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December 2023 /January 2024

# OSH Update

## From the Director's Office

Welcome to December, everyone! This is a familiar sentiment by now, but I find it disturbingly hard to believe how quickly 2023 has come and gone. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and are looking forward to the remaining holiday season ahead.

As we wrap up this calendar year, I want to thank everyone for making this year a success. I'll share a few quick highlights of our work this year. Compliance conducted nearly 1,700 safety and health inspections, finding and eliminating over 3,200 serious hazards. The ASH Bureau conducted over 2,000 preoccupancy inspections and an additional 46 compliance inspections. Our consultants conducted nearly 1,500 visits to public and private sector establishments and eliminated another 6,300 serious hazards. Consultative Services also maintained 152 SHARP sites throughout the state. ETTA's Training Section trained over 9,300 people at various OSH Division events, while the Standards Section responded to over 1,800 requests for standards interpretations. The Recognition Program awarded over 2,100 safety awards and maintained 150 Carolina Star Sites, and the Library continues to assist both internal and external patrons with a variety of services. The PSIM Bureau is sort of the brains behind the entire operation, keeping track of targeting, data, disclosure requests and much more. Finally, thank you to our SEP Committee chairs and members for meeting / exceeding all of our emphasis area goals!



This upcoming week presents an opportunity to highlight this work. Over the past several weeks, many folks in the OSH Division (as well as our IT Division) have been hard at work preparing for the comprehensive Federal Annual Monitoring Evaluation (FAME) visit. Kim Morton, Area Director, and several federal OSHA representatives will be in the Old Revenue Building the week of December 4 - 8 to review the OSH Division's work during the last federal fiscal year. I am confident that the results of the FAME will reflect our collective accomplishments and will provide further confirmation that North Carolina is one of the strongest state-plan OSHA programs in the nation.

On a more seasonal note, one of my favorite annual events is the department's Toys for Tots collection drive. This year is a significant milestone for the Toys for Tots campaign, as 2023 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that NCDOL has partnered with the Marines in this effort. This year's campaign kicked off November 20 and will run through Wednesday, December 13, culminating in a toy drop-off event from Noon – 3 pm on the 13<sup>th</sup> in front of the Labor Building in Raleigh. Each building's toy captain has provided collection bin(s) and I encourage you to fill those bins to the brim! I have a soft spot in my heart for children in need, as I know we probably all do, and Toys for Tots is one of those small ways we can bring joy to a child who may not experience much joy otherwise. Also, I would be remiss if I did not mention the one person who has been instrumental in making this a reality from day one. Lee Peacock brought this idea to the department 25 years ago and has ensured that thousands of toys have been collected and delivered year after year. Thank you, Lee.

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#### Director's Message Continued

Nicole Brown recently completed the 2023 Performance Management Academy, sponsored by the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM). The program is designed for state employees who develop, manage and/or implement programs and policies. Nicole and 31 additional participants committed to attending classroom training over multiple days and came away from the program with enhanced performance management skills. The Performance Management Academy is offered periodically by OSBM, and the department will be notified of the next available opportunity to nominate employees. Congratulations, Nicole!

I am grateful for the opportunity to learn from and work beside all of you. Blessings to you and your loved ones throughout this season. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!



## Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

### Whiting-Turner Partnership Signing

On Monday, November 6 Commissioner Dobson and other OSH Division representatives signed a new partnership agreement with Whiting-Turner Contracting Company. Partnership Chairperson, Bruce Pearson introduced the Commissioner, and the partnership team and gave an overview of the partnership process.

Whiting –Turner Contracting is building a facility in Siler City, for Wolfspeed. The company is building a new large-scale semiconductor/silicon carbide manufacturing plant. Wolfspeed will invest more than \$2 billion to establish the largest silicon carbide facility consisting of a 2.2 million square foot facility located on 445 acres. Wolfspeed will create 1800 jobs in the area.



