

Region 5 News Release: 13-969-CHI

June 13, 2013

Contact: Scott Allen Rhonda Burke

Phone: 312-353-6976

Email: allen.scott@dol.gov burke.rhonda@dol.gov

**US Department of Labor's OSHA renews alliance to protect
Ohio workers in manufacturing, service, construction industries**

CLEVELAND – The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has renewed an alliance with the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation and the Council of Smaller Enterprises to provide the council's member companies with information, guidance and access to training resources to protect the safety and health of workers in the manufacturing, service and construction industries. The OSHA On-site Consultation Program, funded by federal OSHA but run by the state of Ohio, also will participate.

"The renewal of this alliance reflects a mutual recognition of the importance of workers' safety and health," said Howard Eberts, OSHA's area director in Cleveland. "We are working together to ensure all companies, especially smaller companies with fewer resources, are prepared to control hazards effectively that their workers may encounter. This alliance will continue to help develop effective safety programs, while opening the lines of communication among OSHA, employers and workers."

As part of the voluntary alliance, organizations will continue to identify and control safety hazards, reduce and prevent deaths and serious injuries from falls, electrical, struck-by, caught-in and other hazards related to work performed by these companies. In addition, the alliance is focused on improving safety and health programs, promoting a cooperative relationship between labor and management and encouraging worker participation in achieving a safe and healthful workplace. It aims to meet these goals through increased training, implementation of best work practices and compliance with applicable OSHA standards and regulations. The alliance was first signed in May 2011.

Through its Alliance Program, OSHA works with unions, consulates, trade and professional organizations, faith- and community-based organizations, businesses and educational institutions to prevent workplace fatalities, injuries and illnesses. The purpose of each alliance is to develop compliance assistance tools and resources and to educate workers and employers about their rights and responsibilities. Alliance Program participants do not receive exemptions from OSHA inspections. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/alliances/index.html>.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov>.

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