



For All NCDOL Employees  
February 2012

## From the Commissioner

January is a time to reflect on the previous year's accomplishments and focus on the upcoming year. The department's annual report is one such exercise where each bureau and division looks back and highlights its accomplishments. The compilation of our efforts will be made available to staff and the general public March 1. I look forward to reviewing the data and sharing our accomplishments with the public and I hope that each of you will find some time to read it as well.

While we are made up of many bureaus, we can better serve the public if we know and understand our overall role in state government.

Another task where we look back at the previous year is results from the annual news release for workplace fatalities. The data help us identify patterns and trends and give us direction for the coming year.

Workplace deaths increased slightly from 50 in 2010 to 53. Our analysis of workplace fatalities revealed that the heat was a major factor contributing to four workplace deaths after not having any heat-related fatalities since 2006. Because of this, the OSH Division will continue its heat stress initiative in hopes of preventing more heat-related deaths in 2012.

Year after year struck-by accidents and falls top the list as leading causes of death and this year was no exception. Struck-bys led with 18 and falls accounted for 17 of the 53 workplace deaths. The OSH Division will continue its education and training efforts to reach out to those employers who need help with their safety and health programs.

I hope that everyone is well rested and ready to tackle another year. We have a lot to achieve.

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## Employee News

- Congratulations to Yvonne Early, OSH Charlotte Office, for receiving a certificate of appreciation on Jan. 26 to honor her for 25 years of outstanding service to the N.C. Department of Labor and the citizens of North Carolina. She has proven to be a valuable asset working with the Occupational Safety and Health Division. She celebrates her first day of retirement Feb. 1.
- Congratulations to Beth Rodman, who was selected by her colleagues in ASH as the recipient of the annual Everett Puckett Award in December. Beth was selected for her ability and patience in training other employees, for her skills when working on fatality investigations, and for her capacity to voluntarily lend her assistance to others when needed. Kevin Beauregard also reports that she can hit a softball pretty darn well! ASH established the annual Everett Puckett Award in 2008 in memory of a former ASH employee, who died unexpectedly at the age of 41. During his ten years working for ASH, Everett conducted the majority of the agricultural-related fatality inspections; was a much-requested speaker at various agricultural related meetings; and was a very well regarded, thoughtful member of the ASH team.
- Our condolences to Jane Gilchrist, Legal Affairs, on the death of her mother, Joyce B. Ammons, Jan. 1.

## New Hires

- Jessica Rasoulyan, safety compliance officer I, OSH, Raleigh.

- Donald Kinney, boiler and pressure vessel inspector, Boiler, West End.
- Derrick Gibbs, safety compliance officer I, OSH, Raleigh.
- Bruce Subrt, safety compliance officer I, OSH, Charlotte.
- Emylee Prevette, health compliance officer I, OSH, Wilmington.
- Rosanna Prevost, health education specialist, ETTA, Raleigh.
- Kathleen Woodford, employment discrimination investigator, EDB, Raleigh.
- Bart Evans, elevator inspector, Elevator, East.
- Carey Creech, elevator inspector, Elevator, East.
- Doris Gilliam, office assistant III, OSH, Charlotte.

### Job Change

- Neal Brown, safety compliance officer I, from District 5 to District 6, OSH, Winston-Salem.

### Separation

- Paul Vogel, safety compliance officer II, OSH, Wilmington.

### Retirement

- Yvonne Early, information processing assistant I, OSH, Charlotte.

*Yvonne Early shows off the certificate of appreciation she received. Yvonne retired from the OSH Charlotte office Feb. 1.*



## Upcoming Birthdays

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|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 2-1 Chris McManaman    | 2-10 Kaye Thibodeaux  | 2-17 Steve Burris    |
| 2-2 Emylee Prevette    | 2-11 Angela Hamilton  | 2-19 Jeremy Putnam   |
| 2-4 Kevin O'Barr       | 2-11 Mark Taylor      | 2-19 Allen McNeely   |
| 2-6 Mark Hutchens      | 2-12 Blanca Acevedo   | 2-20 Terry Carroll   |
| 2-6 Bruce Subrt        | 2-13 Ellen Allbritton | 2-22 Fleda Anderson  |
| 2-6 Rick White         | 2-13 Jack Brinson     | 2-22 Tom O'Connell   |
| 2-7 Bill Warner        | 2-13 Tom Chambers     | 2-24 Kenny Caviness  |
| 2-7 George Offe        | 2-15 Deborah Samad    | 2-24 Abigael Newton  |
| 2-8 Pat O'Brien        | 2-15 Jackie Tanner    | 2-24 Eric Smith      |
| 2-8 Carl Weatherington | 2-16 Rose Gray        | 2-26 Dale Yarborough |
| 2-10 Selenia Cepeda    | 2-16 Peggy Remé       |                      |
| 2-10 Granville Hayes   | 2-17 Clinton Rayfield |                      |



## OSP's New Online Job Application System

Beginning Monday, Jan. 9, the Office of State Personnel launched a new statewide recruitment system. Applicants can now apply for jobs online through the OSP website. The system is easy to use. Click on [www.osp.state.nc.us/jobs/](http://www.osp.state.nc.us/jobs/). This link opens to the N.C. State Government Employment page. Click on the orange tab "Search Jobs." You can search for jobs by category, location by county or by department/agency.

