

Chester J. Culver, Governor
Patty Judge, Lt. Governor
David Neil, Labor Commissioner

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September 14, 2010

Division of Labor Services

To whom it may concern:

In response to the federal monitoring and evaluation report that covers the time period from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. The Iowa Occupational Safety and Health Program (IOSHA) is always interested in constructive and meaningful review.

Many of the recommendations are administrative and generalizations in nature and most likely would not have saved one life or serious injury. The cost of this review verses the benefit to Iowa workers and employers will have to be left to the readers of the report.

The Iowa OSHA program during this time frame conducted 1013 inspections resulting in 2, 237 citations for violations of OSHA Standards resulting in penalties to Iowa employers of \$1,807,628.80. Iowa OSHA Consultation and Education performed 382 visits and helped Iowa employers correct 1,824 Safety Hazards. Additionally 289 Compliance Assistance Outreach Events such as 10 hour training were conducted and 1,360 outreach letters advising employers of safety and health issues.

In going forward in correcting the issues raised Iowa OSHA will continue to work to save workers lives and reduce accidents and illness in the work place.

Federal OSHA could be more helpful if Iowa received full funding of the federal share of the Iowa program on a regular basis and the amount awarded was no less then fifty percent of the cost of the program based on bench marks that were created by Federal OSHA, as they have determined the number of inspectors needed for the Iowa program and therefore should be fully funded each year.

Iowa accident and illness rates are driven mainly by soft tissue injuries which take Iowa above the national average. Federal OSHA has not promulgated an Ergonomic Standard to facilitate the reduction of these types of accidents and illnesses in the work place. An ergonomics standard is long overdue and we would encourage Federal OSHA to expand its efforts in this area.

If you have any questions or concerns of the Iowa program they should be directed to me at 515-281-3447.

/signed/

David Neil

State of Iowa

Division of Labor Commissioner

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