Losing A Loved One on the Job

Message from Tonya Ford

OSHA Family Liaison

The death of a loved one is one of the most painful things that can happen to a family. I know and understand first-hand the devastation you have endured as I lost a family member in an occupational incident in 2009.

Please contact me at a time that is convenient for you. I hope to ease some of your concerns by helping with any questions you may have in regard to your loved one’s incident, the inspection process, Workers Memorial Day and/or OSHA.

OSHA is so very sorry for your loss. We are here for you.

Contact

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OSHA, Office of Communications
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osha.gov/workers-memorial
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facebook.com/departmentoflabor
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Remember...

- Everyone grieves differently.
- Grief has no timeframe and there is no right or wrong way to grieve.
- Common stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance
- Take care of YOU.
- Get immediate help in a crisis:
  - Call 911
  - Call 988: Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
- Tips to help you cope with feelings of grief:
  - Connect with family and friends.
  - Share/create memorial items or events.
  - Acknowledge your loss and feelings of grief.
  - Focus on aspects of your life that you have control over right now.

Honoring Our Fallen Workers

OSHA has created a virtual Workers Memorial Wall to honor and recognize those who lost their lives while on the job.

If you have lost a family member due to a work-related incident, illness, or disease, share their photograph with us at remembrance@dol.gov.
What to Know and Expect
- OSHA will be investigating your loved one’s incident to determine if any OSHA standards were violated.
- Please allow us up to six months to complete our investigation.
- All penalty monies go directly to the United States Treasury; they are not part of OSHA’s budget or credited to the agency.
- OSHA does not issue citations solely because there was a workplace fatality.
- You may contact your local OSHA office to inquire about the status of the case or to ask questions.
- If you have information or evidence that may assist in the inspection, please share by writing, calling, or e-mailing the local OSHA office.
- The Area Director will answer your questions and explain the settlement decision at the conclusion of the inspection.
- OSHA will notify you when the case is closed.

Request Inspection File
The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) governs the release of information concerning incident inspections conducted by OSHA. When the case is closed, and upon written request, OSHA will provide you with the portions of the inspection file that may be released under FOIA, at no charge to you as a family member. Visit www.osha.gov/foia.

Family Resources
Organizations
United Support & Memorial For Workplace Fatalities (USMWF): www.usmwf.org
National COSH: www.nationalcosh.org
Kids’ Chance of America: www.kidschance.org/for-families

OSHA Establishment Search
www.osha.gov/ords/imis/inspectionNr.html

Other Agencies
Department of Justice: www.justice.gov • (202) 514-2000
Social Security Administration: www.ssa.gov • (800) 772-1213
Veterans Affairs: www.va.gov • (800) 827-1000
Wage and Hour: www.dol.gov/agencies/whd • (866) 487-9243
Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: 988

You are not alone.