

NEWS Utah Labor Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SALT LAKE CITY, May 5, 2011 - The Utah Labor Commission, Occupational Safety and Health Division (UOSH) announces THE 2011 CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION EMPHASIS INITIATIVE named 2011 BIG 4, which will be conducted this year at residential construction job sites statewide, began Monday 05/02/11.

The 2011 Big 4 initiative for residential construction is designed to help identify and eliminate hazards at residential construction job sites associated with the four major causes of fatalities, accidents and injuries in the state of Utah and in the nation:

- Falls from elevations (e.g., roofs, floors, platforms, aerial lifts, equipment).
- Struck by (e.g., falling objects, vehicles, and equipment).
- Caught in/between (e.g., excavation/trench cave-ins, unguarded machinery, and equipment).
- Electrical (e.g., overhead power lines, power tools, cords, outlets, temporary wiring).

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov), in 1999 approximately 634 workers were fatally injured due to falls in the United States. Ten years later, in 2009, the numbers remain extremely high with 617 workers suffering fatal injuries from falls in their workplaces. Louis Silva, Director of UOSH indicated that, "last year (2010) in the State of Utah, 10 workers did not return home due to fatal injuries from one of those major causes. That is one too many fatalities in Utah workplaces. We have to work harder, we have to work together to prevent those fatalities, we have to set our goal for "Zero" workplace fatalities in Utah".

Compliance Safety and Health Officers (CSHO's) will visit residential construction job sites to:

- A. Determine if an effective safety and health program have been implemented at the job site and determine if serious hazards or imminent danger situations are present. In these cases, an opening conference will be conducted and the inspection process will begin.
- B. Determine if Citations and proposed penalties need to be issued for alleged serious violations found during the inspection.
- C. Determine if no serious hazards or violations are observed and a safety program is in place. In these cases, the Compliance Safety and Health Officer will conduct only an on-site assistance intervention.

The Utah Labor Commission and its Occupational Safety and Health Division (UOSH), remains committed to the safety and health of Utah's workers in residential construction job-sites throughout the state. For more information, contact Daniel King, UOSH Compliance Supervisor at (801) 530- 6901 or visit our website at www.uosh.utah.gov

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