

UTAH OSHA SAFETY LINE

N E W S L E T T E R



DIVISION DIRECTOR | SCOTT MCKENZIE

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Labor Commissioner Appoints New Utah OSHA Director

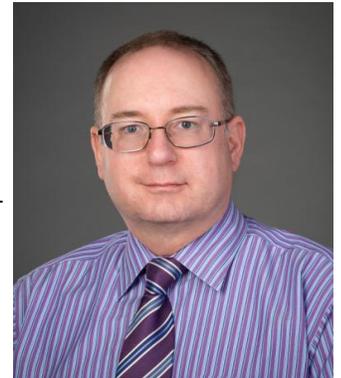
Commissioner Sherrie Hayashi recently announced the appointment of Scott A. McKenzie as the new Director of the Utah Occupational Safety & Health (Utah OSHA) Division of the Utah Labor Commission.

Scott McKenzie holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Webster University and has earned his national certifications as both, a Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) and as a Certified Safety Management Practitioner (CSMP).

Prior to this appointment, McKenzie worked for the Utah Department of Health. He also served with the U.S. Department of Defense as a public health officer and as an occupational safety and health official. His experience also includes working with several foreign governments.

"I look forward to serving the people of this great State and strengthening our new and current partnerships with private sector employers, state and local government agencies and their respective workforces" McKenzie said. "I joined the Labor Commission because I want to make a difference and play a key role in the well-being of our state's workforce." he added.

"Scott's extensive leadership and background in public and occupational safety and health provide the skills critical to the success of Utah OSHA," said Commissioner Hayashi. "His background in the private sector, local government and federal agencies provide a well rounded perspective," said Ms. Hayashi, "I am fully confident he is up to the task."



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Portable Generator Safety Practices

The use of portable generators in the work place increase when the temperatures start to drop. Portable generators can be deadly if used incorrectly. Here are a few safe work practices that you can use to protect yourself and your employees.

- ◆ Inspect portable generators for damage or loose fuel lines that may have occurred during transportation and/or handling.
- ◆ Keep the generator dry.
- ◆ Maintain and operate portable generators in accordance with the manufacturer's use and safety instructions.

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Generator Safe Work Practices Continued

- ◆ Never attach a generator directly to the electrical system of a structure unless the generator has a properly installed transfer switch because this creates a risk of electrocution for utility workers.
- ◆ Always plug electrical appliances directly into the generator using the manufacturer's supplied cords that are grounded (3-prong).
- ◆ Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCI's) as per the manufacturer's instruction.
- ◆ Before refueling, shut down the generator. Never store fuel indoors.
- ◆ Never use a generator indoors.
- ◆ Never place a generator outdoors near doors, windows, or vents.
- ◆ If you or others show symptoms of CO poisoning — dizziness, headaches, nausea, tiredness—get to fresh air immediately and seek medical attention.

Worker Safety for the Next Generation

Roughly 18 million workers in the United States are 24 years old or younger and constitute almost 15% of the workforce. In 2009, 359 workers between the ages of 13 and 24 died from work-related injuries. In addition, there were over 800,000 non-fatal work-related injuries that required medical attention. The rate of emergency room treated occupational injuries is double for workers under the age of 25 in comparison to those 25 years and older. Workers, especially young workers, need to be aware of hazards they may face on their job and what they can do to protect themselves. Young workers are often unaware of their rights to raise workplace safety concerns.

In the age of the laptop, tablets, notebook, internet, and apps, information on workplace safety is readily available to all employees. The challenge is getting this information into the hands of our younger workforce. Recently, the U.S. Department of Labor held a contest to take publicly available government information (i.e. DOL/OSHA data, NIOSH data, and other online government resources) to educate young workers on the safety and health risks in real work scenarios. The submissions included apps for smartphones, web based apps, and websites. Here is a short overview of some of these submissions.

iConstructSafe

iConstructSafe is a free iPhone/iPad app of safety reminder videos for use by construction workers at the construction site. These 2 minute videos are designed to remind workers on how to use tools safely, right before they use a tool. The app is a collection of engaging short videos that are stored and viewable on an iPhone, iTouch or iPad; no wifi is needed at the site. The worker uses a menu to select the tool video and watches safety tips on the tool, on site, at the tool crib.