NCDOL, Whiting-Turner and Wolfspeed representatives sign the new Partnership Agreement on Nov. 6 in Siler City



NCDOL, Whiting-Turner and Wolfspeed representatives at the partnership construction site in Siler City



Please take a minute to donate to this worthy cause. Bring in a new toy, drop it in the box and bring a smile to a child's face this Christmas. Drop off boxes have been distributed to each office, and they will be collected on December 13.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Let's make this the best year ever!**

## NCDOL Safety and Health Steering Committee - Quarterly Meeting Highlights

The following topics were discussed during the last Safety and Health Steering Committee Meeting.

### Building Emergency Coordinators

- Shirley Curtis is now the ORB Building Emergency Coordinator and Dennis Berwyn is her backup.

### ORB Repairs

- Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) is in the process of moving into ORB and has been demolishing and remodeling section A. The project is expected to be completed by December. OSBM move in date is the first week of January.
- The Salisbury Street exit steps were scheduled to be completed in early November, but the project is still in progress. The original delay in starting the project was due to finding and ordering the matching stone for the steps.

### Labor Building

- Front door issues. The front door was repaired just before Thanksgiving, and is now fully functional.
- Third and fourth floor renovations will begin soon followed by lobby renovations and new window installations.

### CPR/First Aid Training

- Training was held and staff completed the classes.

### Space Heater Policy Review (Policy #15)

- The 2019 OSHR heater policy will likely be used to update the 2017 DOL policy. If changes are made the new policy will be shared throughout DOL.



### Workplace Violence Policy

- A committee will be put together to adapt the Office of State Human Resources (OSHR) workplace violence policy for DOL. Scott Mabry has offered to be the management contact for the committee.

### Epi-Pens/Narcan

- The Red Cross will provide DOL with Epi-Pen training and we expect to receive the Epi-Pens and Narcan from Wake County Human Services soon. Scott Mabry will hold the prescription from Wake County. The department falls under the Good Samaritan Law for administering both.

### AED/Fire Extinguishers

- The AED machines, pads, and batteries are in the process of being upgraded throughout DOL field offices. A system will be in place for ordering supplies from one vendor, by one person. (this will help when batteries and pads need to be replaced). AED and Fire Extinguishers are inspected by the building's floor monitors.

### NCDOL Injury and Illness Update

- There was one recordable incident with no lost workdays.

*The Next Meeting is January 9, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.*





## You Look Familiar, Are You New Around Here?

### M eet Carla Delgado.

Carla joined NCDOL as an Office Specialist I for the Agricultural Safety and Health (ASH) Bureau on July 23, 2018.



When Martina retired in June 2019, Carla applied for the position of Administrative Assistant II, and since then she has been performing that duty.

Carla is originally from Puerto Rico and before moving to the US she worked for the Supreme Court as a data entry technician. In 2002 Carla's grandparents moved to Florida and she moved with them. In 2009 Carla and her immediate family moved to Albany, NY to be closer to her brother who was in the Marines.

## OSH Division Participates in a New Alliance Signing

The NCDOL Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Division signed an alliance with the North Carolina Masonry Contractor's Association (NCMCA) on November 16, 2023, in Mt. Pleasant, NC. The NCMCA was formed in April, 1974 and has been a thriving masonry association throughout the years. The alliance signing was coordinated to align with the annual apprentice recognition night that takes place during National Apprenticeship week. The alliance aims to reduce accidents and fatalities in the construction industry through in-



From Left: Danks Burton, NCMCA Chairman of the Board (Pinnacle Masonry), Bo Black, NCMCA President (Carolina Masonry Unlimited), Commissioner Dobson, Kent Huntley, NCMCA Past President (Huntley Brothers), Cliff McGee, President Elect (McGee Brothers).

creased education, training and outreach. The NCMCA is an association made up of mason contractors in North Carolina that use their combined member resources to meet the challenges of the masonry business. Through the alliance, the OSH Division and NCMCA will work together to achieve certain training and educational goals, outreach and communication goals, and to promote a statewide dialogue on workplace safety and health.

