



Advancing the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace.

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Commissioner of Indiana Department of Labor Honors Indiana's Southern Resource Solutions Industries site in Ferdinand with Safety Award**

**Indianapolis, IN October 10, 2007** – Indiana Department of Labor (IDOL) Commissioner, Lori A. Torres, is proud to announce that Southern Resource Solutions Industries' (SIRS) site in Ferdinand, Indiana has achieved Indiana Safety and Health Achievement Program (INSHARP) status.

INSHARP, one of Indiana's exemplary safety and health recognition programs, was established to recognize and promote safety and health management programs throughout the state. Based on benchmarks for advancement and development of safety and health programs within the workplace, INSHARP status can be achieved when management and employees work together to create and maintain a safe and healthy work environment.

Founded in 1968, SIRS Industries provides vocational and employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities and employs 187 employees company-wide. By partnering with area manufacturers to provide goods and services, SIRS serves as a piecework and business service outsourcing solution in Southern Indiana. "Serving as a model worksite for occupational safety and health in Southern Indiana, the IDOL is pleased to present an INSHARP award to and partner with SIRS Industries for continued worker safety and health excellence. I truly commend the proactive approach that SIRS has taken to protect their workers," stated Commissioner Torres.

The INSHARP award ceremony was held on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 in Ferdinand, Indiana. The ceremony provided an opportunity for SIRS employees, staff, and management to showcase their exemplary status to the media, state officials, and local elected officials.

To qualify for INSHARP participation, an employer's Days Away Restricted and Transferred Rate (DART) and Total Case Incident Rate (TCIR) must be below the national average for their respective Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)/North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). SIRS Industries is 100 percent below the industry average of 2.2, with a current DART rate of 0.0. SIRS has had no worker injury or illness requiring absence of work for at least three years. "This achievement is all the more laudable given SIRS' unique workforce," added Torres.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Sean M. Keefer at (317) 232-2683.

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