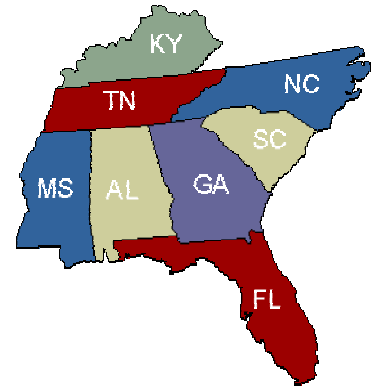




News from Region IV
Serving the Southeast United States



Alabama Alliances

In keeping with the agency's focus on establishing collaborative relationships to foster safer and more healthful American workplaces, the first Alliance initiated in Region IV was between the Mobile Area Office and the Wiregrass Safety Alliance which was signed on January 21, 2003.

The Wiregrass Safety Alliance is situated in Dothan, Alabama, and has members that extend into adjoining counties. The Alliance consists of the Dothan Chamber of Commerce, the Small Business Development Center at Troy State University, the Wiregrass Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), and the Dothan/Houston County Emergency Management Agency.

The Alliance sets out the parameters for delivering safety and health related information for the business community in the Wiregrass area. The Small Business Development Center headquartered in Troy, Alabama will be the recipient of seminars designed to provide small businesses with safety and health information. Small businesses often lack specific resources to address safety and/or health hazards that may be present in their workplace. The Wiregrass Alliance will provide a means to bring necessary training to them, at a minimum or no cost basis.

While small businesses will reap the rewards of the expertise that the Alliance will bring forth, other businesses will benefit too. A number of safety and health topics will be presented that will fill the current void in obtaining local courses.

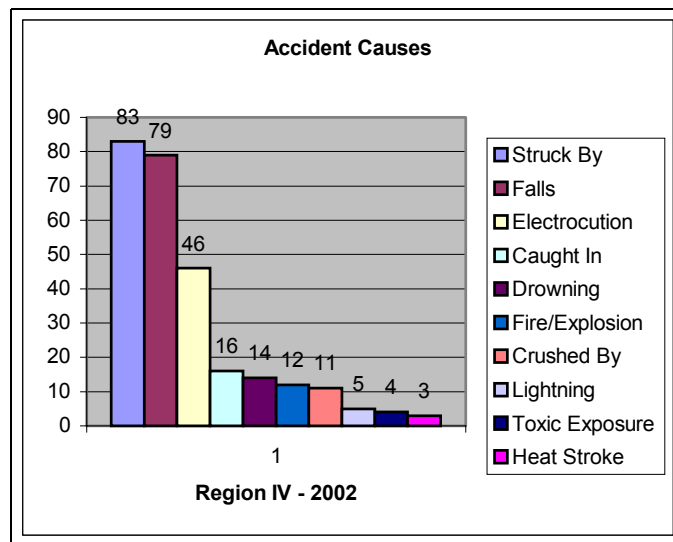
A state-wide Alliance was formed with the Alabama Associated General Contractors, the Alabama Road Builders Association, Alabama Safe State and OSHA's Mobile and Birmingham Area Offices. This Alliance is hazard specific in that it addresses the hazard of workers being struck by heavy equipment on construction sites. The signing of the Alliance is set for April 16 in Montgomery, Alabama.

The Alabama Struck By Alliance will generate and share information to its memberships concerning the avoidance and recognition of these hazards as well as promoting hazard awareness.

In fiscal year 2002, 12 workers in Region IV were killed by being struck by motorized vehicles (both heavy construction and private vehicles) while performing work on highway and roadway projects. Two-thirds (8) of them occurred in paving operations. The statewide alliance provides an avenue to develop and disseminate information and hazard alerts to its members and their workers in an effort to reduce the fatality rate.

Regional Fatality Report

Fatalities continued to plague businesses in 2002 and are the focus of all OSHA's efforts. During Fiscal Year 2002, (October 1, 2001 to September 30, 2002), **273** workers lost their lives while performing their jobs.



The highest number of fatalities occurred in the **construction industry**, with **120**, which represents **44%** of the total.