In 2016 Carla and her family moved one more time, to NC, again to be close to her brother who had been transferred. The cold harsh NY winter weather also played a part in that. Carla started work at NC State University in May of that year and her manager encouraged her to take an administrative assistant certification course through Wake Technical College. After passing the course her brother saw a job posting for the NCDOL ASH program which he thought was a good fit for her. She applied and the rest is history. Carla is bilingual, which serves as a great asset to the ASH program. In 2021 Carla was nominated and received the NCDOL Employee of the Year.

Carla enjoys going on vacation with her family, loves cruises and spending time with her family, friends and her two dogs, Matilda and Bella.

The alliance promotes a safe and healthful workplace by:

- Providing NCMCA employees/members with information and guidance that will help them protect employees' health and safety, particularly in reducing and preventing exposure to recognized occupational hazards.
- Providing OSH employees with information and training on the industry's best practices.
- Increasing access to safety and health information and training resources.



From Left: Bo Black, Commissioner Dobson signing the Alliance, and Cliff McGee



## Status of Fiscal Year Compliance Inspection Goals

Type of Inspection	FY2023 Goal	1-Month Goal	1-Month Actual	% of Goal to Date	Trend
Total Compliance Inspections	1,700	142	115	81%	↔
Construction Inspections	800	67	62	93%	↔
Public Sector Inspections	85	7	2	29%	↔
Logging/Arborist SEP Inspections	24	2	3	150%	↔
Health Hazard SEP Inspections	100	8	2	25%	↔
Long Term Care SEP Inspections	24	2	1	50%	↔
Grocery & Related Products SEP Inspections	24	2	4	200%	↔
Food Manufacturing SEP Inspections	24	2	3	150%	↔
Amputation SEP Inspections	180	15	9	60%	↔

## Status of Fiscal Year Compliance Strategic Goals

Strategic Goal	Goal	Actual to Date
In-Compliance Rate (all inspections in FY2023)	<35%	56.0%
SAMM In-Compliance Rate – Safety (based on closed/issued cases)	<35%	44%
SAMM In-Compliance Rate – Health (based on closed/issued cases)	<35%	28.6%
SAMM Lapse Time – Safety	< 40 days	68.4
SAMM Lapse Time – Health	< 40 days	63.3
Follow-up Inspections (%)	5%	0.9%
Logging Fatalities	7 fatalities during baseline year	1 (on pace for 12)
Construction Fatalities	32 fatalities in baseline year	1 (on pace for 12)

## Status of Fiscal Year ASH Compliance Strategic Goals

Strategic Goal	FY 2023 Goal	1-Month Goal	1-Month Actual	% of FY Goal to date
Pre-Occupancy Camps Inspected	1,975	165	13	10%
Certificates Issued	1,890	157	15	10%
Outreach to Hispanic Farm Workers	50	4	0	0%
Education Material Distributed	2,800	233	445	191%

### Status of Fiscal Year Consultation Strategic Goals

Strategic Goal	FY2023 Goal	12-Month Goal	12-Month Actual	% of FY Goal to Date
Hazards Eliminated	4,800	400	505	126%
PRIVATE Consultative Visits	1,125	94	101	107%
Construction Visits	300	25	39	156%
Logging Visits	15	1	0	0%
LTC Visits	30	3	3	100%
Documentation of Health Hazard Inspections	125	10	19	190%
Food Inspections	12	1	0	0%
Program Improvements	750	63	119	188%

### Status of Fiscal Year ETTA Strategic Goals

Strategic Goal	FY2023 Goal	12-Month Goal	12-Month Actual	% of FY Goal to Date
Construction SEP 10 Hour Course	5	1	0	0%
Construction SEP 30 Hour Course	2	1	0	0%
Logging/Arborist Events	5	1	0	0%
LTC Events	2	1	0	0%
Health Hazard Events	20	2	2	100%
Public Sector Training Events	5	1	0	0%
Program Improvements	60	5	9	180%
Total Star Sites (new/recertifications)	20	2	2	100%
Total Star Program Interventions	100	8	14	175%
Total Persons Trained by ETTA	5,350	446	561	126%
Total Persons Trained in Identified Areas	1,500	125	154	123%
Publications Distributed	50,000	4,167	5,473	131%

Thank you  
for all you do!