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Public Sector Safety Report, Summer 2001

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Public Sector Enforcement

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Summer 2001

MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR
Public Sector Enforcement

Public Sector SAFETY REPORT

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Public Sector enforcement activity April through June 2001

- One hundred twenty seven citations with penalties were issued for violations of occupational safety and health regulations.
- The sum of \$49,760 in penalties was assessed.
- The most frequent violations involved respiratory protection, personal protective equipment, confined space entry, and electrical safety.

Upcoming inspections

Public sector workplaces that have not been inspected by a Public Sector Enforcement Officer in the past five years are likely to be inspected within the next year. Public sector managers who want nonenforcement assistance with safety and health before they are inspected can call SafetyWorks! for free, voluntary training or consultation. Call 1-877-SAFE-345. (TTY: 1-800-794-1110).

Sign up for free Municipal, County, and State Safety Awareness Program

This half-day class covers public sector responsibilities, enforcement procedures and what to do when visited by the Bureau of Labor Standards. September 27, 2001 in Augusta, Limestone and Rumford. To register, call SafetyWorks! at 1-877-SAFE-345 (TTY: 1-800-794-1110).

Board of Occupational Safety and Health activities

- The Board has been charged with adopting rules for protecting minors in public schools.
- An ad hoc committee established to review and update the Minimum Safety Laws for Firefighters will give its first report to the Board in September. Look for more information on these matters in future issues of this Report.

2001 Maine Safety and Health Conference

This annual conference is an opportunity to learn more about safety and health through classes, vendors and networking. It will be at the Holiday Inn by-the-Bay, Portland, from September 19-21, 2001.

For more information call the Maine Safety Council at 854-8441.

Ladder hazards and maintenance

Improper placement and defective parts usually cause fire department ladder accidents. Proper placement is a training issue, while defective parts can be addressed through a proper and thorough inspection. Prevention starts with good standard operating guidelines, adequate ladder maintenance, and inspection procedures.

- **Wood ladders** - Should be protected with a clear sealer varnish, shellac, linseed oil or wood preservative. Wood ladders should not be painted. Paint will hide defects.
- **Fiberglass ladders** - Should have a surface coat of lacquer maintained. If it is scratched beyond normal wear, it should be lightly sanded before applying a thin coat of lacquer.

More information on fire department ladder safety can be found at www.state.me.us/labor/bls/newpsw.htm

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 2001

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.