

# Indiana Labor Insider

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

**Michael R. Pence, Governor**  
*Rick J. Ruble, Commissioner of Labor*

## Message from Commissioner Ruble

**We** We have accomplished a great deal of things during the past year. In this issue you'll read about how we partnered with the Indiana State Police, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Indiana Department of Transportation to run a scholarship contest for Hoosier students to raise awareness of the dangers of distracted driving.

You'll see that we entered into a new site-specific partnership with Weigand Construction Company, the City of Fort Wayne and Ash Brokerage. The partnership's objective is to keep a large construction project humming along safely.

Finally, you'll see that we had the third-lowest number of workplace fatalities in Indiana history last year.

The numbers continue the downward trend in fatalities that we've seen over the last 22 years. Our workplaces are becoming increasingly safe, and that I am proud of, but we're not satisfied with "good enough". Indiana has never been a state dedicated to being just good. We want to be the standard bearer for workplace safety.

At the state that works, we continue striving to improve at everything we do. With your help and with the hard work and dedication of my co-workers here at the Indiana Department of Labor, I know we aren't going to settle for anything less than excellence. We will move forward into the future together.

Best wishes and be safe,



Rick J. Ruble  
Commissioner

## 2013 Report of Fatal Occupational Injuries Released

**The** Indiana Department of Labor (IDOL) released its annual preliminary Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) report for 2013. The IDOL reported 123 deaths in 2013.

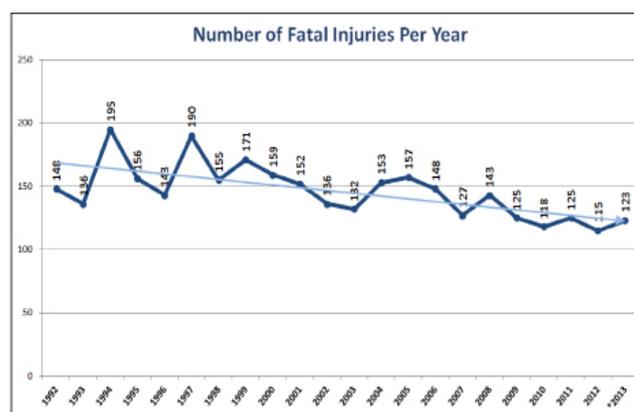
"The Indiana Department of Labor remains committed to promoting safe workplaces for all Hoosiers through outreach, training, safety consultations, recognition for exemplary businesses and enforcement," said IDOL Commissioner Rick J. Ruble. "We strive to help Indiana employers improve their safety and health practices to adopt a culture of safety."

In general, worker fatalities have continued to decrease over the past 22 years from a high of 195 in 1994 to a record low of 115 in 2012. Although an increase over last year,

2013's 123 remains the third-lowest number of fatalities on record.

Key statistics from the 2013 CFOI report include:

- 123 Hoosier employee fatalities occurred in 2013.
- 58 fatalities resulted from transportation-related incidents.
- More than half of workplace transportation-related deaths (32) were attributed to roadway incidents involving motorized vehicles.
- Fatalities in Indiana's construction industry decreased 32 percent from 22 in 2012 to 15 in 2013.



The preliminary review of 2013 workplace fatalities shows the number-one cause of worker fatalities in Indiana was vehicle crashes.



# SAFETY ALERT:

## Tree Trimming

**After** a powerful storm rolls through your neighborhood, some of the results are predictable. Power may be intermittent, debris may have blown in and tree limbs could be hanging precariously over or lying across the road. Cleaning up after severe weather is a critical step in getting a community back to normal. Unfortunately, workers involved in tree trimming and other debris clearing duties are at a high risk for injury or fatality – and it’s not hard to see why. There are a number of hazards associated with this kind of work.

### Tree Trimming Hazards

**Falls:** When your job is focused on removing damaged limbs and branches from trees, working high above the ground is sometimes impossible to avoid. It is imperative that proper precautions be taken. The tree must be inspected to determine if it is structurally sound before climbing. When possible, the use of an aerial lift is recommended. Workers should be secured with personal fall arrest systems (PFAs) or other fall protection whenever they are six feet or more above the ground. Finally, particular care must be exercised to avoid inadvertent cutting of climbing ropes, lanyards and safety belts.

