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Public Sector Safety Report, Summer 2002

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Public Sector Enforcement

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Summer 2002

MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR
Public Sector Enforcement

Public Sector SAFETY REPORT

Public Sector enforcement activity April through June 2002

- \$72,865 in penalties assessed
- Most frequent violations:
 - Electrical equipment was not free from recognized hazards that may cause death or serious injury. 29CFR1910.303(b)(1)
 - Employer did not have a written, machine specific lockout/tagout program. 29CFR1910.147(c)(1)
 - Employer did not have a written respiratory protection program. 29CFR1910.134(c)
 - Employer did not ensure that an employee using a tight-fitting facepiece respirator was properly fit-tested. 29CFR1910.134(f)(2)
 - Employer did not have a written hazard communications program. 29CFR1910.1200(e)(1)

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Employers can qualify in "Good Faith" penalty reductions

Public sector employers who have an active safety committee or use SafetyWorks! consultation services can qualify for reductions in penalties of 15-25 percent.

Board of Occupational Safety and Health welcomes two new members

James Downie, representing State employees and Roy Woods, representing municipal employees, were recently appointed to standard four-year terms on the Board of Occupational Safety and Health.

Contract workers are public sector employees

As a result of a formal appeal, the Board of Occupational Safety and Health determined that contract workers who work for public sector employers are considered public sector employees. They therefore fall under the jurisdiction of the Maine Department of Labor for safety and health enforcement.

Compliance directives are on the web

New Compliance Directives describe how the Bureau of Labor Standards will enforce the occupational safety and health standards in public sector workplaces. Directives #3-02 *Chainsaw Personal Protective Equipment* and #4-02 *Electrical Wiring-Protection from Mechanical Damage* are on the internet at <http://www.state.me.us/labor/bls/compliancedirectives/index.html>.

Free SafetyWorks! classes start in September

For a schedule of free classes, go to www.state.me.us/labor/bls/traincls.htm or call 624-6400, (TTY: 800-794-1110).

Regulations and compliance assistance for Maine public sector workplaces can be found on the internet at <http://www.state.me.us/labor/bls/newpsw.htm>

The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services provided upon request.

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Public Sector

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Summer 2002

Public Sector

S A F E T Y R E P O R T

The Public Sector Safety Report is issued quarterly to inform public sector employers and employees of safety and health enforcement issues. Published by the Maine Department of Labor, the compliance and enforcement agency for occupational safety and health regulations for public sector workplaces in Maine.

Please post this Report to share the information with employees.

To be added to the mailing list, or to make address corrections, send information to *Public Sector Safety Report*, MDOL, 45 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0045, fax to (207) 624-6449 or e-mail at webmaster.bls@state.me.us TTY 1-800-794-1110.