

PESH
Federal Fiscal Year 2009
SOAR

The Public Employee Safety and Health (PESH) Bureau continues to make significant progress to protect New York State's public employees and promote a safe and healthy workplace. The accomplishments within this FFY 09 Strategic Plan are identified within this report. The following are noteworthy statistical highlights and trends.

- **The 2008 Injury and Illness Incident Rate for Public Sector Employment in New York State was 7.4 per 100 full-time equivalent workers, which is a 5.1% decrease from the 7.8 per 100 full-time equivalent workers reported during 2007.**
- **The number of public sector fatalities reported in FFY 2009 was 30, down from the 34 reported the previous year.**
- **PESH conducted 2343 inspections in FFY 2009 in which 6047 Notices of Violations (NOV) were issued. This was 614 more inspections than the 1729 inspections conducted in FFY '08 and 45% more violations than the 4171 notices of violation issued in FFY '08. PESH investigated 394 complaints, which is a 40% increase from the previous year.**
- **PESH performed 394 consultations in FFY 2009 which is an increase of 113 from FFY 2008. In addition to initial consultation visits, PESH consultation staff conducted 119 Training and Assistance visits compared to 85 during FFY 2008.**
- **PESH investigated 23 allegations of discrimination by employers in FFY 2009 which is 10 less than in FFY 2008.**

NY PESH

FY2008 FAME Recommendation Response

#1. Performance Goal 1C

Reduce injuries and illnesses in NAICS 922160 and 621910 (Fire Protection and Ambulance Services) by 2% for each year of the five-year strategic plan, or 10% by 2008.

OSHA Recommendation #1: OSHA recommends that PESH conduct a trend analysis of the injuries and illnesses reported and provide outreach and technical assistance specifically targeted to the root causes of the most common injuries and illnesses. In addition, it is recommended that PESH enhance its efforts to fostering improvements in safety and health management systems throughout the sector.

Response: An analysis of the injury and illness data provided by the New York Department of State's Office of Fire Protection and Control and the New York City Fire Department indicates that the data from these two agencies are not compatible as there are differences in how the data is reported. Rather than investing resources to conduct a trend analysis on data that may prove unreliable, PESH will look at working with fire service agencies to improve the quality of the data.

PESH will continue to work with fire and emergency medical service departments to promote and improve safety and health programs in these industries.

#2. State Activity Mandated Measures 7:

Average number of calendar days from opening conference to citations issued.

OSHA Recommendation #2: PESH needs to implement necessary steps to enhance case management to reduce the health case lapse time.

Response: This concern has been discussed with the District Office Supervisors who are giving this more attention and making an effort to examine this during reviews of open case reports. The case lapse time had decreased from 90 days in FY2008 to 80 in FY2009 with sharper decreases seen in the 3rd and 4th quarters of the year with lapse times of 71 and 65. This measure is approaching the national average of 57 days.

#3. Public Sector Consultation

MARC 3: Percent of Visits where Consultant Conferred with Employees - Goal 100%:

OSHA Recommendation #3: OSHA Recommends that PESH retrain their compliance officers in accurately entering data into the IMIS.

Response: PESH consultation staff were instructed on proper procedure and data entry for the IMIS system. For FY 2009, the data for employee participation was 95% for initial visits, 100% for follow-up visits, and 100% for training and assistance visits. The results in the first quarter of FY2010 indicated 100% employee participation for all types of consultation visits.

#4 Public Sector Consultation

MARC 4a-c: Percent of Serious Hazards Verified Corrected in a Timely Manner, Goal 100%: MARC4d: reference goal 65%.

OSHA Recommendation #4: PESH must ensure timely verification of hazard correction by evaluating the abatement certification received from the employer and entering the data into IMIS in a timely manner.

Response: PESH has made improvements in the timely verification hazards with a FY2009 4th quarter measure of 100% and a YTD average of 90%.

