

From the Commissioner

The department recently released the state's 2012 fatality figures. The data are tracked by PSIM through its Occupational Fatality Investigative Review. Workplace deaths dropped 34 percent in 2012. While we are pleased with the drop from 53 deaths in 2011 to 35 in 2012, we still have plenty of work to do.

The OSH Division as a whole played a key role in this decline by continuing to establish partnerships and alliances with both the private and public sectors. The OSH Division also issued hazard alerts on forklifts, struck-bys, heat stress and firefighter safety after identifying problems in those areas last year.

Our analysis of workplace fatalities also revealed that "the big four" hazards continue to cause 80 percent of work-related deaths in North Carolina. Struck-by events surpassed falls with 13 deaths. Six were caught in/between objects, five from falls from elevations and four were electrocuted.

The OSH Division will continue its efforts to reduce these types of accidents in 2013 through outreach, compliance, consultation, and education and training, and I will continue to stress workplace safety and health as I meet with employers and employees throughout the state. It would be wonderful to be talking about another drop this time next year when we compile the annual data.

It is also time to compile the data for the 2012 Annual Report. I look forward to reading it and sharing the department's accomplishments with the public. We aim to have the report ready in March.

Due to the recent inclement weather, Human Resources issued a reminder about our Adverse Weather Leave Policy. With several more weeks of winter before us, please be especially careful and avoid driving when there is a threat of icy conditions. Your safety is of the utmost importance.



Employee News

- Deidre Duncan received a certificate of appreciation on Jan. 3 to recognize her outstanding contributions to East Compliance during the absence of two administrative staff members. Deidre graciously processed the backlog of citations, executed settlement agreements for Raleigh and Wilmington offices, and has remained available as a source of support as needed.
- Wanda Hughes, ETTA, received a certificate of appreciation on Jan. 25 for her four years of dedicated service to the citizens of North Carolina.
- Our condolences to Dawn Beasley on the death of her grandmother. Alvie Wood Beasley died Dec. 30.
- Our condolences to the friends and family of Marsha Moore, former Wage and Hour investigator, who died Jan. 6. Marsha worked with NCDOL from August 1998 until her retirement last summer.
- Our condolences to the friends and family of Bill Bond, who died on Jan. 18. Bill was a safety compliance officer with East Compliance.

Job Changes

- Lori Kees, safety compliance officer I, from District 2 to District 3, OSH, Charlotte.
- Val Eucare, from assistant administrator to administrator, Wage and Hour, Raleigh.

Separations

- Nicole Ingram, information specialist, Wage and Hour, Raleigh.
- Wanda Hughes, education and training specialist, ETTA, Raleigh.

Retirements

- Charlie Cash, OSHA consultant II, ETTA, Western Region.
- Robin Odom, assistant bureau chief, Apprenticeship and Training, Raleigh.
- Brenda Couch, ODI survey coordinator, PSIM, Raleigh.



Brenda Couch receives a certificate of appreciation from OSH Director Allen McNeely. The Planning, Statistics and Information Management Bureau held a retirement celebration for Brenda on Jan. 30. She also received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.



Robin Odom receives a certificate of appreciation from Standards and Inspections Director Andy Frazier and Apprenticeship and Training Bureau Chief Kathryn Castelloes. Apprenticeship held a retirement celebration for Robin on Jan. 30. She will also receive the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Upcoming Birthdays

2-1 Chris McManaman	2-11 Angela Hamilton	2-18 Tiffany Flowers
2-2 Emylee Prevette	2-11 Mark Taylor	2-19 Jeremy Putnam
2-4 Kevin O'Barr	2-12 Blanca Acevedo	2-19 Allen McNeely
2-6 Mark Hutchens	2-13 Ellen Allbritton	2-20 Terry Carroll
2-6 Bruce Subrt	2-13 Jack Brinson	2-22 Fleda Anderson
2-6 Rick White	2-13 Tom Chambers	2-22 Tom O'Connell
2-7 George Offe	2-15 Deborah Samad	2-24 Kenny Caviness
2-8 Pat O'Brien	2-15 Jackie Tanner	2-24 Abigail Newton
2-8 Carl Weatherington	2-16 Rose Gray	2-24 Eric Smith
2-10 Selenia Cepeda	2-16 Peggy Remé	2-26 Dale Yarborough
2-10 Granville Hayes	2-17 Clinton Rayfield	
2-10 Kaye Thibodeaux	2-17 Steve Burris	

Pucket Award Recipient: Alan Fortner

In 2008, ASH established the annual Everett Puckett Award in memory of a former ASH employee, who died unexpectedly at the age of 41. During his 10 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.

In December 2012, Alan Fortner was selected by his colleagues in ASH as the recipient of the annual Everett Puckett Award. Alan was selected for his ability to conduct compliance inspections thoroughly and calmly, including fatality investigations; for his Spanish language skills; for his assistance in training new ASH members; and for his capacity to set up safety training for ASH Bureau members when needed. Kevin Beauregard and Alan McNeely concurred with this decision. Please join all of us in ASH in extending your congratulations to Alan for this achievement, signifying his hard work.



Alan Fortner receives the Everett Puckett Award from ASH Bureau Chief Regina Cullen.

