

## 2013 Workforce Services Department Epidemiology Report on Occupational Fatalities and Non-fatal Injuries

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### **Executive Summary**

This is the second Annual Epidemiology Report on Occupational Fatalities and Non-fatal Injuries. Similar to last year's report, this report will contain a summary of workplace fatalities and non-fatal injuries as measured through the Wyoming Workforce Services Workers Compensation claims records. It will also review the activities of the various workplace safety coalitions and accomplishments to date. Recommendations for improving the current status of workplace safety will be presented along with a discussion of ways for employers to foster a stronger culture of workplace safety in the state.

Wyoming has had historically high rates of workplace fatalities. There are likely many reasons for this; however, the state has a high proportion of the workforce employed in high risk occupations and industries---agriculture, mining, oil and gas extraction, construction, manufacturing, and transportation. In addition, Wyoming, like most rural western states, has experienced historically high motor vehicle fatality rates. Workplace fatalities for 2013 are presented.

Non-fatal injuries are important to track for a number of reasons. Non-fatal injuries are frequently very costly, and may also represent long-term and sometimes disabling injuries to workers with resulting lifelong effects. Non-fatal injuries also present an opportunity to review workplace practices that resulted in an injury that could have been prevented or may have resulted in a more serious injury. Reducing non-fatal injuries can save the employee an injury and the employer in workers' compensation premiums. Summaries of workers' compensation claims are presented.

Wyoming has formed several workplace safety alliances to address the need for identifying opportunities to enhance workplace safety. These currently consist of the Wyoming Oil & Gas Industry Safety Alliance, the Wyoming Refinery Safety Alliance, the Wyoming Transportation Safety Coalition, and the Wyoming Construction Safety Alliance. Updates on activities of the various workplace safety groups are presented.

Several recommendations are presented to help improve Wyoming's workplace safety record. These measures would help to save lives and reduce injuries on the job. Reducing workplace injuries is in everyone's interest.

## Workplace Fatalities

Wyoming's workplace fatalities are tracked through the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) and through the Wyoming Occupational Epidemiologist. BLS confidentiality rules prohibit release of case details and a reconciliation of cases or numbers of occupational deaths with state fatality surveillance. The preliminary CFOI numbers are not available for 2013 at this time. There will be differences in the numbers of recorded deaths due to a number of factors. Wyoming's workplace fatalities tracked through the Occupational Epidemiologist are summarized below in Table 1.

Table 1. Occupational Fatalities by Industry Sector or Circumstance, January-December, 2013

Transportation Incidents	7
Agriculture	3
Oil and Gas	3
Manufacturing	3
Mining	2
Logging	1
Construction	1
Other	<u>1</u>
Total	21

A detailed listing of workplace deaths are listed below in Table 2.

Table 2. Line List of Occupational Fatalities January to December, 2013

### Transportation incidents

42 year old male semi- truck tanker trailer crashed on I-25 at an over pass bridge. Unit fell to highway below. Shoulder and lap belt used per crash report. WY resident

37 year old male driving an 18-wheeler crashed into two stopped 18-wheelers on I-80. Snow and blowing snow with reduced visibility and snow packed roadway. No evidence of braking. Shoulder and lap belt used per crash report. NC resident.

47 year old male driver of 18-wheeler crashed in to another 18-wheeler in a construction zone. Shoulder and lap belt used per crash report. WY resident.

60 year old male driver of 18-wheeler rear ended another 18-wheeler on I-80. Shoulder and lap belt used per crash report. IL resident.

52 year old male struck by falling 5.5" drilling pipe from a rail car in yard. WY resident.

62 year old male driver of 18 wheeler collided with another 18 wheeler that had crossed the center line on US 26. Seat belt use unknown. WY resident.

28 year old male died from injuries in a two vehicle collision on I-25. Deceased was reportedly driving at a high rate of speed and collided with an 18 wheeler. Industry-retail sales. Seat belt usage-unknown. WY resident.

### Agriculture

51 year old male rancher compressed by bull while in bull pen on the ground. WY resident.

25 year old male pulled into a baling machine. WY resident.

53 year old male rancher fell into irrigation ditch wearing waders and drowned. WY resident.

### Oil and Gas

22 year old male oil field worker struck by falling block on an oil rig. WY resident.

62 year old male entangled in a vertical lathe in a machine shop that supports oil and gas industry. WY resident.

