

NEWS Utah Labor Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2009 MATERIAL HANDLING INSPECTION EMPHASIS INITIATIVE

SALT LAKE CITY, August 10, 2009 - The Utah Labor Commission, Occupational Safety and Health Division (Utah OSHA) announces THE 2009 MATERIAL HANDLING INSPECTION EMPHASIS INITIATIVE named "Big M Phase I", which will be conducted this year and next year at both retail and wholesale establishments in Utah, beginning September 1, 2009.

The Big M Phase I initiative for material handling is designed to help identify and eliminate hazards associated with the major causes of fatalities, accidents, and injuries in that sector of the industry in the state of Utah involving material handling, and caused by crushing and caught in between incidents. Utah OSHA is implementing this inspection initiative for material handling operations for both retail and wholesale establishments.

Those establishments which have experienced a total injury rate above the state average rate for their specific industry will be evaluated and considered for a compliance comprehensive inspection during this emphasis initiative. A comprehensive inspection is a substantially complete and thorough inspection of all potentially hazardous areas of the establishment. This type of inspection is also known as a "Wall to Wall" inspection.

The industry groups (North American Industrial Classification System-NAICS) included in this Big M Phase I initiative are:

493xx – Warehouse storage, state average rate 7.7
484xx – Truck transport, state average rate 5.6
452xx – General merchandise store, state average rate 6.4
44132 – Tire dealers, state average rate 5.9
(Rates based on 2007, 2008 data)

Utah OSHA remains committed to the safety and health of Utah's workers. For more information, visit the Utah OSHA website at www.uosh.utah.gov or contact Eldon Tryon, UOSH Compliance Manager at (801) 530- 6901.

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