Reaching the Hispanic Worker Community

BY ROSSANA PREVOST
HEALTH EDUCATION SPECIALIST

The N.C. Department of Labor's OSH Division continues its mission to make North Carolina workplaces safer through education and training. ETTA is striving to minimize the language barrier by offering safety and health outreach courses in Spanish. The "Big Four Hazards in Construction Industry" Spanish course was offered at the Charlotte and Raleigh field offices on Dec. 11 and 14. These courses provided the participants access to the most up-to-date OSH requirements and information on hazard recognition, safe work practices and engineering controls. Each course was structured to allow for group work, which emphasized and reinforced a positive safety culture. Participants indicated that they enjoyed the opportunity to share safety ideas and perspectives with employees from other companies.

ETTA would like to express its gratitude to Jorge Cardenas (health compliance officer) and Alan Fortner (ASH compliance officer) for their collaboration as instructors in these course and their respective bureaus for their support. Special thanks go to the Communications Division and the Hispanic newspaper *La Conexion* helping to promote these events through their coverage accessing the Hispanic population.



Rossana Prevost teaches construction safety to a group of Spanish-speaking workers. ETTA has scheduled four more sessions of this course for February and April.

Workplace Violence Brochure

The Safety and Health Steering Committee developed a workplace violence brochure to aid NCDOL employees in the recognition and awareness of a potential workplace violence situation. The brochure is designed to help identify a potential workplace violence condition and includes a list of "Do's and Don'ts" as a possible safeguard if and/or when an unsafe situation arises. The brochure is on the Safety and Health Intranet page under heading Additional Resources. Click [*here*](#).

OSH Construction Safety Specialist Program Graduates

BY WANDA LAGOE, ETTA BUREAU CHIEF

To encourage OSH employees to expand their construction expertise, the Construction SEP Committee sponsors advanced Construction Modules for employees to achieve the OCSS designation. Employees can work toward the OCSS designation by completing six OCSS modules. They must also have completed all the OSH core courses (e.g., Legal Aspects, Initial Compliance, Accident Investigation) and be a career state employee at the time of module completion.

At this time, we would like to recognize the latest graduates of the OCSS program:

Jennie Cagle	West Compliance Bureau
Lisa Rayborn	West Compliance Bureau
Connie Deuser	Education, Training and Technical Assistance Bureau
Bennett Allen	Compliance East Bureau
Daniele Knowland	Compliance West Bureau
Robbie Jones	Compliance West Bureau
Charles Knox	Compliance West Bureau
Peggy Remé	Compliance West Bureau
Mike Conner	Compliance East Bureau
Lamont Baldwin	Compliance West Bureau

List of Previous OCSS Graduates

Bill Allen	Compliance East Bureau
Alan Fortner	Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau
Nancy Hall-Davis	Compliance West Bureau
Tom Hardesty	Compliance West Bureau
Ted Hendrix	Compliance West Bureau
Wanda Hughes	Education, Training and Technical Assistance Bureau
Bob Kastenhuber	Compliance West Bureau
Kay Knezevich	Compliance West Bureau
Lee Peacock	Compliance West Bureau
Bruce Pearson	Compliance East Bureau
Sybil Bray	Consultative Services Bureau
Rod Wilce	Consultative Services Bureau
Barry Bailey	Consultative Services Bureau

To get more information about the OCSS Program, go to the “OSH Construction Safety School” link under Training Resources on the One Stop Shop at http://10.21.81.244:8080/etta_one_stop/index.cfm or contact one of the following OCSS Board members: Barry Bailey, Phil Hooper, Bruce Pearson, Marcy Collyer or Wanda Lagoe.

What's New @ Your Library

BY NICK VINCELLI, LIBRARIAN

New Titles

- *Job-Made Wooden Ladders* (ANSI A14.4-2009). American Ladder Institute, 2009.
- *NCDOL OSH Annual Comparison Report* (Oct 2004-Sept 2007). NCDOL/OSH, 2012.
- *NCDOL OSH Program Statistics* (Oct 2010-Sept 2011). NCDOL/OSH, 2012.
- *North Carolina Rules of Court (State and Federal)*. West, 2011. Donated by Erin Gould, Legal Affairs.

- *Low and High Lift Trucks* (ANSI/ITSDF B56.1-2009). Industrial Truck Standards Development Foundation, 2009.
- *Overhead Hoists—Underhung* (ASME B30.16-2012). ASME, 2012.

New DVD

- *Defensive Driving: Prepared for the Worst* (DVD 339—English/Spanish/Portuguese). Coastal; 18 min.; 2008.

Online FYIs:

- *Cadmium Biological Monitor*
<http://www.dol.gov/elaws/cadmium.htm>
- *Internal Combustion Engines as Ignition Sources*
<http://www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3589.pdf>
- *Mold Hazards During Hurricane Sandy Cleanup*
<http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA-FS-3619.pdf>
- *N.C. Building Code* (2012 edition)
http://ecodes.biz/ecodes_support/free_resources/2012NorthCarolina/Building/12NC_Building.html
- *Obesity/Overweight and the Role of Working Conditions*
<http://www.masscosh.org/node/820>
- *Seasonal Flu*
<https://www.osha.gov/dts/guidance/flu/index.html>
- *Winter Storms*
https://www.osha.gov/dts/weather/winter_storm/index.html