**Heavy Machinery:** Working near powered industrial trucks and other larger pieces of equipment always presents a struck-by or caught-in or between risk, especially when workers must use this equipment in an area that has not been designed with safety in mind. Working with heavy equipment at an improvised jobsite, a neighborhood street for instance, presents greater safety challenges than a planned jobsite like the inside of a warehouse or factory.

**Downed Electrical Lines or Other Utilities:** Ensure that tree trimming operations to clear electrical lines are done only by qualified line-clearance technicians who are knowledgeable in the construction and operation of electric power generation, transmission or distribution. All trees must be carefully inspected for the presence of electrical lines and components not only within the tree’s branches, but also within reach of the tree. This “reach” measurement includes tool length. Always assume power lines are live

and not to be touched, and remember that downed lines can energize other objects – water pipes, fences and CATV/fiber optic/telephone lines.

An odorant is added to natural gas lines. That’s what gives the familiar “rotten eggs” smell that helps identify a leak. If you smell this at a jobsite, do not try to approach any gas leaks. Secure any spark-producing devices (engines, tools, electronics, cigarette lighters and so on), and evacuate the area until the leak can be secured by your local utility.

**Chainsaws:** Chainsaws are able to greatly increase worker speed and efficiency, but without proper safety precautions, this equipment can lead to a disastrous injury. Before starting, check the controls, chain tension, bolts and handles to ensure proper adjustment. Plan the cut so that the tree will fall away from you and you will avoid cutting into nails and other pieces of metal. Do not use the saw’s tip. Do not cut directly over your head and shut off the saw if you have to travel more than 50 feet.

**Falling Branches/Debris:** When removing branches or felling trees, it is critical you clear the area of other workers. This includes keeping anyone from working in adjacent areas that are two to three “tree lengths” away. This basic two-to three-length rule must be extended if you have reasonable suspicion the tree will roll. You must minimize the number of people at risk. Always plan a clear path for retreat in an emergency, and always plan for the direction the tree will fall. Be wary of working near young trees! If you are clearing the weight of branches or logs from a young tree that has been pushed over, that tree can whip back up once the weight is removed.

**Wood Chippers:** Wood chippers are designed to reduce sizeable branches to a mulch-like consistency. These tools represent tremendous risk to employees if the proper precautions are not taken. A clear zone close at both the feed and discharge points must be established. To avoid becoming snagged and pulled into the machine, workers working near the wood chipper should not wear loose clothing. No worker should attempt to un-jam a wood chipper without locking out and tagging out the machine. Employees must follow all the manufacturer’s

recommendations when it comes to machine guarding, operation and other safety issues. Incidents with wood chippers happen in an immediate and catastrophic manner.

**Powered and Other Tools:** Workers must be on the lookout for frayed cords and other potential electrocution risks. Damaged tools and extension cords need to be removed from service. This includes ladders with bent rungs or damaged bracing. There is never an acceptable reason to use a tool which puts a worker at risk.

**Noise:** Anytime workers are exposed to high levels of noise, hearing damage is a distinct possibility. Working with chipper shredders and chainsaws requires the appropriate level of hearing protection at all times. Hearing protection is required when working around potential noise sources and noise levels that exceed 90 dBA. A useful “rule of thumb”—if you cannot hold a conversation in a normal speaking voice with a person who is standing at arm’s length (approximately 3 feet), the noise level may exceed 90 dBA.

## How to Stay Safe

Planning ahead is the key component in a storm clean-up or even general landscaping situation. You must survey the worksite to determine where the risks are. You must coordinate with local utilities if there is any possibility of live electrical or damaged gas or water lines in the area where you will be working. Finally, you must remain aware of your fellow employees’ locations as you are working to ensure your clearing activities do not put others at increased risk.

## Resources for Compliance

For more information about tree trimming and other related activities, please visit: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hurricane/tree-trimming.html>. For questions about worker safety and health, please email INSafe at [insafe@dol.in.gov](mailto:insafe@dol.in.gov) or phone (317) 232-2688.



## It Happened Here: St. Joseph County

**Background:** Felling trees is a specialized skill and requires specialized training, planning and personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure employees are not injured during the process. Even small trees are dangerous and potentially difficult to bring down safely.

