

From the Commissioner

Workplace fatalities dropped 39 percent in 2013. This is the lowest number of workplace fatalities the OSH Division has inspected since we began tracking. While zero is the only acceptable number, the decline shows our state has made great progress.

Having a comprehensive occupational safety and health program in North Carolina is making a huge difference and the OSH Division deserves much of the credit for the decline in workplace fatalities. Compliance; Education, Training and Technical Assistance and Consultative Services combined with Planning, Statistics and Information Management; recognition programs through our Star and SHARP; partnerships and alliances; the Safety Awards Program and our Special Emphasis Programs all work together to help foster a safety culture throughout the state.

I want to share an opinion piece that appeared in the *Red Springs Citizen* after Communications released the fatality figures statewide to the media. The article mentions that Robeson County was one of 80 counties that experienced no work-related fatalities in 2013 and went on to encourage businesses to apply for the Safety Awards Program before the Feb. 15 deadline, which shows communities are connecting the dots. (Click [here](#) to read the article.)

While the safety awards program does not officially kick off until March, Eursula Joyner has scheduled all 30 banquets on my 2014 calendar. It won't be long before we'll be hitting the safety awards circuit together and I look forward to every minute of it.

Keep up the great work.

Cherie

Employee News

- ♥ Congratulations to Lee McKinney, who passed his Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) exam. Lee is a health compliance officer in the Charlotte office.
- ♥ Congratulations to Alberta Hall, Human Resources, for being appointed by Gov. Pat McCrory to serve on the board of trustees for the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System.
- ♥ Congratulations to Tyler Greene on being accepted into Caterpillar's high school pre-apprenticeship program in Clayton. He is the son of Renathe Cotten, Human Resources, and attends Corinth Holders High School. The program provides select high school juniors the opportunity to develop career and technical competencies while earning a paycheck and college credits.
- ♥ Congratulations to Claire Wallace on the birth of her daughter. Maura Emily Jean Wallace was born Dec. 7. She weighed in at 8 pounds, 3 ounces, and was 20¾ inches long. Claire works in Wage and Hour.
- ♥ Congratulations to Jennie and Alan Cagle on the birth of their daughter. Katherine Bennie Cagle was born Jan. 31, weighing in at 7 pounds, 9 ounces, and 20 inches long. Jennie works in the Asheville office of OSH.
- ♥ Our condolences to the friends and family of Dorothy Champion, who died Jan. 3. Dorothy worked in Wage and Hour from September 1959 until her retirement in October 1989.
- ♥ Our condolences to Jackie Spangler on the death of her father, Jack Lindley, at the age of 83.



Tyler Greene (second from left) joins his classmates Adam Brooks, Luke Pearson and Daniel Hogue in celebrating their induction into Caterpillar's high school pre-apprenticeship program. Katie Coble (center) is the career development coordinator at Corinth Holders High School.

New Hires

- ♥ Drew Long, ASH safety officer, ASH, Raleigh.
- ♥ Steve Able, health compliance officer I, OSH, Asheville.
- ♥ David Lyle, safety compliance officer I, OSH, Winston-Salem.
- ♥ Tony Hager Jr., safety compliance officer trainee, OSH, Charlotte.
- ♥ Christina Almonte-Martinez, safety compliance officer I, OSH, Raleigh.
- ♥ Delores Green, safety compliance officer I, OSH, Winston-Salem.
- ♥ William Davis, safety compliance officer I, OSH, Raleigh.
- ♥ James Cook, safety compliance officer I, OSH, Charlotte.
- ♥ Chris Fombin, safety compliance officer I, OSH, Winston-Salem.

Job Change

- ♥ Brandon Barnhardt, safety compliance officer I from District 6 to District 3, Winston-Salem to Charlotte.

Separations

- ♥ Rebecca Israel, Consultative Services.
- ♥ Gary Johnston, health compliance officer I, OSH, Charlotte.