30 year old male struck in neck by well pump assembly, died the next day from a cerebral hematoma. WY resident.

### Manufacturing

56 year old male entrapped in a roller blade at a carbon fiber plant. Residency?

23 year old male fell from roof of modular building under construction. WY resident.

46 year old female died in 2013 from an injury to the head at a pipe manufacturing plant. Injured the previous year. WY resident

### Mining

24 year old male crushed in a pick-up that was run over by motorized shovel that rolled backward. WY resident.

44 year old male drove a D11 dozer off of a steep embankment and rolled. WY resident.

### Logging

61 year old male logger died from a tree that fell on him while he was cutting it. WY resident.

### Construction

38 year old male died after a dump truck backed over him on jobsite. Dump truck driver being investigated for DUI. WY resident.

### Other

Suicide WY resident

Fatalities have dropped from the previous year primarily due to a significant drop in transportation related fatalities. It is not entirely clear why transportation incidents dropped so dramatically in 2013. A number of highway safety initiatives are underway (see Update on Wyoming Safety Coalitions). Wyoming experienced two mining fatalities in 2013---an industry that hadn't experienced a fatality since 2011.

## Workers' Compensation Trends

Table 3 shows workers' compensation claims and various health conditions for the years 2006-2013. Claims have dropped from over 16,000 claims per year in 2006 to just over 12000 claims for 2013. Hospitalizations have dropped from over 1000 per year to 280 in 2013. This drop could be related to a combination of events such as improvements in workers' safety and changes in healthcare delivery with more medical care being delivered in outpatient settings. Amputations have dropped from 76 in 2006 to 45 in 2013. High medical cost claims have also declined; however, claimants in recent years may still be accruing significant medical costs for recent injuries. Long term disability claims (lost work time  $\geq 90$  days) appear to show a downward trend, however, some claims are added at a later date for injuries in earlier years and there may be no actual reduction in this measure. In addition, other measures of permanent total disability over time are not showing the same trend. Burns with hospitalization don't show a clear trend.

Despite the drop in claims over the last several years, medical costs have increased with Wyoming employers paying in excess of \$160 million for medical coverage under the Wyoming Workers' Compensation Program. Indemnity coverage payments (payments for lost work time) are not included in this figure. Readers should also be cautioned that the total numbers of claims in any one category can change over time due to claims being denied or added at a later date. These include claims of injuries incurred but not recorded (IBNR). IBNR claims will be added in the year of injury or first exposure.

Table 3. Workers' Compensation Claims and Various Health Conditions by Year, 2006-2013

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Claims	16292	16421	16081	13567	14178	13451	13239	12133
Hospitalizations	1086	1027	1038	898	815	1025	617	280
Amputations*	76	72	90	46	49	55	56	45
Burns with Hospitalization	18	24	18	12	13	18	25	17
High Medical Cost Claim (\$250,000)	27	24	16	13	12	10	5	4
Long-Term Disability ( $\geq 90$ days)	1063	1099	1079	993	961	943	866	853

Data extracted from the Workers' Compensation files courtesy of A. Michler. \* The criteria for identifying amputations was changed for this years' report to include not only the nature of injury codes but also Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes to capture amputations coded in billing and diagnostic codes from medical providers. Amputations are only counted if one or more days of lost work time was recorded. The numbers of amputations in this report will differ from last year's report because of this change. Previous year's data were updated with the new definition. The new criteria are believed to be a better representation of amputations in the Workers' Compensation claims data.

Table 4. Workers' Compensation Claims for Various Health Conditions by Industry, 2013

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Claims</u>	<u>Hospitalizations</u>	<u>Amputations</u>	<u>Burns with Hospitalization</u>	<u>Medical Cost &gt;\$250,000</u>	<u>Long-Term Disability</u>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting (11)	225	11	0	0	0	11
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (21)	980	51	11	5	2	111
Utilities (22)	136	4	1	2	0	7
Construction (23)	1259	43	6	4	0	147
Manufacturing (31-33)	625	21	11	0	1	43
Wholesale Trade (42)	375	9	1	0	0	29
Retail Trade (44-45)	1026	15	1	1	0	58
Transportation and Warehousing (48-49)	523	25	3	0	1	92
Information (51)	98	3	0	0	0	4
Finance and Insurance (52)	61	0	0	0	0	1
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53)	134	5	0	0	0	16
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (54)	97	2	0	0	0	7
Management of Companies and Enterprises (55)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Admin. and Support and Waste Mgmt. and Remed. Services (56)	334	5	3	1	0	28
Educational Svcs. (61)	753	11	0	1	0	44
Health Care and Social Assist. (62)	1809	19	1	1	0	63
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (71)	101	2	0	0	0	10
Accommodation and Food Svcs. (72)	1307	15	2	0	0	68
Other Svcs. (81)	329	9	2	1	0	30
Public Administration (92)	577	6	0	1	0	24

