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## Division of Occupational Safety and Health

*The Department of Labor & Industries' (L&I's) Division of Occupational Safety and Health leads efforts to ensure that every workplace in Washington is safe and free of health hazards.*

### What the Division of Occupational Safety and Health does

The Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) works to prevent worker injuries by administering the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA). WISHA requires all Washington State employers to provide a safe and healthy workplace and comply with workplace safety and health rules. Washington is one of 27 states with its own workplace safety and health program. In other states, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) enforces safety and health requirements. By law, state regulations on workplace safety and health must meet or exceed OSHA requirements.

Washington has broader jurisdiction over workplace safety than most other states. DOSH covers nearly all private and government employers, totaling over 250,000 workplaces.

### Preventing workplace injuries, illnesses, and deaths

DOSH uses three main tools to prevent injuries and improve worker safety:

- **Education:** DOSH develops workplace safety training tools and online resources for employers and workers. These include a large library of videos and online courses on dozens of topics. DOSH also conducts hundreds of workshops around the state each year to teach employers how to eliminate workplace hazards. The DOSH website offering education and training materials and workshop schedules gets an average of 1.5 million views per month.
- **Consultations:** DOSH offers free on-site workplace safety or risk management consultations for employers. Consultations are confidential and employers are not penalized for any violations that are found, although they must correct any serious hazards. In FY 2013, DOSH completed over 2,400 consultations.
- **Enforcement:** DOSH responds to complaints about workplace hazards, and investigates work-related hospitalizations and deaths. In FY 2013, DOSH completed over 4,600 compliance inspections.

### Highlights

- In 2013, L&I celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of WISHA. Even before WISHA, Washington had a long history of public service dedicated to worker protection; its state constitution adopted in 1889 includes protections for workers in mines, factories, and other dangerous occupations.
- In 2012, DOSH published a new report called *Top 25 Hazardous Industries*. The report summarizes occupational injury and illness data, including industry safety and health violations during 2006-2010. This report helps L&I and employers understand how

people get hurt in the workplace, which workplaces are the most hazardous, and what to focus on to prevent the most serious incidents. The report is available online at: [www.Lni.wa.gov/FormPub/Detail.asp?DocID=2595](http://www.Lni.wa.gov/FormPub/Detail.asp?DocID=2595).

**Need more information?**

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