Manufacturing had the next highest number of fatalities with **47** (17.2%).

(For a Special Report on FY 2002 Fatalities in Region IV, contact the Compliance Assistance Specialist in your area, or the local area office in state plan states.)



*What are the odds that your
workplace will experience a
workplace fatality in FY 2003?*

Being **struck by** an object was the **leading cause** of all occupational-related fatalities during FY 2002. In **83 (30%)** instances, objects struck employees and killed them. The leading “struck by” objects are vehicles! In **54** (66% of 83) cases, a vehicle was involved in causing an occupational death.

In addition to vehicles causing “struck by” fatalities, **falling loads and materials claimed 27 lives.**

Falls on the job **claimed 79** lives during FY 2002. Every day jobs involving seemingly “routine tasks” turned deadly for 79 workers.

BLS Report on Falls

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in the recently published report, “National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in 2001”, that falls were responsible for 808 occupational fatalities during 2001. That number represents 14% of all occupational fatalities reported for that year.

Electrocutions accounted for **46** fatalities with work on **Electrical Power Transmission Lines** taking the lead with **19**.

In addition, **16** workers were killed when **caught in equipment or loose materials**; **14** workers **drowned**; **12** workers were killed by **fire/explosion**; **5** workers were struck by **lightning**; **4** succumb to **toxic atmospheres** and **3** died of **heat stress**.

Falls from Ladders Resulted in 11 Deaths!!

Working from ladders is a common job task in any industry. During FY 2002, 11 workers lost their lives due to falls from ladders, some as seemingly harmless as a four-foot stepladder! In two cases, the bottom of the ladders were not secured against

displacement and resulted in the ladders sliding which caused the workers to fall to their death. In other cases, employees overextended their reach while working from ladders, lost their balance and fell. Ladder sizes ranged from a 4-foot stepladder to a 28-foot extension ladder.

OSHA standards for address portable ladder safety in all industries. General Industry standards can be found in 29 CFR 1910.25 and 1910.26. Construction standards can be found in 1926.1053 through 1060.

80% of the fatalities involving falls from ladders during FY 2002 occurred in the construction industry. **Ladder safety training is required and can be found in 1926.1060.**

For standards regarding portable ladders visit: <http://www.osha.gov/>

1926.1060 Training

(a) Must train each employee using ladders and stairways, as necessary, to recognize hazards related to ladders and stairways, and the procedures to be followed to minimize these hazards.

(a)(1) A competent person must train each employee in the following areas, as applicable:

(a)(1)(i) The nature of fall hazards in the work area;

(a)(1)(ii) The correct procedures for erecting, maintaining, and disassembling the fall protection systems to be used;

(a)(1)(iii) The proper construction, use, placement, and care in handling of all stairways and ladders;

(a)(1)(iv) The maximum intended load-carrying capacities of ladders and

(a)(1)(v) The standards contained in this subpart.

(b) Retrain each employee as necessary to maintain the understanding and knowledge acquired through compliance with this section.

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Weather Takes 8 Lives in FY 2002

Mother Nature was the culprit in taking the lives of eight workers during FY 2002. Five workers died due to lightning strikes and three died of heat stress. As hotter weather approaches, it is important that workers be protected from the effects of weather, particularly when working outside. Workers who died as a direct result of weather conditions were either performing construction work, performing crop planting/harvesting and in the process of catching live poultry for slaughter.

Heat kills by taxing the human body beyond its abilities. In a normal year, about **175** Americans succumb to the demands of summer heat. Among the large continental family of natural hazards, only the cold of winter -- not lightning, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, or earthquakes -- takes a greater toll.

In the 40-year period from 1936 through 1975, nearly 20,000 people were killed in the United States by the effects of heat and solar radiation. In the disastrous heat wave of 1980, more than 1,250 people died.

And those are the direct casualties. No one can know how many more deaths are advanced by heat wave weather -- how many diseased or aging hearts surrender, that under better conditions would have continued functioning.