The % of hazards verified corrected in the original time frame or on-site remained above the reference of 65% for all quarters in FY 2009 with a YTD average of 70%

Strategic Goal 1

Continue programs to reduce the number of workplace injuries in the following NAICS codes:

- **237310 Highway, Street and Bridge Construction**
- **623110 Nursing Care Facilities**
- **922160 and 621910 Fire Protection and Ambulance Services**

State OSHA Annual Report - FY 2009
New York State - PESH
Results Summary Chart
NAICS 623110 (Nursing Care Facilities)

| <p>Strategic Goal: To reduce the number of workplace injuries and illnesses in NAICS 623110 (local government nursing homes and New York State Veterans' Homes) by partnering with the homes to focus on and help reduce such hazards as ergonomic injuries, workplace violence, and needlesticks.</p> | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|--------------------------|------|----------------------|--|--------------------------|------|--------------|------|
| <p>Performance Goal: Decrease injuries and illnesses in NAICS 623110 nursing and veteran homes by 1% by 2009.</p> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Performance Indicator Type | Indicator | Results | | | | | | | | |
| Activity Measures | Partnerships | Continued establishing partnerships with the public nursing homes throughout New York particularly those with the highest injury rates. Continued partnerships with Kaleida Health, Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA), Public Employee Federation (PEF), NYCOSH, WYNCOSH and the NYS Zero Lift Task Force. | | | | | | | | |
| | Outreach | Outreach visits conducted in FY 2009 = 3. Technical assistance activities conducted in 2009 = 16, up 78% from 2008. | | | | | | | | |
| | Consultation | There were 5 consultations conducted in FY 2008, 8 in 2009 (60% increase). | | | | | | | | |
| | Inspection | There were 8 inspections in FY2009. | | | | | | | | |
| | Training seminars | There was one Safe Patient Handling Conference held in FY 2009 which was a multi day conference for October 1-2, 2008. | | | | | | | | |
| Primary Outcome Measures | Injury rates [*] | <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Injury rate in 2006 of :</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">11.7</td> <td style="width: 10%;">Baseline Year</td> <td style="width: 45%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Injury rate in 2008 of :</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10.6</td> <td>Reduction of</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9.4%</td> </tr> </table> | Injury rate in 2006 of : | 11.7 | Baseline Year | | Injury rate in 2008 of : | 10.6 | Reduction of | 9.4% |
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| Injury rate in 2008 of : | 10.6 | Reduction of | 9.4% | | | | | | | |

*

Injury rate data was gathered by the committee directly from the public nursing homes and the NYS Veterans' Homes. The injury rates for the baseline and for subsequent years have been revised from previous SOAR reports as additional data has been obtained or revised from the facilities. The calculations are for total injury and illness rates: Number of recordable injuries and illnesses (N) divided by total hours worked (EH) multiplied by 200,000

Strategic Plan Accomplishments
NAICS 623110 (Nursing Care Facilities)
FY 2009

Introduction:

Phase II of the Nursing Home Strategic Plan was completed in 2008. The goal of Phase II was to reduce the injury rate in this sector by 10% over five years (2003-2007). The injury rate used as the baseline was from 2002. By the end of this phase, the injury rate in this NAICS group was reduced by 25%. In addition to evaluating the injury rate at the public nursing homes, an evaluation of lost work days was conducted. From 2003 to 2007 there was a 26 % reduction (from 50493 in 2003 to 37374 in 2007) in lost work days. The conclusion drawn from these numbers is that the number and/or severity of the injuries have decreased during this second phase of the strategic plan.

Following Phase II, the goal of this group was to further reduce the injury rate in this sector by 1%, using 2006 as the baseline year. Injury data was collected using the SH900.1 from each of the long term care facilities for CY2008. The total injury rate decreased from 11.7 in CY 2006 to 10.6 in CY 2008. This is a 9.4% reduction. The number of lost work days in 2006 was 49205 and in 2008 was 38279. The number of work days decreased by 10926 (22%).

In addition to the efforts made in FY 2008 to reduce the injury and severity rates in the Nursing Home sector, this group also began focusing on a similar initiative with NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) and NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

Partnership Activity:

This strategic plan group continued to focus on building partnerships with nursing homes and organizations affiliated with nursing homes. The partnership with Kaleida Health has continued as they have been a model employer in addressing safe patient handling. They have implemented a successful safe patient handling program throughout their network which includes 5 hospitals and 4 long term care facilities. Kaleida management and staff members have been and continue to be valuable resources to PESH and have been a backbone to the safe patient handling conferences.

