



# The CHESS Tournament

*Safety News and Views you can use.*

Complete Health, Environmental & Safety Services, Inc.

## Complete Health Environmental & Safety Services, Inc. Newsletter

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## Did you get a letter from the BLS?

### Did you get a letter in December from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)?

About 5000 employers received a letter in December from the Bureau of Labor Statistics stating they have been chosen to report their 2020 OSHA 300 log of injuries and illnesses that occurred in the workplace. This is a separate report from filing your OSHA 300 log with federal OSHA, which is required annually for any business in Minnesota with an average of 20 employees or more.

The BLS survey gathers detailed injury information from businesses, to compile statistics on work-related injuries. We use that information when, for instance, we compare your company's injury rates to other similar businesses in Minnesota. If you received a letter keep on, as usual, with keeping your First Reports of Injury and maintaining your OSHA log. Keep good records of any injuries. You will need all that for the reporting, which you'll do next January. If you have no injuries in the calendar year, the report will be very easy.

## Where to find us: Speaking at ASSP Northwest in February

Carol and Janet Keyes are both presenting at the American Society of Safety Professionals Northwest Chapter (ASSP-Northwest) professional development conference (PDC) on February 25. For registration and more information, go to the ASSP Northwest chapter website.

Janet will be talking about **Focus Four for Health**, an American Industrial Hygiene Association initiative to address four primary health concerns in construction: noise, manual material handling, air contaminants, and high temperatures. To download the [Focus Four for Health guidance document](https://aiha-assets.sfo2.digitaloceanspaces.com/AIHA/resources/Guidance-Documents/FocusFour-forHealth_GuidanceDocument.pdf) (for free!), go to [https://aiha-assets.sfo2.digitaloceanspaces.com/AIHA/resources/Guidance-Documents/FocusFour-forHealth\\_GuidanceDocument.pdf](https://aiha-assets.sfo2.digitaloceanspaces.com/AIHA/resources/Guidance-Documents/FocusFour-forHealth_GuidanceDocument.pdf).

Carol Keyes is partnering with James Krueger, the Director of Minnesota OSHA, to talk about preparing for the unexpected: OSHA inspections post fatality.

## Injury Reporting Reminders

**Reporting injuries:** If in doubt - report. If an employee tells you he sprained his thumb or got a paper cut, notify your workers' comp carrier. We've had several instances recently where an employee was injured, brushed it off at the time, and then needed surgery. For your employees' protection, so there's no doubt about whether the injury was work-related, report even the minor injuries. For your protection, so you don't get penalized for failure to report, tell your workers' comp carrier about any injury any employee reports to you. If no medical care is needed and there's no lost time, reporting that paper cut won't raise your rates. And it won't affect your OSHA 300 log, as that paper cut doesn't have to go on the log unless medical care is needed.

**Serious injuries:** if an employee is hospitalized overnight for treatment (not just an ER visit), has an amputation of any body part (including fingertip), or loses an eye, you must report this directly to OSHA within 24 hours. A fatality must be reported within 8 hours. To file a report, call MNOSHA Compliance during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday: 651-284-5050 or 877-470-6742; outside of those hours, call 800-321-6742.

If you are a client of ours, please call us, so we can help you with that phone call to OSHA. If you're in doubt about whether to call OSHA, whether an injury is OSHA-recordable, or whether you need to report it to insurance, call us.

## OSHA Updates

- Carol has been appointed to the Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Council as an Occupational Safety & Health Professions member. She will serve until 2024.
- OSHA 300 logs must be posted from February 1 through April 30. If you had 20 or more employees in 2019, you must file your report online with federal OSHA by March 1. We'll handle that for maintenance clients. If you aren't a maintenance client and need help with this, call.

## AWAIR

**Minnesota OSHA** has adopted a new list of industries for which **A Workplace Accident and Injury Reduction (AWAIR)** program is required. Automotive-related businesses including collision repair, mechanical repair, car washes, and oil change shops are now required to have an AWAIR program. For the full list and more information, see the MN Department of Labor and Industry website page on AWAIR: <https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-awair-program>

**Federal OSHA** updated some standards to correct errors. Nothing exciting there.

## Environmental News

### **MPCA Grants for VOC Emission Reduction**

The MPCA is again accepting applications for grants to businesses who want to lower their VOC emissions. VOCs - found in paints, fuels, and degreasers - contribute to poor air quality. The grants can be used for equipment needed to reduce VOC emissions, such as enclosed gun washers, more efficient spray guns, or drying systems that let you switch to less polluting paints. The maximum award is \$3,000 per application with a 50% required match. The deadline is April 22, 2020. For more information, go to the MPCA website: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/regulations/grants-solvent-and-coating-emission-reductions>

### **Air Emissions Reporting**

This will be due April 1 for companies that had air emissions permits in 2019. Many of you were able to void your permits, because you use less than 2000 gallons of coatings per year and don't have any other significant emissions sources. If your permit cancellation didn't take effect until 2020, you'll probably have to report this year (but not in the future!). Just remember to keep tracking paint purchases, keep your paint

booths maintained and your painters trained in efficient spraying, and keep on using efficient paint guns.

**Stormwater Permits** are due for renewal, too, by April. Not all industries need these. If you are in an industry, such as manufacturing, subject to stormwater permitting, do you qualify for the no exposure exclusion? That means you don't do anything or leave materials outside that could contaminate stormwater. A change this year: renewal of your permit has to be done online, through the MPCA E-services portal. Contact us if you need help with this.

## Saying Goodbye / Hello

We are sad to see Jennifer Cougler leave us for Boston. She loves Minnesota's winter so is staying until probably early March (which might be when winter is really getting started). We wish her the absolute best in her new adventure.

**CHES is hiring!** If you, or someone you know, is interested, please see the job description posted on our website: <http://chess-safety.com/safety-resources-161>