North American summers are hot; most summers see heat waves in one section or another of the United States. East of the Rockies, they tend to combine both high temperatures and high humidity although some of the worst have been catastrophically dry.

If your workers are exposed to hot weather conditions, you should become familiar with the symptoms of dehydration and heat exhaustion or heat stroke. They are:

Symptoms Of Dehydration:

Dry lips and tongue
Apathy and lack of energy
Muscle cramping
Bright-colored or dark urine

Symptoms Of Heat Exhaustion Or Heat Stroke:

Fatigue
Dizziness
Nausea or vomiting
Headache
Rapid and shallow breathing
High temperature
Rapid heart beat
Decreased alertness or complete loss of consciousness

For more information on heat stress, visit the National Weather Service's website:
<http://weather.noaa.gov/weather/hwave.html>

Whether you are fortunate enough to live in central Florida, or are visiting some of its many attractions, you should know that **central Florida is the "Lightning Capital" of the United States**. On average, lightning is responsible for more weather-related deaths in Florida than all other weather hazards combined, and Florida has the highest number of lightning casualties of all 50 states.

Lightning originates around 15,000 to 25,000 feet above sea level when raindrops are carried upward until some of them convert to ice. For reasons that are not widely agreed upon, a cloud-to-ground lightning flash originates in this mixed water and ice region. The charge then moves downward in 50-yard sections called step leaders. It keeps moving toward the ground in these steps and produces a channel along which charge is deposited. Eventually, it encounters something on the ground that is a good connection. The circuit is complete at that time, and the charge is lowered from cloud to ground. These conditions are most often met in summer. In general, the US mainland has a decreasing amount of lightning toward the northwest. **Over the entire year, the highest frequency of cloud-to-ground lightning is in Florida between Tampa and Orlando.**

Ft. Lauderdale and Tampa had three work-related lightning fatalities, while Mobile and Savannah both reported one.

For more information regarding lightning, visit the National Weather Service Lightning Information Center at: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mlb/lgtcenter/intro.html>

Region IV Develops Ergonomics Local Emphasis Program

OSHA has a four-pronged comprehensive approach to ergonomics designed to quickly and effectively address musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) in the workplace. The four-pronged approach includes: Guidelines, Enforcement, Outreach and Assistance, and a National Advisory Committee.

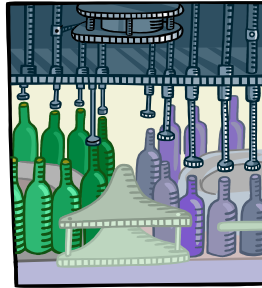
The enforcement plan for ergonomics focuses on industries and employers with known high injury and illness rates related to ergonomic hazards.

In order to enhance use of its enforcement resources to address ergonomic hazards faced by working men and women, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), has initiated a Pilot Ergonomics Initiative. This pilot combines the benefits of establishment-specific illness/injury data from the OSHA Data Initiative (ODI).

Four industries with high ergonomic injury/illness rates and known ergonomic injuries have been selected for this pilot: hospitals, warehousing, meatpacking, and automotive

parts manufacturing. The industries surveyed under the ODI historically have high lost workday injury and illness (LWDII) rates per Bureau of Statistics (BLS) published data.

In Region IV one **Standard Industrial Classification Code (SIC) 2086, Bottled and Canned Soft Drinks and Carbonated Waters**, which falls under **warehousing**, is the current target for this pilot ergonomic initiative due to the large number of these companies. (The ODI data includes those establishments with LWDIIs of 8.0 or greater, and having 40 or more employees in the corporation.)



Federal offices in Region IV will begin inspections of those facilities in an attempt to identify at risk jobs and to address feasible means of abatement.

*(For more information on OSHA's Ergonomic Program visit the following website:
<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/ergonomics/index.html>)*

Region IV **Compliance Assistance Specialists**

Each federal office in Region IV has a designated Compliance Assistance Specialist (CAS) to better serve its customers.

CAS's are non-enforcement OSHA personnel who are dedicated to the sole purpose of providing assistance in the areas of outreach, training and education. They are each well seasoned and experienced safety and health professionals whose extensive knowledge of OSHA make them invaluable.