Table 4 shows workers' compensation claims for various health conditions (hospitalizations, amputations, burns requiring hospitalization, high medical cost claims, and long-term disability) for 2013. Healthcare leads in total claims followed by accommodation and food services, construction, retail trade, and mining, quarrying and oil and gas industries. For claimants requiring hospitalization, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas industries lead all industries followed by construction, transportation and warehousing, manufacturing, and healthcare and social assistance. Manufacturing and mining, quarrying, and oil and gas industries leads the amputation category followed by construction. Burns with hospitalization are relatively rare, but are led by the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas sector followed by construction. High medical costs accounted for four claims with two in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas industries. Long term disability is led by the construction industry and followed by mining, quarrying, oil and gas industries, transportation and warehousing, accommodation and food services, and healthcare and social assistance industries. The number of claims in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting is clearly an undercount of actual injuries in these industries as many workers are self-employed and do not participate in the Workers' Compensation system.

## **Update on activities of Wyoming Workplace Safety Coalitions**

Wyoming has established several workplace safety industry-led organizations to address the workplace injury rates in the state. The organizations are at different levels of maturity depending on how long they have been in existence. Some were formed just this year. These organizations are using industry best practices to achieve improvements in workplace safety.

### Wyoming Oil & Gas Industry Safety Alliance

The Wyoming Oil & Gas Industry Safety Alliance (WOGISA) was formed in 2010 after Governor Freudenthal formed a Workplace Fatality Prevention Task Force the previous year. WOGISA has a formal partnership with the Wyoming Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The organization now has over 950 members, and the governing board meets monthly with biannual member meetings. Both Wyoming OSHA and the State Occupational Epidemiologist are advisors to this group. WOGISA has provided the following training to its members on topics including: defensive driving/winter driving, distracted driving, trenching and shoring, leadership development, supervisor development, load securement, OSHA 5810, OSHA initiatives, heat measures, fall protection, fire extinguisher, personal protective equipment, blood borne pathogens, fall protection, root cause analysis, and ethics.

WOGISA is developing several written communication tools to promote safety and awareness. Their goal is to become the go-to safety resource for the oil and gas industry and serve as a warehouse for safety information and resources. The organization has also sponsored Stop Work Authority (SWA) awards for members who exercise their authority to make job sites safer. WOGISA has several planned safety activities focused on monthly tailgate safety meetings, a newsletter, and professional development trainings in addition to topic specific trainings.

### Wyoming Refinery Safety Alliance

The Wyoming Refinery Safety Alliance (WRSA) was formed in 2012 at the request of Governor Mead. Wyoming has 6 refineries that refine crude oil into gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, and asphalt. The WRSA meets quarterly and collaborates on efforts to improve safe refining operations and process safety management. WRSA has identified the need for trained employees over the next 10 years and has partnered with community colleges in the state. The community colleges have developed a curriculum for a process technology program of study for potential new refinery employees with input from Wyoming OSHA. The program elements utilize a structured format of refining process safety elements and industry practice (API RP 754) to facilitate incident sharing and learning. The WRSA also participates in the WOGISA meetings. WRSA is working to develop communities of practice to create a wider network of refinery experts (e.g., inspectors, corrosion experts, etc.). WRSA works with Wyoming Workforce Services Risk Management and the OSHA Consultation Program and participates in the Stop Work Authority practices.

### Wyoming Transportation Safety Coalition

The Wyoming Transportation Coalition was formed in 2013 at the request of Governor Mead. The coalition consists of representatives from the Governor's Office, private trucking companies, truck driver training schools, Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT), Wyoming Workforce Services, Wyoming Highway Patrol, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Motor Carrier Safety

Administration, the Wyoming Oil & Gas Industry Safety Alliance, and the National Traffic Safety Administration. The coalition meets quarterly and has prioritized improvements to two mountain passes (Teton Pass and Powder River Pass) that have experienced several fatal work-related crashes of large trucks that have lost their brakes and subsequently crashed.