The PESH Nursing Home committee continued its partnership with CSEA and PEF. Using the injury and illness data from the SH 900 Log of Work Related Occupational Injuries and Illness, graphs and charts depicting each nursing home's data was developed into a PowerPoint presentation. Using CSEA wage information for nursing aides, the committee extrapolated the overall cost of the facilities injuries. This too was included in the PowerPoint. Members of the committee presented the individual PowerPoint presentations to members of management and staff in various facilities in an effort to jointly develop an injury reduction strategy. This was received well and this effort will continue next year.

Members of this committee are working with WYNCOSH and NYSCOSH through the NYS Zero Lift Task Force. WYNCOSH has grants for SPH demonstration projects which have included a public sector long term care facility. Members of this committee are working with NYCOSH and jointly are planning a SPH conference in NYC in the spring of 2010.

The partnership with the NYS Zero Lift Taskforce continues and jointly they are planning more SPH conference to be held in 2010. This includes one in Eastern NY in the spring or early summer.

Training:

A two-day Safe Patient Handling conference was held October 1-2, 2008. This conference included a half day sessions specific for healthcare (PT, OT and Nursing) students. This session included a hands-on-demonstration of state of the art equipment used to minimize or eliminate manual handling. As with other conferences provided by this committee, sessions were held on developing a SPH program, maintaining the program, ensuring it’s success, training and competency, hands on-demonstrations with the equipment, labor management successes and cost benefit discussions. Three hundred people including vendors and speakers were in attendance.

Outreach:

This committee continued its effort in providing training on recordkeeping and injury data analysis to nursing homes throughout New York. They are visiting each of the nursing homes in their districts and presenting the injury and illness PowerPoints referred to above.

Injury Data:

| Year | Total Injury and Illness Rate | % Change |
|------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 2006 | 11.7 | Baseline |
| 2008 | 10.6 | 9.4% reduction |
| Year | # Days Away | % Change |
| 2006 | 49205 | Baseline |
| 2008 | 38279 | 22% reduction |

Although many public nursing homes in New York do not offer light or alternate duty, the DART rate calculated from the SH 900.1’s indicate a DART rate reduction of **9.7%** from 2006 to 2008.

Future Activities Planned:

This committee plans to continue to hold Safe Patient Handling conferences. Other conferences include a conference to be held in NYC in the spring of 2010 and another one in the Albany area in late spring or early summer. These will be cosponsored with the NYS Zero Lift Task Force. Other conferences are being considered for the Long Island area.

The Nursing Home Strategic Plan committee is finalizing a healthcare safety and health resource CD with particular focus on Nursing Homes. This committee is also working on a model program and guide for a Safe Patient Handling Program similar to the Confined Space Entry and Exposure Control Plan guides which are already available to employers. They are also planning a web site focusing on safety and health issues in healthcare.

This committee has expanded its injury reduction focus to include OMRDD and OMH facilities. Meetings were held in the past year with management and labor organizations that represent these workers. Requests for copies of injury and illness information including but not limited to the SH 900 and SH 900.1 for 2007 and 2008 have been made. Many have been received and evaluated. Before this data can be compiled and used to develop strategies, modifications to the forms and the looking at how the data is being reported need to be addressed. This is currently being done by the committee. The plan is to revise the logs and summary sheets to establish a dependable baseline. Injury reductions efforts will be made, similar to what has been done with the nursing homes. This will include offering a session at the Safe Patient Handling conferences, specific to the unique working environments at these locations.

State OSHA Annual Report – FY 2009
New York State – PESH
Results Summary Chart
NAICS 237310 (Highway, Street and Bridge Construction)