Retirements

- ♥ Eddie Cotten, statistical research assistant III, Research and Policy, Raleigh.
- ♥ Barry Bailey, consultant, Consultative Services, Winston-Salem.

Barry Bailey (left) receives congratulations from Grady Bebbler. The Winston-Salem office held a retirement luncheon for Barry at the Golden Corral on Jan. 30.



Eddie Cotten receives a certificate of appreciation from Tina Morris-Anderson. The Research and Information Technology Division held a retirement party for Eddie in the Labor Building on Jan. 15.



Upcoming Birthdays

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 2-1 Chris McManaman | 2-10 Kaye Thibodeaux | 2-16 Mark Allen |
| 2-2 Emylee Pedersen | 2-11 Angela Hamilton | 2-17 Steve Burris |
| 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 |
| 2-7 George Offe | 2-13 Jack Brinson | 2-22 Tom O'Connell |
| 2-8 Pat O'Brien | 2-13 Tom Chambers | 2-22 Steve Able |
| 2-8 Carl Weatherington | 2-15 Deborah Samad | 2-24 Kenny Caviness |
| 2-9 Russell DeShield | 2-15 Jackie Tanner | 2-24 Abigail Newton |
| 2-10 Selenia Cepeda | 2-16 Rose Gray | 2-25 Derrick Bailey |
| 2-10 Granville Hayes | 2-16 Peggy Remé | |

American Heart Month

February is American Heart Month. Heart disease is a major problem. Every year, about 715,000 Americans have a heart attack. About 600,000 people die from heart disease in the United States each year—that's 1 out of every 4 deaths. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women. The situation is alarming, but there is good news—heart disease is preventable and controllable.

Visit the CDC's website <http://www.cdc.gov/features/heartmonth/> or the American Heart Association's website <http://www.heart.org> for information on preventing and controlling heart disease. Schedule a physical every year with your primary care provider. On the State Health Plan 80/20 and 85/15 plans, your annual physical is covered at 100 percent with no out-of-pocket on your part. On the State Health Plan 70/30 plan, your annual physical is covered with a \$35 copay.

What's New @ Your Library

BY NICK VINCELLI, LIBRARIAN

Revised Standards List

♥ http://10.21.81.244:8080/etta_one_stop/listingDetails.cfm?&catid=16&subcatid=201

The standards list has been updated and can be accessed from the Library Resources page in the OSH One Stop Shop.

New Titles

- ♥ *ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Codes* (2011 edition/addenda). ASME, 2011. *Donated by Cliff Dautrich, Boiler Safety.*
- ♥ *Associate Safety Professional Self Study Workbook: Safety Fundamentals* (Core—2014 edition). Span International, 2014.
- ♥ *Certified Safety Professional Self Study Workbook: Comprehensive Practices* (2014 edition). Span International, 2014.

New DVDs

- ♥ *GHS-HazCom for Healthcare Facilities* (DVD 732e). Aurora Pictures; 2012; 20 min.
- ♥ *Working Safely in Cold Weather* (DVD 733e). Aurora Pictures; 2008; 15 min.

Online FYIs

- ♥ *Proposed Crystalline Silica Rule...Fact Sheets*

<https://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.searchResults?pSearch=OSHA%20Proposed%20Crystalline%20Silica%20Rule%20English>

- ♥ *Current Strategies for Engineering Controls in Nanomaterial Production and Downstream Handling Processes*

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2014-102/>

- ♥ *Protecting the Nanotechnology Workforce*

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2014-106/>

- ♥ *Workers' Compensation Insurance: A Primer for Public Health*

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2014-110/>

Please check your Jan. 31 pay statements in Beacon to make sure you have the correct deductions for your NCFlex plans. If you see problems with your NCFlex deductions, email Stacey.Thompson@labor.nc.gov by Feb. 7. To view your pay statement in Beacon, click on My Data ESS then My Pay. You will see a link for Pay Statement.