The Teton Pass has received additional signage warning truckers of a steep grade and a weigh-in-motion scale with an overhead sign is being installed that will advise truckers of weight, and if over 60,000 lbs. to pull into a fixed scale for a more accurate weight. If overweight, the trucker is advised to turn around. A new turnaround will be built at the fixed scale facility. Additional signage in Idaho advising truckers of weight restrictions on Teton Pass will be placed. Idaho Department of Transportation mobile enforcement team will devote more time to checking trucks on the Idaho side of the pass. WYDOT will be building truck arrestors on the pass with construction beginning in 2016. The Idaho Department of Transportation has been contacted to warn truckers about Teton Pass. Potato producers have been advised not to use Teton Pass.

The Powder River pass has planned upgrades including a mandatory stop at the summit and at Pole Creek for all vehicles over 26,000 lbs. and additional signage regarding the truck off ramp. Additional signage changes are planned for the catch net truck off ramp to improve its recognition and use. Area trucking companies have been provided brochures to advise truckers of the extreme steep grade and need to gear down. In addition, GPS companies have been contacted to upload information regarding the unique issues with Teton and Powder River Passes for truckers.

On US 14, WYDOT is conducting a study to identify a recommended location for an emergency truck runaway ramp system for the east face of the mountain. The study should be completed by September 2014. The U.S. Forest Service is supporting this effort.

The Transportation Safety Coalition has been discussing with WYDOT potential high impact traffic areas due to energy development. Discussions have focused on building turn and passing lanes, additional signage, additional enforcement, and industry involvement. The intention is to be pro-active in identifying areas of future development.

The Transportation Safety Coalition has been gathering data on transportation crashes---most frequent causes, contributing factors, hazardous locations---in order to make Wyoming's highways safer. The Coalition is looking at developing safety-focused training videos and kiosks to inform truckers and the general motoring public.

WYDOT has the capability to provide real time weather streaming data feeds to any location in the state. The capability allows the motoring public to see in real-time actual weather conditions. WYDOT is reaching out to hotels, truck stops, restaurants, sporting event locations, and others to provide this service around the state.

### Wyoming Construction Safety Alliance

The Wyoming Construction Safety Alliance was formed in March 2014. The initial meeting was held in Casper. The organization now has a governing board of 15 members and is meeting monthly. Many construction industry sectors are involved and the organization is receiving assistance from the Wyoming Oil & Gas Industry Safety Alliance and Wyoming OSHA. The Alliance has voted and approved on a formal partnership with the Wyoming OSHA.

## **Discussion**

There are some encouraging trends in both the recent fatality data compared to recent years and also in the reductions in the Workers' Compensation claims data. Wyoming had averaged approximately 36 fatal work events for the years 2001-2011 (data from the federal Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, Bureau of Labor Statistics). About half of those deaths were transportation related. According to CFOI statistics, in 2012 there were 35 work-related fatalities in Wyoming, however, five of those deaths were associated with aircraft crashes (four deaths in one airplane crash and one in a helicopter crash) ---arguably the most regulated industry for safety in the U.S. The large reduction in transportation incidents in 2013 is primarily responsible for the reduction in total work-related deaths in the state for the year.

On average, Wyoming OSHA investigates only about one-quarter of all workplace deaths. This is because most transportation events; homicides and suicides; airplane, helicopter, and railroad deaths; and most agriculture deaths do not fall in their jurisdiction for investigation. (The federal CFOI system includes homicides and suicides that occur at work.) This observation suggests that efforts in industry sectors not covered by Wyoming OSHA need additional attention if the state is to have a major influence on workplace fatality rates.

Encouraging trends in the Workers' Compensation data are the continuing drop in total claims and the large reduction in hospitalization claims. Construction, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction, and transportation and warehousing continue to lead claims for long-term disability. Long-term disability is a marker for the more serious injuries requiring a greater level of medical care and longer time to recover. Some claimant's injuries are so severe they never recover from their injuries and receive Workers' Compensation benefits for the rest of their life.

