

Workplace Safety and Health Program for Public Employees



To contact the Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards
Workplace Safety and Health Program:

Call: (508) 616-0461 and choose option #1

Email: safepublicworkplacemailbox@mass.gov

or visit: mass.gov/dols/wshp



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR STANDARDS

Injury prevention activities by the Department of Labor Standards

The primary goal of the Massachusetts Workplace Safety and Health Program (WSHP) is to prevent injury and illness of public sector workers. WSHP accomplishes this through enforcement investigations and voluntary inspections.

Enforcement

WSHP conducts enforcement inspections to prevent work-related injuries. A Civil Citation and Civil Penalty may be issued if a violation of OSHA safety and health regulations is identified. Employers will be required to show correction of the violation by a corrective action due date. WSHP is authorized to issue a penalty up to \$1,000 per violation.

Investigations are conducted for the following reasons:

- **Accident investigation** – a site visit is conducted to evaluate conditions which contributed to an employee injury such as amputation, burn, electric shock, or fracture.
- **High-hazard activity** – WSHP staff will stop at trench excavations, aerial lift operations, and roofing activities to ensure that public sector workers have adequate cave-in protection, fall protection, and safe work practices to prevent injury.
- **Complaint** – WSHP staff will follow-up on employee complaints about safety and health conditions.
- **Random investigation** – throughout the year, WSHP will conduct site investigations at random municipal departments, such as public works departments, water departments, wastewater treatment plants, municipal light plants, airports, and schools.





Voluntary inspection

Employers can request a free consultation in order to proactively address workplace safety and health concerns. A Civil Citation is not issued for voluntary requests for technical assistance. However, the employer is still required to show proof that hazards are corrected within an agreed upon due date.

Our safety and health staff members are available to:

- Help you recognize hazards in your workplace.
- Suggest strategies to solve a safety problem.
- Provide technical support.
- Conduct testing for noise, asbestos, and lead exposure.

Investing in a safe and healthy workplace pays great dividends!

It is estimated that workplace safety and health prevention saves four times the amount spent on accidents and incidents by:

- Reducing lost time of injured workers
- Reducing expense of replacement wages
- Decreasing worker's compensation rates
- Decreasing insurance premiums
- Avoiding civil penalties and liability
- Reducing repair or replacement of damaged equipment

To report an accident requiring an EMS response, hospitalization or fatality of a public employee, call the Department of Labor Standards at (508) 616-0461 and choose option #1. A public employee is an employee of a state, county, or municipal entity. Private employers are required to call OSHA. Referrals from police departments, fire, and EMS departments are welcome.

To file a complaint about safety and health conditions for public employees, call DLS at (508) 616-0461 and choose option #1, or email safepublicworkplacemailbox@mass.gov.

To request voluntary technical assistance and inspection, call the Department of Labor Standards at (508) 616-0461 and choose Option #1, or email safepublicworkplacemailbox@mass.gov

Does Your workplace need help preventing injuries?

The WSHP website has technical information to assist municipalities prevent work-related injuries. Topics include:

- Aerial lift operations
- Confined space
- Crossing guard safety
- Lifting
- Office ergonomics
- Lockout-tagout
- Personal protective equipment
- Right-to-know
- School safety
- Slips, trips, and falls
- Trench safety
- Workplace violence

MASS*safety*Works!

Workplace Safety is No Accident

Additional assistance and materials can be found at MassSafetyWorks! website:
mass.gov/dols/SafetyWorks



**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR STANDARDS**