vienna, GA (**STAR**)
- Noramco, Athens, GA (**STAR**)
- Georgia Pacific, Grenada, MS (**STAR**)
- Pratt & Whitney, Huntsville, AL (**STAR**)
- Georgia Pacific, Lake City, FL (**STAR**)
- Whellabrator, McKay Bay, Tampa, FL (**STAR**)





Grant Monies Awarded

OSHA awarded more than \$11.2 million in Susan Harwood Training Grants to 67 nonprofit organizations for safety and health training and educational programs. 50 of these grantees are new recipients of these grant monies. These grants will support classroom quality training programs that can be published and used by other organizations, training for OSHA's industry-specific ergonomic guidelines, and training for targeted safety and health hazards, including workplace violence and small-business safety and health management systems.

This year OSHA awarded grants in three categories. *Targeted Topic Training Grants* support training for construction and general industry hazards, transportation fatality hazards, workplace violence, emergency preparedness and response, lead and silica exposure, and safety and health management systems for small businesses. *OSHA Training Materials Development Grants* support the development, evaluation, and validation of training materials for the eight areas in the targeted topic training grants. Finally, *Ergonomics Guidelines Training Grants* support training based on the new industry-specific ergonomics guidelines targeted by OSHA: **the nursing home industry, retail grocery stores, poultry processing and shipyards.**

Region IV had eight grant recipients for various projects. Included in this year's award are:

Auburn University, Auburn, Ala. The university will develop a four-hour course for workers, supervisors, and managers in micro-to-mid sized businesses to recognize situations and behaviors that lead to workplace violence, to learn precautionary measures to prevent violence, and how to behave in case of such acts to minimize the impact.

Georgia Tech Research Corporation, Atlanta, Ga. The institute will develop a training module to reduce silica exposure and control occupational hazards associated with cleaning concrete delivery trucks, including hearing protection, ergonomic concerns, confined space procedures, lockout/tagout procedures, fall protection, and heat stress. All materials will be available in English and Spanish. Additionally, they will develop and conduct ergonomic training, based on the draft ergonomic guidelines, for the poultry processing industry. The training also will address hazard recognition, evaluation, and

control. Training materials will be developed in hard copy and electronic format. Approximately 90 trainer-instructors will be recruited from the poultry industry to participate in a three-day train-the-trainer program.

North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. The university plans to develop a technical assistance program directed to small manufacturing businesses. Four training modules will be developed to guide the target population in establishing effective safety and health management systems. Lesson plans, training objectives and an evaluation will be provided for each module. Final training program will consist of computer-based programs that can be accessed via the Internet or CD-ROM.

Associated Builders and Contractors, Mobile, AL. The grantee will develop and deliver training for 50 owners and 1,000 Hispanic workers in the recognition and prevention of fall hazards in residential/commercial construction. All training will be conducted in Spanish. The seven-hour training class will be divided equally into the hazard recognition and control in the areas of residential, commercial, and communication and HDTV tower construction.

Gadsden State Community College, Gadsden, AL. The college will hold workshops to train owners and managers of small and medium-sized businesses on the importance of safety and health management systems, how to develop an effective management system, and how to evaluate and implement the system. The recruiting plan includes details on attracting minority-owned businesses to the training.

University of Kentucky Research Foundation, Lexington, KY. – The University will develop and provide customized ergonomic training for poultry processors. Training will be oriented toward practical solutions to reduce the number and severity of ergonomic injuries. The grantee will provide assistance for initiating an in-plant ergonomics program, provide training for managers and workers, and discuss methods of tracking and evaluating ergonomic initiatives.

Institutional Competency Building (Renewal Grants)

North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Project, Durham, NC, \$544,500
Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers International Union, Nashville, Tenn., \$231,000

For more information about Susan Harwood grants visit:

<http://www.osha.gov/fso/ote/training/sharwood/sharwood.html>

Recordkeeping Forms

Do you need new OSHA Recordkeeping forms? They are available from two sources, either through OSHA's public website at:

<http://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/OSHArecordkeepingforms.pdf>

Or through Courtney Bohannon in the Jackson, MS Area Office at:

bohannon.courtney@dol.gov and type "e-300" in the Subject Line of your e-mail request.

On The Horizon

**Awareness Training for Struck-By Hazards in Work Zones
Presented By
Members of the
Alabama Struck-By Alliance**

*For More Information or Reservations
Contact: Charlotte Kopft 251-344-9220*

**Thursday, December 4, 2003
Muscle Shoals, AL
Alabama DOT Office
295 Hwy. 20 East
256-389-1400**

**Thursday, December 18, 2003
Tuscaloosa, AL
Alabama DOT Office
2715 E. Skyland Blvd.
205-553-7030**

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OSHA EMPLOYEE RECEIVES AWARD

Jonathan Worrell, a long time OSHA employee in the Atlanta area recently received the “Project Safe Georgia Award” for contributions to and enhancement of the safety and health efforts of Project Safe Georgia. Jonathan is the Compliance Assistance Specialist in the Atlanta East Area Office. He was formerly an Assistant Area Director for several years before taking on the new position which focuses solely on compliance assistance. Congratulations, Jonathan!



Jonathan Worrell



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Keep Employees Safe When Working Near Overhead Power Lines