### **Developing a Culture of Safety**

Safety experts agree that in order to change workplace safety, the expectations around work needs to change. What all organizations need is a culture of safety where everyone takes personal responsibility for their own safety as well as everyone around them. Employees need to be empowered to recognize and report unsafe conditions or practices and not feel threatened for doing so. Some organizations even grant employees at all levels "stop work authority" if they observe unsafe behavior, practices, or conditions. In order for this to occur, commitment from all levels of an organization needs to be present. A culture of safety is more a process than a program. It relates to how work is done, and the process of safety never ends. Furthermore, safety practices at work can and should extend to the home environment. Wyoming has high injury mortality rates---both work related and non-work related injury mortality rates are high in the state. Wyoming ranks fifth in the nation (behind New Mexico, Alaska, Mississippi, and Montana) for overall injury death rates including work-related and non-work related injuries<sup>1</sup>. Developing a safety culture among all employers, employees, and their families is necessary to improve Wyoming's rankings.

## **Recommendations**

- Establish an agriculture safety alliance.

Even though agriculture accounts for only a relatively small portion of the industries and workers in the state, it has a disproportionate number of workplace injuries and fatalities. A majority of agriculture industry fatalities occur with animal handling, tractors, grain and silage handling, and other farming equipment. In recent years (2010-2012), agriculture accounts for more workplace deaths in Wyoming than the oil and gas industry (15 deaths vs 12 deaths), yet there are no formal, statewide efforts to increase attention on agriculture safety in the state (data from the federal Census

of Fatal Occupational Injuries, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2010-2012). In 2011, 570 farmers or farm workers died from work related injuries in the U.S. The fatality rate for agricultural workers was 7 times higher than for all workers in private industry. The agricultural fatality rate was 24.9 per 100,000 workers compared to 3.5 for all workers in private industry. Tractor overturns were the leading cause of agricultural fatalities (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health website).

Discussions with both the University of Wyoming Agriculture Extension Service and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture have occurred. The University of Wyoming Agricultural Extension Service has offices throughout the state and staff has familiarity with the challenges faced by Wyoming farmers and ranchers. With adequate resources, the Extension Service or the Department of Agriculture could partner with the Wyoming agricultural industry to offer training in safer animal handling practices, tractor safety, ATV safety, and skills in hazard recognition and remediation. A first step would be the creation of an agriculture safety alliance.

- Urge all Wyoming employers to mandate seat belt usage for their employees when on duty.

Review of Wyoming data over many years shows that transportation events account for 50-60 percent of workplace deaths in Wyoming. From 2006-2012, fifty-eight percent of all workplace deaths in Wyoming were transportation events (data from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2006-2012). Seat belt usage has been shown to be one of the most effective tools to prevent or reduce the risk of injury or death in a motor vehicle crash----the efficacy of seat belt and shoulder belt usage has been demonstrated clearly in engineering assessments, automobile design crash tests, and data from highway crashes.

An option for Wyoming leaders to consider is a primary seat belt usage law. The U. S. Community Preventive Task Force recommends laws mandating seat belt use with primary enforcement and with enhanced enforcement<sup>2,3</sup>. The Community Preventive Task Force is a national group of experts who are charged with reviewing the scientific evidence for various public health measures. Wyoming has secondary seat belt enforcement-- meaning that law enforcement can only cite for lack of seat belt use when another infraction is observed. Studies have demonstrated that states with primary seat belt enforcement (meaning law enforcement can cite for non-use of seat belts when observed without any other observed infraction) have a median 14 percentage point increase in seat belt use with a median 8 percentage point decrease in fatal injuries. Enhanced enforcement programs are added to normal enforcement practices and include publicity. They fall into two categories: (1) those that increase citations along with increasing the number of officers on patrol (supplemental), and (2) programs that promote more citations during an officer's normal patrol (targeted).

In addition, the Workers' Compensation program should explore the feasibility of a discount program for employers mandating seat belt use for all employees of their company. A premium discount may serve to encourage employers to take advantage of this simple injury prevention measure.

- Encourage all employers to develop and enforce workplace safety policies.

Most employers already have human resource policies that contain elements of workplace safety. These should be reviewed to assure that industry-specific workplace safety policies are in place. Policies need to be industry and employer specific to cover the types of hazards common in that field. Wyoming OSHA safety consultants are available in many communities throughout Wyoming for assistance. Preventing injuries and fatalities requires both employers and employees being committed to safe work practices. A no fault system of hazard reporting should be encouraged among workplaces (see section on Culture of Safety).

