

LABOR N.C.

For all NCDOL Employees
February 2019

From the Commissioner

It seems each year goes by more quickly than the previous. It is hard to believe that it has been 18 years since I was first sworn in as the state labor commissioner. Over the years, we have accomplished a lot and it is gratifying to be able to say with confidence that North Carolina's workplaces have never been safer.

The state's injury and illness rate, the best gauge for measuring how we are doing in terms of overall workplace safety and health, shows a consistent decline in the rate per 100 full-time workers since 2001. The rate is important because it also factors in economic growth. The rate for 2017 showed a statistically significant drop from 2.5 per 100 full-time workers in 2016 to 2.3. We should all take a little pride in the progress our state has made over the years in this area.

If you haven't had a chance to listen to the latest podcast, *Inside NC Labor*, featuring Todd McNoldy, please take some time to tune in and learn more about how the Research and Policy Bureau collects, reviews and processes information for the annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses.

In addition, the latest Occupational Fatality Inspection Review (OFIR) figures compiled by PSIM were **released** for calendar year 2018. The OFIR figures include fatalities that fall within the OSH Division's jurisdictional authority to conduct inspections. Tracking this information is tedious and I'd like to thank Karen Bogner for her work in compiling this very important fatality tracking report for the agency.

Based on the 2018 OFIR figures, the construction industry continued to be the most hazardous industry in the state, with 16 fatalities. A total of 39 fatalities occurred in calendar year 2018. The number of work-related fatalities continues to fluctuate annually.

The OSH Division renewed its alliance with Carolinas AGC in December and formalized an alliance with NCALGESO. Working with trade organizations such as these over the years, has played a role in driving down the state injury and illness rate by providing a platform for us to work together to achieve our workplace safety and health goals.

On a final note, we wrapped up a major project in the Labor Building in Raleigh in December. The elevator modernization project took about four months to complete. For those of you who have not visited the Labor Building yet, you're in for a smooth ride. The updated elevator was officially certified to operate Dec. 10, 2018. I'd like to thank Jennifer Haigwood and Carter Grimes for doing their part to make this happen as smoothly as possible and for all employees in the Labor Building for their patience. Renovations included new walls, floors and doors, while the cab itself remains original.



Employee News

- Congratulations to Technical Sergeant Michael L. Gilliam, son of Doris Gilliam, OSH West, on his retirement from the Air National Guard. Michael served 21 years and currently lives in Chicago, IL.
- Phillip Loken, son of Paulette Geddes, Research and Policy, has two pieces in the "Don't Wait Til It's Cool" photography archive at the N.C. Museum of History. The pieces will be displayed for the next two weeks on the third floor.
- Our condolences to the friends and family of Rex Edwards who passed away Friday Jan. 11. Rex worked in the Publications Bureau for almost 25 years. He began his career as a typesetter and retired as a graphic artist. **Link to obituary.**

New Hires

- Katie Perry, safety officer I, OSH East, Raleigh
- Gregory Westmoreland, safety officer I, OSH East, Raleigh

Promotion

- Jeremy Smith, inspector supervisor, Boiler, Raleigh

Separations

- Frederick Byrum, inspector, Elevator, Charlotte
- Daniel Edmondson, inspector, Elevator, Cherokee
- Merton Cox, safety officer I, ETTA, Raleigh
- Cheryta Smith, investigator, Wage and Hour, Raleigh

Retirement

- Don Kidd, inspector supervisor, Boiler, Raleigh



Phil Hooper, Standards and Inspections deputy commissioner, presents Don Kidd, Boiler, with a certificate of appreciation for his 19 years of service with NCDOL.



Employees celebrate January birthdays during a luncheon in Winston-Salem Wednesday Jan. 16, 2019. (L-R): Roseanne Morgan, Consultative Services; Paul Sullivan, OSH West; Kristi Bryson, OSH West.

Upcoming Birthdays

2-1 Ebony Smith	2-10 Harvey Hardy	2-17 Steve Burris
2-2 Robert Wilson	2-11 Angela Hamilton	2-17 James Washington
2-3 Joseph Davis	2-11 Mark Taylor	2-19 Candice Fagnani
2-3 Daniel Draper	2-13 Tom Chambers	2-20 Terry Carroll
2-4 Kevin O'Barr	2-14 Wesley Herron	2-22 Stephen Able
2-6 Mark Hutchens	2-15 Yvonne Hamilton-Thomas	2-22 Fleda Anderson
2-8 Pat O'Brien	2-15 Deborah Samad	2-24 Paul Martin
2-9 Russell DeShield	2-15 Jackie Tanner	2-24 Eric Smith
2-10 Jill Cramer	2-16 Rose Gray-Shindler	2-25 Derek Bailey
2-10 Selenia Genao	2-16 Peggy Remé	2-25 Kevin McGuire
2-10 Kaye Thibodeaux	2-17 Sridhar Babu	2-28 Melissa Scally

HUMAN RESOURCES

NEWS FLASH

Put Your Heart Into It

By TERRI R. HARRIS, EMPLOYEE RELATIONS/EEO OFFICER

Valentine's Day is right around the corner... Thursday, Feb. 14, to be exact. Not to knock the romanticism of love day, but why should retailers be the only ones exhibiting creative ideas to show appreciation for romantic relationships? Think about how much time we spend with the people we work with. Chances are, on a good day you may spend more time with us than with your sweetheart.

