

# **NEWS Utah Labor Commission**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH EMPHASIS INITIATIVE INDUSTRIAL MACHINE GUARDING AND CONTROL OF HAZARDOUS ENERGY (LOTO)**

Salt Lake City, June 17, 2010 - Machinery is used in many operations and by many employees in Utah. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in the United States workers who operate and maintain machinery suffer over 18,000 amputations, lacerations, crushing injuries, abrasions, and over 800 deaths per year. Amputation is one of the most severe and crippling types of injuries in the workplace, and often results in permanent disability.

The Labor Commission is taking proactive steps to decrease, and ultimately eliminate, accidents resulting in amputations and other serious disabling injuries, through compliance inspections and evaluation of industries where machine-related accidents are prevalent. Commencing in June 2010, establishments included in this initiative and which have experienced a total injury rate above the 2008 and 2009 Bureau of Labor Statistics state average rates for their specific industry, may 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 initiative are:

- 311xx - Food manufacturing, state average total rate 6.8**
- 314xx - Textile mills, state average total rate 4.2**
- 321xx - Wood products manufacturing, state average total rate 7.8**
- 322xx - Paper manufacturing, state average total rate 4.0**
- 326xx - Plastic and rubber manufacturing, state average total rate 6.4**
- 333xx - Machine manufacturing, state average total rate 5.8**
- 337xx - Furniture manufacturing, state average total rate 6.7**

"This initiative is important because amputations can and do occur when machinery is not adequately guarded when in use or locked-out during maintenance procedures. Not only do these types of injuries affect the worker, they also have a tremendous impact on the worker's family and the community. We remain committed to the safety and health of Utah's workers," states Louis Silva, Director of Utah OSHA.

For more information, visit the Utah OSHA website at [www.uosh.utah.gov](http://www.uosh.utah.gov) or contact Eldon Tryon, UOSH Compliance Manager at 801.530.6901.

Additionally, the Utah Labor Commission OSHA Consultation Program is a cooperative effort available at no charge to small businesses in high hazard industries. For assistance with workplace safety and health, small business owners may contact the OSHA Consultation Program Manager at 801.530.6868.

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