To apply for a position, first time users will need to register and set up an account. Once your account is set up you can complete the online application. This application is saved and makes it extremely easy to apply for multiple jobs at the click of a button.

We will still accept the paper application PD107. Please feel free to contact Renathe Cotten at 919-715-5211 if you have any questions.

## Winston-Salem Wellness Initiative

BY JACKIE SPANGLER

The training room in the Winston-Salem field office now has a double meaning on the word "training." A training/wellness room has been set up with the Wii for exercising off those extra pounds we all put on during the holidays and the winter months. We have the Wii Fit Plus with the balance board, exercise balls, light weights and workout bands along with other workout videos as folks progress in their training. The front section of the training room is dedicated to the exercise area. We will also be posting on the bulletin board some great recipes and workout tips.

Employees who use the training/wellness room have signed liability release forms. They can use the room during their lunch break, before or after work hours, or while using approved leave. State funds were not used to purchase any of the wellness equipment. Outdoor "walk abouts" will be scheduled as weather permits during the winter months, but we hope to get in several.



## Edgecombe Community College and Sara Lee Create Apprentice Program

In the past 30 years, shop classes have been replaced by computer labs in schools across the country, contributing to a decline in skilled workers entering the labor force.

"Incoming mechanics are hard to find," said Mike Duggins, lean continuous improvement agent/manager at Sara Lee in Tarboro. "Fewer high school students are taking the classes needed to go into maintenance. We wanted to get ahead of the curve and develop maintenance workers in-house."

Working together, Edgecombe Community College, Sara Lee and the N.C. Department of Labor created an apprentice program for Sara Lee last fall to train workers in three types of maintenance work at the plant. Edgecombe Community College is providing in-class training while Sara Lee provides the on-the-job training for electrical technicians, maintenance technicians, and boiler and refrigeration technicians.

"Everybody has trouble finding workers like this," said Dr. Randi Dikeman, dean of corporate and community development at the college. "Skilled workers are getting older and retiring, and it's hard to find anyone to take their place. We've aligned this with our degree, diploma and certificate programs, and we can do the same for any manufacturing-related industry."

Because highly skilled workers are in high demand, Sara Lee isn't limiting its apprentice program to just its maintenance staff. Dikeman said there are 13 apprentices in the program, and the college can customize a similar program for other companies in the area.

*Stanley Johnson of Pinetops and Paula Howard of Rocky Mount are among the first group of Sara Lee employees to participate in a new apprentice program.*



“All the students in the program are line operators,” Duggins said. “Our strategy is to change people’s thinking to where the equipment is not just maintained by maintenance, but by everyone. We want them to notice any problems early on and correct those on-the-spot instead of waiting 15 minutes for a mechanic to respond.”

The first apprentices were all current Sara Lee employees, but Duggins said he hopes to eventually fold Edgcombe Community College students into the program before they graduate.

“I’d like to go to the college’s engineering program or electronics program and hire them for future apprentice programs,” Duggins said. “This would send a message to students that there are numerous career options within the manufacturing industry that can provide both ample income and job satisfaction.”

## What’s New @ Your Library

BY NICK VINCELLI, LIBRARIAN

### New Titles

- *Code of Federal Regulations. 30, Mineral Resources, Parts 1 to 1999* (revised July 2010). Mine Safety Associates, 2010. Donated by Marcia Page, Mine and Quarry.
- *A Guide to the Control of Hazardous Energy* (Lockout/Tagout—2011 edition). NCDOL/OSH, 2011.
- *Handbook for Electrical Safety in the Workplace* (2012 edition). NFPA, 2012.
- *Logging Safety Supplemental Booklet*. NCDOL, 2011.
- *NFPA 70E: Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace* (2012 edition). NFPA, 2011.

### New DVDs

- *Crane Signal Person Basic Training* (DVD 718—English). Aurora; 18 min.; 2011.
- *A Practical Approach to Ladder Safety* (DVD 716—English and Spanish). Aurora; 20 min.; 2011.
- *Using Ladders Safely* (DVD 717—English). Aurora; 15 min.; 2011.

### Online FYIs

- *Finite Dose Skin Permeation Calculator Description*  
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/skin/finiteSkinPermCalc.html>
- *Injury and Illness Prevention Programs*  
<http://www.osha.gov/dsg/InjuryIllnessPreventionProgramsWhitePaper.html>
- *Winter Storms*  
[http://www.osha.gov/dts/weather/winter\\_storm/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/dts/weather/winter_storm/index.html)

## Celebrate National Wear Red Day on Friday, Feb. 3, 2012.

Americans will wear red to show their support for women’s heart health. Nicole Brown is organizing the NCDOL staffers at Lake Boone Trail to wear red this Friday as part of her sorority’s “Pink Goes Red” initiative. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has joined forces with the American Heart Association’s Go Red for Women movement to celebrate National Wear Red Day.

The mission of National Wear Red Day is to raise awareness and funds in the fight against heart disease in women. Visit the Go Red For Women website at [www.GoRedForWomen.org](http://www.GoRedForWomen.org) to donate and learn ways you can get involved on National Wear Red Day or any day throughout the year.

Go Red and Go Red For Women are trademarks of the American Heart Association. The Red Dress Design is a trademark of U.S. DHHS. National Wear Red Day is a registered trademark of HHS and the American Heart Association.