Please contact the CAS nearest you for more information on how OSHA can work with you in enhancing your safety and health efforts

ALABAMA

William "Bill" Bice
Mobile Area Office
3737 Government Blvd., Ste 100
Mobile, AL 36693
251-441-5497

Virginia Simmons
Birmingham Area Office
Vestavia Village
2047 Canyon Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35216-
1981
(205) 731-1534

FLORIDA

Joe Roesler
Jacksonville Area Office
Ribault Building, Suite 227
1851 Executive Center Drive
Jacksonville, Florida 32207
(904) 232-2895

Vergie Bain
Fort Lauderdale Area Office
8040 Peters Road,

Building H-100
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33324
(954) 424-0242

Joan Spencer
Tampa Area Office
5807 Breckenridge Parkway,
Suite A
Tampa, Florida 33610-4249
(813) 626-1177

GEORGIA

Jonathan Worrell
Atlanta East Area Office
LaVista Perimeter Office Park
2183 N. Lake Parkway, Building 7
Suite 110
Tucker, Georgia 30084-4154
(770) 493-6644

Marilyn Valez
Atlanta West Area Office
2400 Herodian Way, Suite 250
Smyrna, Georgia 30080
(770) 984-8700

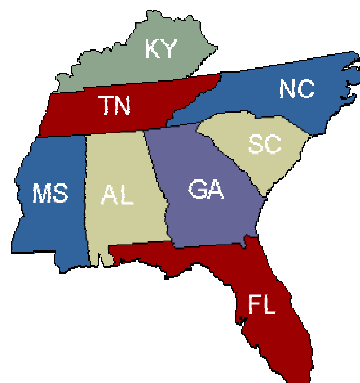
Phillip Moncrief
Savannah Area Office
450 Mall Boulevard, Suite J
Savannah, Georgia 31406
(912) 652-4393

Mississippi

Courtney Bohannan
Jackson Area Office
3780 I-55 North, Suite 210
Jackson, Mississippi 39211-6323
(601) 965-4606

Regional Events

The following is a list of safety and health related events that will be held in the next three months (March, April, May):



Alabama



**Mobile Convention Center
March 17 – 18, 2003**

Sponsored by: Mobile Area OSHA Office; Local Chapters of ASSE, AIHA; Mobile Section Associated General Contractors; City of Mobile; Mobile Area Water and Sewer Services; Alabama Chapter, National Safety Council; and the Gulf Coast Maritime Safety Association

Visit www.safety-expo.com for information on registration, exhibitors, programs, schedules, etc.

FLORIDA

Hazardous Substances Workshop

*Presented by the Sunshine Education and Research Center
University of South Florida
Tampa, FL
March 25-26*

Bioterrorism Training

*Presented by The Center for Biological Defense, University of South Florida and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Tampa, FL
March 25 - 26*

*Both seminars are free
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED*

*For further information contact
Diana McCluskey, MPH
813-974-6624 or fax 813-974-7857*

OTI Course 501

"Trainer Course for Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry"
Jacksonville, FL
April 7 – 11

Georgia Tech Institute 404-894-0024
To Register call:
404-385-3501 or visit their website:
<http://www.conted.gatech.edu/>

MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi Manufacturers Association is sponsoring the following seminars:

Written Programs Required by OSHA

March 5 - 6, 2003
Clarion Hotel, Jackson, MS

6th Biennial Safety Conference

March 19 – 29, 2003
Crowne Plaza
Jackson, MS

GEORGIA

Associated General Contractors
"Super Friday"
March 14, 2003
Cobb Galleria Mall
Smyrna, Georgia
For more information contact:
Cherri Watson at 678-298-4104

Textile Manufacturer's Association
March 26, 2003

Atlanta, Georgia

Gwinnett Small Business Educational
Seminar
March 19, 2003
Gwinnett Career Center
Sponsored by the Georgia Department
of Labor

Nursing Home National Emphasis
Seminar
April 4
Tifton, GA
Location to be announced
Sponsored by the Georgia Nursing
Home Association