| Strategic Goal: Improve workplace safety and health for all public employees as evidenced by fewer hazards, reduced exposures and fewer injuries, illnesses and fatalities. | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|--|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Performance Goal: New injury rate reduction goal for this group has been set at 2 percent for the year with 2006 as the baseline. | | | | | | | | |
| Performance Type | Indicator | Results | | | | | | |
| Activity Measures | Partnerships | Work continues to enhance existing partnerships with state agencies, counties, towns and villages. The state employers included NYS Thruway Authority, NYS DOT, NYS Office of General Services and NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYS OPR&HP). Existing relationships with associations were continued and included those with the NYS Association of Counties, NYS Safety Officer’s Association, Cornell Local Roads, the Southern Tier Water Works Association, and the Highway Superintendents Association. | | | | | | |
| | Outreach* | There were 75 outreach visits conducted in FFY 2009 compared to 84 outreach visits conducted in FFY 2008. 115 technical assistance activities were conducted in FFY 2009, 103 were conducted in FFY 2008. | | | | | | |
| | Consultations* | The number of consultations performed in NAICS 237310 during FFY 2009 was 88 a slight increase from FFY 2008 when 84 were performed. | | | | | | |
| | Inspections* | The number of inspections in NAICS 237310 for FFY 2009 was 672, up from 452 in FFY 2008. | | | | | | |
| | Training Seminars | There were 51 training sessions conducted FFY 2009 and 35 training sessions were conducted FFY 2008. | | | | | | |
| Primary Outcome Measures | Injury Rates** | <table> <tr> <td>Total Injury rate in 2006 of: 12.5</td> <td>Baseline Year</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Injury rate in 2007 of: 10.7</td> <td>Decrease of 14.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Injury rate in 2008 of: 10.7</td> <td>Decrease of 14.4%</td> </tr> </table> | Total Injury rate in 2006 of: 12.5 | Baseline Year | Total Injury rate in 2007 of: 10.7 | Decrease of 14.4% | Total Injury rate in 2008 of: 10.7 | Decrease of 14.4% |
| Total Injury rate in 2006 of: 12.5 | Baseline Year | | | | | | | |
| Total Injury rate in 2007 of: 10.7 | Decrease of 14.4% | | | | | | | |
| Total Injury rate in 2008 of: 10.7 | Decrease of 14.4% | | | | | | | |

** Injury rates have changed due to updated information being provided by employers. This data was collected directly from the counties. The calculations are for total injury and illness rates: Number of recordable injuries and illnesses (N) divided by total hours worked (EH) multiplied by 200,000

Strategic Plan Accomplishments
NAICS 237310 (Highway, Street and Bridge Construction)
FY 2009

Introduction:

The success of the group can easily be illustrated within the injury rate reductions but more importantly the driving motivation of the group comes from the increased willingness of the various employers across the State to work co-operatively with the PESH Bureau.

From the data obtained a list is compiled each year which shows the employers with the highest injury and illness rates. The employers were then approached and offered training designed to address the more frequent injuries identified on their particular injury and illness log (SH 900). For those employers that had high injury rates and were not taking advantage of the training being offered, information relating to the direct cost of their injuries is being obtained. This information is being used as another tool to reach out to the employer and help them understand the potential cost savings they could experience by focusing on preventing similar injuries from occurring.

This strategy has been very successful, resulting in a large demand for PESH safety training at the various highway departments. These training requests were fulfilled largely by the committee members.

Partnership Activity:

The group continued building partnerships with town highway departments, county Department of Public Works (DPW), and public employer risk managers and safety officers. A partnership with the Association of Counties was particularly valuable in promoting workplace safety initiatives to county governments. The Highway Strategic Plan committee continues to work with the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT), NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), NYS Thruway Authority and NYS Office of General Services (OGS) in providing safety awareness training to employers and employees through customized training sessions and also by providing the OSHA 10 Hr. Construction Safety course.

Training Activities:

The Strategic Planning Group has focused less on providing the 10-hour construction safety outreach course to state agencies, and more on providing training to counties and municipalities. The ongoing strategy will be to continue working with the counties having the highest injury rates through outreach and training assistance efforts. The training programs will be tailored based on the encountered hazards and injury and illness experience within the specific department.

The 2009 Highway Resource CD has been updated to include new topics or resources on a variety of topics including noise, respiratory protection, hazardous material emergency response; refuse vehicle safety, and PESH fatal facts. The CD has been copied and continues to be distributed during consultations, inspections and the various conferences attended. The CD continues to be a successful promotional tool where employers and employees can view various training presentations as well as numerous model safety and health programs that they can use in building their own safety and health program.

Outreach:

This strategic plan group continues to be very active in providing outreach to the various highway departments and associations. The Highway Department Resource CD is updated annually to include new items as indicated above. Technical assistance visits remained relatively constant with 103 in FFY 2008 compared to 108 being provided in FFY 2009.