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Worker Safety for the Next Generation Continued



HazCom ID: Worker Rights

This smartphone app (Android) serves as a quick reference guide for newly adopted symbols that represent potential workplace chemical hazards, as part of DOL-OSHA's Hazard Communication (HazCom) revisions.

The app includes: a brief overview of a worker's right to understand chemical hazards; a library of the nine adopted symbols, including image, summary of the potential hazard, and possible protections; a memory game puzzle; and contact and social media info for the U.S. Department of Labor.

mOSHA

mOSHA is an iPhone app that allows you to do your daily JHA (Job Hazard Analysis) from your mobile device and email it to your safety manager. This app can also locate the closest medical facility and remind you about OSHA regulations and your rights as a worker.

Safe Hard Hat

Taking just a few minutes to inspect your surroundings and equipment can save your life. Safe Hard Hat is a reference site which includes an extensive amount of information regarding safety in the work place, workers' rights in any job field, various safety training requirements and much more. The site is updated frequently to include the most up to date OSHA and NIOSH standards so that you are never left in the dark.

This website was created to help people in the labor force and construction industry learn and understand their rights as a worker, as well as stay informed of the OSHA, NIOSH and DOL standards of safety in the workplace.

Safety Smart

An application designed to educate young workers about good safety practices and hazards present at the workplace. This app is comprehensive and attempts to cover all topics related to the workplace.

Working Safely is No Accident (Grand Prize Winner)

This website features an interactive game that involves estimating the relative probabilities of some common and uncommon events (e.g. dating a supermodel vs. being struck by lightning). The game's goal is to illustrate that probabilities can be influenced by many factors. Therefore, the chances of a workplace accident can be reduced by good practices such as knowing workplace safety regulations and following common safety practices.

Features include: Links to related government websites, Injury statistics, Specific hazards, Uses of PPE, Worker rights, and Management practices.

USW Chemical Safety (Safety and Health Data Award)

The USW Chemical Safety app is designed as an easy and accessible chemical safety reference for workers to access anywhere on their iPhone.

Users can search the New Jersey Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) database by chemical name, DOT number, CAS number, or RTK Substance number to view the entire fact sheet. This includes information on workplace exposure limits, health hazards, workplace controls, personal protective equipment, handling and storage, and emergency information.

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Worker Safety for the Next Generation Continued



Users can also flip through an electronic version of the NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards or search for a chemical by name in the index to view its properties, exposure limits, recommended personal protective equipment and first aid.

For workers who need more information, the final section of the app uses the locator feature to display contact information for the nearest United Steelworkers district office and the nearest OSHA district office.

Ergonomics iOS Application (People's Choice Award)

This app is a complete mobile workplace health solution that offers ergonomic equipment setup advice, a variety of workplace specific stretching exercises, and programmable reminders to help you time your breaks.

Large corporations frequently use desktop software to encourage employees to take workplace breaks because of the strong positive correlation between health and productivity – and now, the Ergonomics iOS app brings all of the benefits of workplace wellness to you.

Information on all twenty submissions can be found at: <http://workersafetyhealth.challengepost.com/submissions>

Compliance Corner

Question: “We have been told by a Construction Company Safety Inspector that we cannot have "asset tags" (the name of our company and an identification number) attached to a safety ladder with 1/8 inch diameter pop rivets. We have found that all other asset tags can be scraped off. We are looking for a permanent deterrent for loss of property. We also currently "color mark" our equipment but this does not stop our own employees from taking another employee's small tools and ladders when they lose their own. Help. Thanks”.

Answer: OSHA will not allow altering equipment without written permission from the manufacturer. If the manufacturer gives that permission, then you may alter the equipment. Adding these pop-riveted tags "may" adversely affect the structural integrity, so written permission from the manufacturer is required. If a general contractor will not allow your "modified" equipment and tools on site, that is an issue strictly between you and the general contractor.

Question: “I work with a company that has two sites in the US one in Kentucky and one in Utah. I am looking to find out if there are any requirements for or suggestions for Health and Safety Committees? If so, where are they mandated and such. Thank you so much for your help”.

Answer: Both Utah and Kentucky are "State Plan States" and may have rules or regulations more stringent than those for Federal Compliance States. Utah does not have a requirement for safety and health committees and neither does Federal OSHA.