- Encourage additional employers to request OSHA consultation services

With seven new OSHA positions granted by the Wyoming Legislature, Wyoming OSHA has been busy training and deploying courtesy inspectors to Wyoming employers. In 2013, OSHA conducted 360 initial visits to general industry, 119 construction, and 61 oil and gas, for a total of 540 initial inspections by Wyoming OSHA. Since the addition of the new OSHA inspectors, the average wait time for OSHA to respond to an employer request has dropped from 100 days in federal fiscal year 2012 to 62 days in federal fiscal year 2014. These inspections provide an opportunity for employers to receive an inspection by OSHA whereby safety violations can be corrected and employers made aware of OSHA concerns without citations being issued or a penalty being imposed. If a subsequent inspection finds violations, then, fines may be imposed. Most employers and OSHA staff believe this program has been a success.

Wyoming OSHA has been challenged with inspector retention. OSHA inspectors are frequently recruited by industry with higher compensation resulting in fewer senior, highly experienced inspectors on staff and the need to continuously recruit new inspectors for vacant positions. Organization and compensation strategies designed to staff OSHA with qualified compliance and consultation officers and retain those employees beyond the initial training period are currently being explored by leadership in the Department of Workforce Services.

- Encourage additional employers to participate in the Workers' Compensation Safety Discount Program.

In 1994, the Wyoming Legislature approved a program whereby employers that participate in a safety program can receive a discount on their workers' compensation premiums. As of spring 2014, over 1100 employers have participated in this program. Wyoming has approximately 23,000 employers so this indicates that almost 5% of Wyoming employers are participating in this program. New employers are added at the rate of about 55-60 per year. In 2013, the rules for the program were changed so that any employer participating received a 3.33% discount for having an approved health and safety program and a 6.66% discount for having a program, documented training, and a health and safety committee. An additional 10% reduction in premiums can be achieved if the employer had all the previous criteria and a loss ratio of less than 10.

- Track the impact of the 80 mph speed limit increase on Interstate highways.

In 2014, the Wyoming Legislature approved an 80 mph speed limit on Interstate highways for sections of roadway that WYDOT deems appropriate for such an increased speed limit. Because highway fatalities are a major portion (about 50%) of workplace deaths, and speed is a significant contributor to fatal vehicle crashes, special attention should be paid to monitoring the impact of the new speed limits on these roadways. Traffic fatality data should be monitored for any impact of the new speed limits on work-related fatalities.

In 1995, the federal National Maximum Speed Limit was repealed by Congress allowing states to set highway speed limits. Studies looking at the effect of speed limits on highway fatalities have shown variable results, however, higher speed crashes result in higher injury and fatality rates. Wyoming has significant wind and winter driving challenges for all drivers which can be exacerbated by higher speeds.

- Continue case-based surveillance for workplace fatalities.

Case-based surveillance for workplace fatalities was begun in 2012. This surveillance provides industry and policy makers much more case specific information regarding the circumstances of death

than the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). The CFOI system is a statistical system designed to provide fatality counts by industry and by state for the entire nation. It has not been used as a public health tool other than in a general way. The CFOI does not provide case specific circumstances of fatal events that can be used to implement policy changes.

- Continue and enhance the Safety Fund.

The Wyoming Legislature established a Safety Fund of \$500,000 during the 2012 Session that provides up to \$10,000 per employer with a 10% matching contribution for safety equipment and/or safety training. Eighty employers have participated in this program and \$411,914.35 has been expended as of May 8, 2014, with the full \$500,000 having been encumbered. OSHA and employers view this program as a success and believe they will expend all funds for the 2013 biennium by October 20, 2014. The report to the Legislature on this fund is due October 1, 2014.

- Enhance the capacity of Workforce Services to provide “Safety Culture” experts to assist employers in developing a culture of safety in their organization to improve their safety track record.

Wyoming OSHA already has considerable expertise in occupational safety practices and understands the rationale behind OSHA rules. They also have staff with expertise in risk assessment, and risk reduction practices, and processes that employers can utilize in creating a culture of safety in their organization.

- Develop a Wyoming is a Work Safe State media campaign.

Utilize billboards, print and television media spots to publicize that Wyoming is serious about workplace safety. The campaign would be directed at both employers and employees. The messages could be rotated with emphasis on following traffic laws (speed limits, seat belt usage, distracted driving), following company safety policies, increased enforcement activities in the state, stop work authority, etc. The Wyoming Department of Transportation electronic signs may also be utilized to reinforce messages. Wyoming currently has a media campaign against drunk driving. A similar media campaign should be developed regarding workplace safety.

## References

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