

Breaking News

IOSHA Makes Inspection Changes That Benefit Hoosier Workers

Poor Safety Records Will Follow Out-of-State Contractors Who Work in Indiana

Indianapolis, February 22, 2010: In a move that is being applauded by many Hoosier workers, IOSHA today announced a significant change to its inspection and compliance procedures that will insure that out-of-state contractors with poor safety records will not slip through the cracks in Indiana. On Friday, February 19, 2010, IOSHA staff were instructed to begin using the State and Federal OSHA violations databases when checking the history of companies that have been issued violations in Indiana.

Deputy Commissioner of Labor, Jeff Carter, explained the new directive to INCIN, *"IOSHA issued a directive today insuring that all Compliance Officers check both the State and Federal databases when researching employer history or attempting to establish prior employer knowledge of a hazard. This directive insures that all Compliance Officers are researching company histories in a consistent manner similar to the Federal OSHA program."*

This is an important issue that INCIN has followed closely for last two years. Prior to this directive, it was possible for out-of-state contractors with OSHA violations in their home states to potentially go undetected when they were cited for violations in Indiana. The new directive will insure that this is no longer possible.

Indiana House Majority Leader, Russ Stilwell said of the new change, *"This is a great move by IOSHA and real victory for keeping Hoosier workers safe. It provides yet another tool for the State of Indiana to track the bad apples that are doing work in our great state. Hoosier workers should be protected from these types of companies and IOSHA has now moved closer to that goal."*

This new move also insures that those contractors with previous violations in other states pose a far greater chance of now being cited as "repeat violators" or as "willful violators." These categories of citations potentially carry greater fines and penalties for the violator.

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