Injury data:

The group recently obtained, reviewed, and analyzed the injury and illness data from all of the New York counties including the New York City boroughs, the injury and illness (SH 900 log data). This information was used to help plan the group’s performance goals for FFY 2010.

| Year | Total Injury and Illness Rate | % Change |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2006 | 12.5 | Baseline Year |
| 2007 | 10.7 | Decrease of 14.4% |
| 2008 | 10.7 | Decrease of 14.4% |

Future activities:

The group would like to get the unions more involved, a Strategic Plan meeting will be conducted and union officials will be invited. A discussion will take place and the unions will be provided with an opportunity to share their resources and expertise with the highway workers. The unions will also be relied upon to provide feedback on their thoughts and opinions of the overall safety & health programs and initiatives at the local level.

Plans to develop a web page are still in the discussion, this resource will provide information regarding the strategic plan and the results of their efforts. The web site will also provide the information available on the resource CD as well as on-going committee activities.

This strategic plan group also intends to resume their strategy of tailoring shorter training sessions to the injuries and illnesses experienced by employers. Injury data has shown that the group’s method of identifying and providing outreach and customized training programs for the employers on the top 10 list has been very successful with injury reductions. The OSHA 10-Hour course will continue to be promoted and delivered to interested agencies.

State OSHA Annual Report - FY 2009
New York State - PESH
Results Summary Chart
NAICS 922160 and 621910 (Fire Protection and Ambulance Services)

| Strategic Goal: Reduce the number of work injuries, illnesses and fatalities in NAICS 922160 and 621910 (Fire Protection and Ambulance Services), focusing statewide attention and bureau resources on the most significant types of injuries and illnesses. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|--|------------------------|-------|----------------------|--|------------------------|-------|-----------------|--|------------------------|-------|-------------------|--|
| Performance Goal: Set up program to reduce injuries and illnesses by 2% in NAICS 922160 and 621910. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Performance indicator Type | Indicator | Results | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity Measures | Partnerships | Partnerships with county fire organizations, individual fire departments, firefighter unions, firefighter associations, NYS Office of Homeland Security CBRNE Task Force, NYS Emergency Management Office and NYC Metropolitan Area Safety and Health Committee continue to be maintained. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Outreach | The amount of outreach performed in NAICS 922160 and 621910 in FFY 2008 was 30, in FFY2009 18. There were 68 technical assistance activities during FFY 2008, this activity increased in FFY 2009 to 75. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Training | There were 5 formal training sessions provided in FFY 2008, in FFY 2009 there were 2. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Consultation | The number of consultation visits increased, in FFY 2008 there were 23 compared to 32 conducted in FFY 2009. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Inspections | The number of inspections increased from 99 in FFY 2008 to 129 in FFY 2009. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Primary Outcome Measures | Total Injuries** | <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Injury total for: 2006</td> <td style="width: 20%;">7,143</td> <td style="width: 20%;">Baseline Year</td> <td style="width: 30%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Injury total for: 2007</td> <td>9,028</td> <td>Increase of 26%</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Injury total for: 2008</td> <td>8,557</td> <td>Increase of 19.8%</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | Injury total for: 2006 | 7,143 | Baseline Year | | Injury total for: 2007 | 9,028 | Increase of 26% | | Injury total for: 2008 | 8,557 | Increase of 19.8% | |
| Injury total for: 2006 | 7,143 | Baseline Year | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Injury total for: 2007 | 9,028 | Increase of 26% | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Injury total for: 2008 | 8,557 | Increase of 19.8% | | | | | | | | | | | | |

**Injury and illness data were gathered from the New York State Department of State Office of Fire Prevention and Control and the New York City Fire Department.

Strategic Plan Accomplishments
NAICS 922160 AND 621910 Workgroup
FY 2009

Introduction:

The Fire Protection/Ambulance Service Strategic Plan Committee continues to focus their efforts on reducing injuries and illnesses to the various emergency workers / emergency responders within New York State. Members continue to network with the emergency response community to discuss topics of concern and develop strategies that may help in the reduction of accidents. Our continued commitment to worker protection and the States emergency response community helps this partnership network to grow year after year.

Partnership Activity:

Existing partnerships continue to prosper with State, Federal and local agencies by volunteering our services and participating in emergency exercises and responses. The group continues to work with the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) in the development of a training class which will help fire fighters comply with 12 NYCRR Part 800.7 Safety Ropes and System Components for Firefighters.