"The Workers"
Georgia PBS TV Channel 8 Special
Telecast
March 25
(*Note: Documentary will be aired in Spanish)

Hispanic Health Coalition Quarterly
Meeting
April 16
Doraville Civic Center
3770 Central Avenue
Doraville, GA

Nursing Home National Emphasis
Program Seminar
March 27
Holiday Inn, Athens, GA
Sponsored by the Georgia Nursing
Home Association
For more information contact:
678-289-6555

OTI Course 22A – Respiratory
Protection Course
April 22 – 25
Paul Weber Science and Technology
Center
Georgia Tech Campus Downtown
Atlanta, GA
Sponsored by Georgia Tech

Workers Rights Forum
March 27 @ 8:00 p.m.
Gainesville, GA
Sponsored by El Puente Organization
For information contact:
770-297-7755

Youth Worker Conference
April 29
Augustus, GA
For information contact: Marilyn Valez
770-984-8700

NORTH CAROLINA

Hickory Safety School
Hickory, N.C.
April 3, 2003
For information contact:
John Saunders @ 704-342-6163

**Eastern Carolina Safety and
Health School**
Atlantic Beach, N.C.
April 10 – 11, 2003
For information contact:
S. B. White @ 252-756-4124

**Charlotte Safety and Health
School**

Charlotte, N. C.

April 16-17

For information contact:

John Saunders @ 704-342-6163

**73rd Annual N. C. Statewide
Safety Conference**

Greensboro, N. C.

May 6 – 9

For information contact:

Anne Hill, N. C. Industrial Commission
919-807-2603

May 19 – 23

30 Hour Awareness Class

Atlantic Beach, N. C.

Free of Charge

For information contact:

Lauren Cash @ 919-807-296

SOUTH CAROLINA

Chapter IV VPPPA Conference

June 16 – 18

Kingston Plantation

Myrtle Beach, S. C.

For information contact: Dian Mead 706-303-6067 or e-mail at:

<http://www.regionivpppp.org/>

KENTUCKY

Kentucky Governor's Annual Safety and Health Conference

May 7-9

Louisville, KY

For more information contact:

KY-OSH @ 502-564-3070

TENNESSEE

Hispanic Outreach Event

Memphis, TN

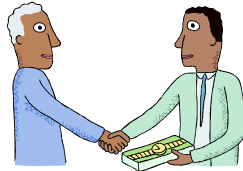
May 17, 2003

For more information contact Ron McGill @ 615-781-5423

Comings and Goings

Recent personnel changes in Region IV include:

RETIRED:



Charlie Anderson
*Assistant Regional Administrator for
Cooperative Programs
Atlanta Regional Office*

David Barnhill
*Area Director
Frankfort, Kentucky*

NEW APPOINTMENTS:

John Deifer
*Area Director
Savannah Area Office
(*John returns to Region IV after three years as
Area Director in Baton Rouge, LA.)*

Ken Atha
*Area Director
Mobile Area Office
(Ken transferred from the Columbia, South Carolina
Area Office)*

Lana Graves
*Regional Compliance Assistance Liaison
Mobile, Alabama
(Lana was formerly the Area Director in Mobile, AL.)*

Andre Richards
*Area Director, Atlanta West Area Office
(Andre was promoted to Area Director from Assistant
Area Director, Baton Rouge, Louisiana)*

William "Bill" Cochran
*Assistant Area Director
Atlanta East Area Office
(Bill was promoted from Compliance Officer to the
AAD position.)*

Jeff Romeo
*Assistant Area Director
Jacksonville, Florida
(Jeff was promoted from Compliance Officer to the
AAD position.)*

Billy Bright
*Regional Supervisory Investigator
Whistleblower Section, Atlanta Regional Office
(Billy came to OSHA from EPA.)*

Linda McLaughlin
*Safety Engineer, Compliance Programs, Atlanta
Regional Office
(Linda was a former AAD in Atlanta East.)*



****Graphics and content developed by Lana
Graves, Regional Compliance Assistance
Liaison****