Make this Valentine's Day a little sweeter and show your workplace family some love!

- **We all matter** – Everyone comes to work with their own strengths and weaknesses. See the best in people even when they are different from you. Everyone wants to feel appreciated. People don't care how much you know, until they know you care.
- **Notes of appreciation** – Put your thinking cap on and think of the small and big things that people you work with have done for you. Leave them a handwritten note of appreciation. Thank you goes such a long way, especially when it comes to building trust and promoting a collaborative work environment.
- **Offer inspiration** – Be the change you want to see in the world. Help someone else feel happy by letting your positivity encourage those around you. Be a resource; mine the rich experiences of your life and share lessons from your successes and failures.
- **Celebrate just because** – There's everything right about being creative and having a fun celebration of Valentine's Day and possibly continuing the effort ever so often. It could be as simple as creating a gratitude board, a valentine art contest and/or bringing chocolate to share can only increase harmony and balance.

Make Valentine's Day, and every day, a time to recognize the people in all areas of our life for their kindness, support and encouragement.

"Do the right thing. It will gratify some people and astonish the rest." – Mark Twain

Inside NC Labor—Episodes 4 and 5



Be sure to check out the NCDOL podcast *Inside NC Labor*. Episodes four and five include special guests Tommy Petty (*left*), Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau, and Todd McNoldy (*right*), Research and Policy Division.

What's New @ Your Library

By NICK VINCELLI, LIBRARIAN

New Print Titles

- *2017 OSHSPA Report...* (HD 7654 .G73 2017) OSH State Plan Association, 2017. Donated by Wanda Lagoe, ETТА.



- *Arboricultural Operations - Safety Requirements* (ANSI Z133-2017) International Society of Arboriculture, 2017.
- *CIH Exam Study Workbook* (RC 967 .S69 2018) Span Industrial Training, LLC, 2018.
- *North Carolina State Building Codes* (TH 425 .N67 2018) International Code Council, 2018.
- *OSHA's Respirable Crystalline Silica Standard for General Industry and Maritime* (RC 965 .S5 O843 2018) OSHA, 2018.
- *OSHA's Respirable Crystalline Silica Standard for Construction* (RC 965 .S5 O84 2017) OSHA, 2017.
- *Passenger Ropeways--Aerial Tramways, Aerial Lifts, Surface Lifts, Tows and Conveyors...* (ANSI B77.1-2017) National Ski Areas Association, 2017.
- *Prevención de Lesiones Musculoesqueléticas en el Procesamiento Avícola* (TS 1968 .P74 2014) OSHA, 2014.
- *Prevention of Musculoskeletal Injuries in Poultry Processing* (TS 1968 .P74 2013) OSHA, 2013.
- *Relocatable Power Taps* (UL 1363—2018) Underwriters Laboratories, 2018.
- *Using Naloxone to Reverse Opioid Overdose in the Workplace...* (RA 1242 .N3 U85 2018) CDC-NIOSH, 2018.

New Periodicals

- *Governing* (Jan. 2019) e.Republic Inc., 2019.
- *NFPA Journal* (Jan.-Feb. 2019) National Fire Protection Association, 2010.

New DVDs

- *To the Point About Industrial Crane Safety* (DVD 790—English & Spanish) To the Point Communications; 10 min.; 2018.
- *To the Point About Preventing Back Injuries* (DVD 791—English & Spanish) To the Point Communications; 12 min.; 2016.
- *To the Point About Safe Use of Compressed Gas Cylinders* (DVD 789—English & Spanish) To the Point Communications; 10 min.; 2018.

Online FYIs

- *2017 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Summary* (BLS)
<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cfoi.pdf>
- *2018 SOAR Report* (NCDOL-OSH)
<https://www.labor.nc.gov/safety-and-health/occupational-safety-and-health/osh-statistical-reports#state-osh-annual-report>
- *BLS Reports*
<https://www.bls.gov/opub/reports/>
- *Construction Fatality Digest* (2018, Q3)
<https://haslam.utk.edu/whitepapers/construction-industry-research-policy-center/construction-fatality-digest-vol7-2>
- *NIH News in Health* (Jan. 2019)
<https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/2019/01>
- *NIOSH Research Rounds* (Dec. 2018)
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCDC/bulletins/2237e16>

- *Predicting Exposure to Hazards Using the CPWR Exposure Control Database* (recorded CPWR webinar)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwdF6hxVWZs&feature=youtu.be>
- *Rollover Protection and Operating Tractors Safely* (OSHA)
English: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3965.pdf>
Spanish: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3965SP.pdf>
- *Safe Winter Driving* (OSHA)
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/safeDriving.html>
- *Seasonal Flu: Worker Guidance...* (OSHA)
https://www.osha.gov/dts/guidance/flu/protectyourself_nonhealthcare.html
- *Snow Removal: Know the Hazards* (OSHA)
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3966.pdf>
- *Winter Weather Slips and Falls* (UNC)
<https://ehs.unc.edu/news/2018/12/10/winter-weather-slips-and-falls/>



NCDOL'S 4TH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

Monday, February 18 @ 11:30 am

3rd Floor OSH Conference Room—Old Revenue Building

Winner announced at 1:00 pm

\$2: sample entries

\$5: samples, a bowl of chili, and a drink

All proceeds benefit the 2019 Employee Recognition Banquet