



The Office of Compliance Celebrates National Safety Month

The Office of Compliance is proud to celebrate National Safety Month. National Safety Month provides increased opportunity for employers and employees to educate and influence behaviors in the workplace in order to reduce the number of preventable injuries, illnesses, and deaths. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey, there were an estimated 131,359,000 people employed in the public and private workforce in the United States during 2011. This impressive number is indicative of the benefits of workplace protections as a tool to prevent injury.



Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, workplace safety is required by law. This requirement is instrumental in reducing injury, illness and death in the workplace. By mandating the use of engineering and administrative controls as well as protective equipment, and other precautions, employees and their families, employers, and visitors can be protected from an unsafe workplace. Workplace injury and illness not only result in physical repercussions for employees, but also produce added stress due to the potential loss of income from the inability to work. Long term injury or illness may also cause loss of career or livelihood. Today's safety and health laws provide employees with greater assurance that at the end of the day they will return home free from harm or

serious injury.

Employees are not the only ones who benefit from workplace safety laws. These laws also provide advantages to employers. Injury and illness prevention can save money for employers in several ways, such as reducing employee time away from work, limited duty, lost production, the need to train replacement workers, and reduction of insurance premiums.

Section 215 of the Congressional Accountability Act requires that the Legislative Branch comply with certain provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and its standards requiring that public areas and the workplace be free of recognized hazards that are likely to cause death or serious injury. Covered employing offices must comply with these workplace safety requirements.

For more information or to request an inspection, please contact the Office of Compliance at (202) 724-9250 or visit www.compliance.gov.