

## From the Commissioner

E-Verify is an Internet-based system that allows an employer to check an employee's eligibility to work in the United States. NCDOL has been using the E-Verify system since 2007 when it became mandatory for state agencies to do so. Lawmakers recently passed legislation that will impact private industry and NCDOL.

In a nutshell, lawmakers decided that NCDOL would house and enforce this new initiative that will require businesses with 25 or more employees to verify employment eligibility of new hires. The changes to the law affecting private employers and us will take effect on Oct. 1, 2012, and will phase in businesses based on the number of employees.

We are in the process of developing an action plan for this new initiative, which will eventually be shared with the entire staff. In the meantime, Art Britt and Jennifer Haigwood will field any questions you might have about this legislation. If you would like to learn more about the law, [click here](#).

There have been a few changes in our internal safety and health program that each of you should be aware of. Hollis Yelverton has been named the new homeland security/emergency response liaison. Jiles Manning will replace Hollis as the new safety coordinator for the department, and Connie Deuser has been named the new chair of the Employee Safety and Health Committee.

I would like to thank Hollis, Jiles and Connie for taking on the additional responsibilities and for helping NCDOL fulfill its obligation to provide a safe and healthful workplace in all of our offices across the state. As leaders in the safety and health field, it is important for us to foster a strong internal safety and health program. I would like to thank each of you for your leadership as we strive to fulfill this obligation.

*Cherie*

## Employee News

### Separations

- Andy Sterlen, health education and training specialist, ETТА, Raleigh.
- Illarion Gopadze, safety compliance officer I, OSH Compliance East, Raleigh.

### Retirement

- Randy Kimrey, supervisor, Wage and Hour, Eastern District.

### Christmas in July

*Terry Carroll, Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau, received a strange welcome back from his July vacation. When he opened the machine room door to do an elevator inspection, he was greeted by this Santa, with one boot off and toilet paper in his lap.*



## Make All Vehicles Text-Free Zones

Everyone has seen it. You're driving along in your car and there in the next lane you spot another driver with a cell phone propped on the steering wheel, eyes locked on the screen, and thumbs working a keyboard, tapping out a text message. You watch the other car weaving back and forth, hoping that you can pass safely and that the texting driver will not cause an accident.

Texting while driving—the latest, most dangerous form of distracted driving—is a fast-growing hazard that endangers everyone. The human toll is tragic. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) reports that in 2009 more than 5,400 people died in crashes linked to distraction and hundreds of thousands more were injured.

With the explosive growth of cell phones and texting technology, the numbers will only get worse—unless we do something about it. There's no question that new communications technologies are helping businesses work smarter and faster. But getting work done faster does not justify the dramatically increased risk of injury and death that comes with texting while driving.

Most people know that it's dangerous to text and drive, but there's another fact that most people probably don't know: vehicle crashes are the leading cause, year after year, of worker fatalities. Because millions of workers' jobs require them to spend part or all of their work day driving—visiting clients and customers, making site visits, or delivering goods and services—the U.S. Departments of Labor and Transportation and other organizations and allies have joined forces in a campaign to stop distracted driving and save lives.

North Carolina is one of 32 states and the District of Columbia that have already passed measures to make their roadways safe from this hazard, and OSHA, DOT and other agencies and organizations have given this issue high priority.

You can do your part by learning more about distracted driving at [www.osha.gov/distracted-driving/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/distracted-driving/index.html) and at [www.distraction.gov](http://www.distraction.gov) and by making your vehicle a text-free zone both on the job and during your nonwork hours.

Texting while driving is a big and growing hazard, and it will take a strong, concerted effort to bring this problem under control. Together we can help reduce the great danger posed to us all by drivers who send, receive and read text messages while at the wheel of their vehicles.

## Upcoming Birthdays

8-3 Adrienne McLean	8-12 Paul Vogel	8-22 Marsha Moore
8-4 Beth Rodman	8-13 Tena Clark	8-25 Jim Kornegay
8-4 Gregory Davis	8-14 Nancy Vick	8-27 Tammy Higgins
8-6 Amelia Locklear	8-14 Tiffany Lathan	8-27 Jennie Cagle
8-6 Mike Daniels	8-14 Eric Schumann	8-28 John Downing
8-6 Jimmy Snuffer	8-15 Tina Morris-Anderson	8-29 LuJuana Patterson
8-6 Anne Weaver	8-15 Lisa Burger	8-29 John Luckado
8-8 Chris Lehenbauer	8-15 Kay Knezevich	8-29 Darryl Saunders
8-10 Jennifer Chrisohon	8-19 Jeffrey Cole	8-29 Tim Hogan
8-10 Claire Wallace	8-19 Cornelius Lloyd	8-30 Regina Cullen
8-10 Scott Hammond	8-20 Marcy Collyer	8-31 Jean Tarter
8-11 Bennett Allen	8-21 Steve Franklin	
8-11 Mark Earles	8-21 Chris Oberst	



*Summer interns with the Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office in the Department of Administration pose for a photo with Gov. Perdue on the steps of the Executive Mansion. NCDOL's two interns are circled: Allie Weller, who worked with the Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau, is near the middle on the left. Natalie Caviness, who worked in the Office of Governmental and Constituent Affairs, is in the back row on the right.*

## What's New @ Your Library

BY NICK VINCELLI, LIBRARIAN

### New Print Titles

- *A Guide to Construction Jobsite Safety and Health/Guía de Seguridad y Salud para el Trabajo de Construcción* (2011 edition). NCDOL/OSH, 2011.
- *A Guide to Preventing Heat Stress and Cold Stress*. NCDOL/OSH, 2011.

### Online FYIs

- *Digital Insider* (Spring 2011 issue)  
[http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/dimp/newsletter/2011\\_0402.pdf](http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/dimp/newsletter/2011_0402.pdf)
- *NIOSH Center for Motor Vehicle Safety*  
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/motorvehicle/NCMVS.html?source=govdelivery>
- *Protecting Workers From Heat Illness*  
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2011-174/pdfs/2011-174.pdf>
- *Tornado Preparedness and Response*  
<http://www.osha.gov/dts/weather/tornado/index.html>