

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE JOB SAFETY & HEALTH PROTECTION

The Oklahoma Occupational Health & Safety Standards Act of 1970 provides job safety and health protection for public workers by promoting safe and healthful working conditions. As authorized by the Act, rules have been adopted to prevent accidents in all public work places, including public schools and all political subdivisions of city, county and state government. These rules include standards contained in the Federal Occupational Safety & Health Act of 1970 (OSHA) and other safety and health standards derived from national consensus standards.

EMPLOYERS

Each public employer shall establish and maintain safe and healthful workplace conditions. Appropriate safety devices shall be used where necessary to protect the life, health and safety of all public employees. No employer shall interfere with the use of any method or process adopted for the protection of an employee or any other person lawfully within such place of employment. No employer shall fail to obey orders necessary to protect the life, safety and health of public employees. Public employers must allow their employees to participate in mandatory training and education programs.

EMPLOYEES

No public employee shall willfully remove, displace, damage, destroy, carry off or in any way interfere with the use of any safety device or safeguard furnished or provided for use in any place of public employment. No employee or agent of employees shall interfere with any method or process adopted for the protection of any employee or of any other person lawfully within such place of employment. No employee shall fail to obey orders necessary to protect the life, safety and health of public employees. Public employees must participate in mandatory training and education programs.

INSPECTIONS

Without prior notification, authorized inspectors from the Oklahoma Department of Labor may, at any reasonable time, enter and inspect public places of employment in order to investigate matters deemed appropriate, and to determine if any person is violating any provision of the Act or any standards promulgated pursuant to it.

COMPLAINTS

Public employees have the right to file a complaint requesting an investigation of unsafe or unhealthful conditions. No adverse personnel action may be taken against any employee who files a work- place safety or health complaint. Employees who believe they have been discriminated against on this basis may file a complaint with the Oklahoma Department of Labor.

VIOLATIONS

If upon inspection the Oklahoma Department of Labor believes a public employer has violated the Act, a notice alleging such violation(s) will be issued to the employer. The notice will specify the time frame in which each violation must be corrected or a response provided. The Commissioner of Labor may require the violation(s) be corrected immediately and/or the alleged violator appear before the Commissioner or a designated representative at a specified time and place to answer the charges.

PROPOSED PENALTIES

The Attorney General, upon request of the Commissioner of Labor, shall bring an action against any person who violates any of the provisions of the Act or violates any order or determination of the Commissioner promulgated pursuant to the Act.

Any public employer or political subdivision failing to comply with any standards or interfering with, impeding or in any manner obstructing the administration of standards pursuant to the provisions of the Act may be charged with a misdemeanor. Additionally, such employers or political subdivisions may be prevented, by cease and desist orders, from continuing such violation(s). Each day in which each violation occurs shall constitute a separate violation.

VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE

Safety and health education and training is the best way to help prevent and control occupational accidents. The Department of Labor provides public employers with free consultation services. The Department recognizes the outstanding efforts of participating employers.

RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS

Public employers must maintain accurate work-related injury, exposure and illness incident records. Employers are to use the OK-300 recordkeeping system or its substantial equivalent. Calendar year totals (excluding names of employees) must be posted no later than February 1st of the year following the calendar year to which the report applies. This information must remain posted through the month of April. Public employers are required to maintain written safety and health programs.

POSTING INSTRUCTIONS

This poster must be displayed in one or more conspicuous places where notices to employees are customarily posted. For assistance or additional information, contact:

Oklahoma Department of Labor Public Employee Occupational Safety & Health

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Leslie Osborn
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Oklahoma Department of Labor

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