New Partnerships have been created with various emergency responses groups around the state. Members have participated in two large scale disasters in 2009 which are described later in the report. Onondaga County has started forming an Emergency Managers Assistance Team (EMAT) that local members have provided assistance to. A new project that Strat Plan members have volunteered to work with is sponsored by New York City Office of Emergency Management and involves planning with the Regional Catastrophic Planning Team.

Training Activities:

Group members continue to take advantage of the many low cost training opportunities offered within New York State. Members seek out train-the-trainer classes whenever possible to bring the subject matter back to public employers and also internally within the Department of Labor. Training topics from FFY 2009 have included: The All Hazards Safety Officer Curriculum, Weapons of Mass Destruction Radiological/ Nuclear responders Awareness (train-the-trainer) and Operations Course, The New WMD Incident Management/ Unified Command Concepts and from the NY State Emergency Management Office (SEMO), the Professional Leadership Development Series and ICS 200, 300 and 400 level courses.

Group members have presented at a number of venues on topics including Safety Ropes and System Components for Firefighters, High Visibility Garments, Emergency Preparedness and Fire Extinguisher Training and Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Awareness Level Training.

Group members delivered the Division of Safety and Health (DOSHS) Crisis Response Team annual refresher training to almost 80 attendees, topics included Roles and Responsibilities of the Safety Officers, Health and Safety Plans and H1N1. To help expand the number of Crisis

Responders internally within DOSH another 40 hr Hazardous Material Operation Level class was provided for new responders.

Outreach:

The New York State Division of Safety and Health (DOSHS) created a Crisis Response Team that provides support to the Local and State emergency response community. During the calendar year of 2009, group members have attended five emergency response exercises and participated in three emergency responses. Each exercise or response provides an opportunity for members to network with the emergency response community and allows us to show case our deliverables to a large audience. It also provides an opportunity to share our mission of responder safety with participating agencies. The events the group participated in included:

Crash of Continental Flight 3407, on February 13, 2009 at 6:30 am the DOSHS Crisis Response Team received a request to assist with the response to Continental Flight 3807 which crashed in Clarence NY. Crisis Response team members assisted by filling the role of Safety Officer at the Erie County Emergency Operations Center, on site sampling and monitoring was conducted, DOSHS coverage within the response was 24/7 from first arrival at 10:30 am on February 13th through February 19th.

The Empire 2009 exercise was a multi agency exercise involving state, local and federal agencies. The exercise scenario was base on the detonation of two radiological dispersal devices in the downtown Albany, New York area. Planning for the exercise started in February of 2008, participating agencies appointed Planners and Controllers to participate within the various work groups that are responsible for exercise development. DOL's role was to assist the Safety and Health Manager, assist with radiological sampling and monitoring and to develop a Health and Safety Plan for the exercise. The exercise consisted of a two day table top exercise in May which represented the first 48 hours of the response. Starting on June 1st, 2009 Phase II of the exercise, the functional part of the exercises started and ran till June 4th.

The 2009 Vigilant Guard Exercise was a multi agency exercise sponsored by the New York State Emergency Management Office and Erie County, New York. The theme of the exercise was based on an earthquake disaster; the exercise was designed to test the response plans of the various participating agencies in Western New York, State Agencies and the National Guard. The Erie County Emergency Operations Center was activated for exercise play and a rubble pile was constructed in nearby North Tonawanda, New York where the National Guard, Fire Departments from across the State and various Urban Search and Rescue Teams, including one from Toronto, practiced their response capabilities in a very realistic environment.

On day 3 of the exercise members of the DOSHS Crisis Team were activated to play the role of Safety Officer during the exercise. A written Health and Safety Plan was written that included Risks and PPE assessments. The Exercise Simulators within the SimCell created atmospheric monitoring data from the various chemical releases resulting from aftershocks. DOSHS and OSHA personnel from the Buffalo area worked together to establish minimum PPE levels and to prioritize the list based on severity and required protections, starting with the most hazardous or most dangerous.

Injury Data:

| Year | Injury Rate | % Change |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 2006 | 7,143 | Baseline Year |
| 2008 | 8,557 | Increase of 19.8% |

Future Activities:

While there will still be some focus on the Fire and EMS agencies in New York, the PESH Bureau is dropping these industries from the strategic plan. During this time, the Bureau will continue to have an emphasis, but will take this time to review the outreach performed and to look at ways to improve the accuracy of injury and illness reports received from these types of agencies.