

Top 8 Municipal Safety Needs for 2016-2018

Municipalities who want to strengthen their safety programs often ask, “Where do we start?” The Department of Labor Standards encourages employers to prioritize their efforts on conditions that cause a high-pattern of injuries, and high-cost injuries. Resources are available at www.mass.gov/dols/wshp.

Topic	Examples of Applicable Activity	Reason for Concern	Resources
<i>Activities that have potential for a fatal or significant injury</i>			
Aerial Lift	DPW Parks and Tree; electric utilities; holiday tree lighting; traffic light maintenance	Fatal accidents and serious injury in past three years when workers were ejected from bucket.	Template policy available from DLS. Provide Fall Protection. Provide training.
Crossing Guards	Police; school departments	Fatal accidents and serious injury have occurred in past three years when a Crossing Guard was struck by vehicle.	Ensure crosswalks and guards are visible; enforce traffic rules. Bulletin available from DLS.
Lockout Tagout	Facilities; HVAC; electricians; water and sewer; compactors; vehicle mechanics	Potential for fatal accident when working with energized equipment.	Template policy available from DLS.
Trench	DPW; Water and Sewer departments.	Potential for fatal accident. Private sector fatalities have occurred over past three years in Massachusetts.	Provide cave-in protection and Competent Person. Template policy and inspection worksheet are available from DLS.
Workzone Safety	Police details; DPW; water and sewer departments	Potential for fatal accident. Serious injuries have occurred in past five years when an officer was struck by a vehicle.	A flipbook with workzone diagrams available from MassDOT. Toolbox talks available at www.workzonesafety.org
<i>Activities that have a high pattern of injury in municipal departments</i>			
Chainsaw; Tree Trimming	DPW parks and tree department	Frequent incidents across the state with lacerations and getting struck by tree limbs.	Provide new hire and periodic training for chainsaws and tree trimming.
Floors, Stairs and Railings	All municipal departments.	Slip and Trip injuries are a common pattern in all municipal departments.	Conduct frequent walkthroughs to control slippery or damaged floors, ice, and replace railings.
Lifting Heavy Objects	All municipal departments.	Muscle and back strain are a common pattern in all municipal departments.	Evaluate trash barrels and tasks to promote safe lifting. Conduct Lifting training.