**Event:** On November 21, 2013, in St. Joseph County, a crew of workers was clearing an area in order to lay asphalt for a parking lot. The area had small trees and brush, which was being cleared with an excavator. Larger trees in the area were being cut down with a chainsaw. None of the workers had been trained in logging procedures. The victim was clearing the larger trees while another worker used the excavator. The employee in the excavator thought the victim was by his truck and pulled down a small, 4.5-inch diameter tree. The victim was struck by the falling tree and, despite attempts at cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), was declared dead at the scene. Preliminary findings indicated blunt-force trauma to the torso as the cause of death.

**Lessons Learned:** To prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future, employers and employees should:

- Ensure employees have received the appropriate safety and health training. Training should be site and task specific and incorporate hazard recognition so employees can identify and take the appropriate safety precautions.

- Never operate equipment in close enough proximity to each other where one employee’s clearing efforts can fall into another worker’s area.
- If you are not familiar with logging safety procedures, hire specialized contractors to perform the operation.
- Never assume you or your crew of workers is capable of performing work in which you are not familiar.
- Provide employees with the appropriate PPE. Instruct employees on the PPE’s use and storage. Ensure workers wear all necessary PPE.
- Conduct routine jobsites briefings or “toolbox talks” to inform and remind workers of the hazards associated with the jobsite, equipment, task, etc.
- Encourage employees to speak up about workplace safety and health concerns.
- Foster a culture of workplace safety and health. Employers must hold themselves accountable for their employees’ understanding and following of all written safety and health policies, rules, procedures and regulations.

# Partnership

**The** Indiana Department of Labor (IDOL) announced a strategic safety and health partnership with Weigand Construction Company, Inc.; the City of Fort Wayne; and Ash Brokerage in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Weigand Construction is contracted to build the Ash Skyline Plaza, which will house the Ash Brokerage corporate offices, and the Skyline Garage in Fort Wayne.

“By entering into a workplace safety and health partnership, Weigand Construction, the City of Fort Wayne and Ash Brokerage have demonstrated safety is a cornerstone of their daily practices,” said IDOL Commissioner Rick J. Ruble. “Working together will best ensure workers return home safely, and that is our top priority.”

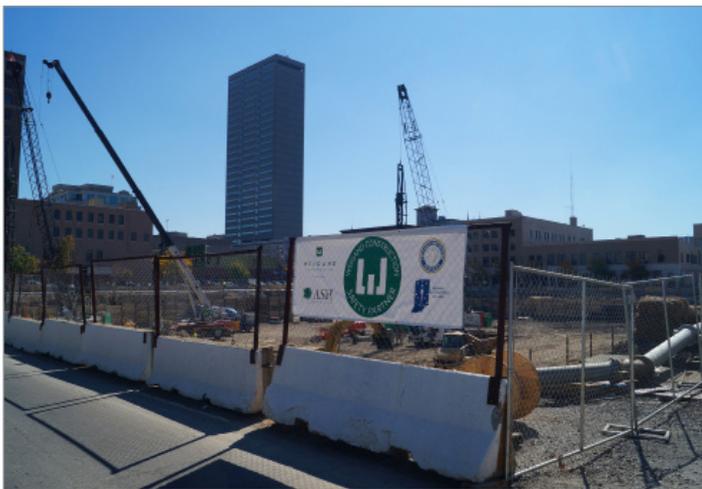
The IDOL’s partnership program embraces collaborative agreements to address critical safety and health issues and ensure safety is a priority from the beginning of a project through its conclusion. The partnership focuses on identifying and correcting workplace safety and health hazards to reduce and eliminate worker injuries and illnesses. As part of the agreement, the Skyline project must maintain a worker injury and illness rate lower than Indiana’s industry average.

“This partnership between Indiana Department of Labor, City of Fort Wayne, Ash Brokerage and Weigand Construction is a relationship-building opportunity, not only for the companies involved, but also for the community at large,” said Weigand Safety Director Greg Musi.

“It is an agreement and a unified concept that incorporates all the fundamentals of a successful construction project: worker safety.”

Weigand Construction must also require fall protection for workers performing activities six or more feet above ground level. “Falls are a leading cause of serious injury and death in construction,” said Ruble. “These incidents can be eliminated when trained workers use the appropriate safety equipment.”

The partnership agreement will remain in effect until the project is completed in 2016. For more information about the partnership, visit [www.in.gov/dol/2387.htm](http://www.in.gov/dol/2387.htm).





**WEIGAND**  
CONSTRUCTION

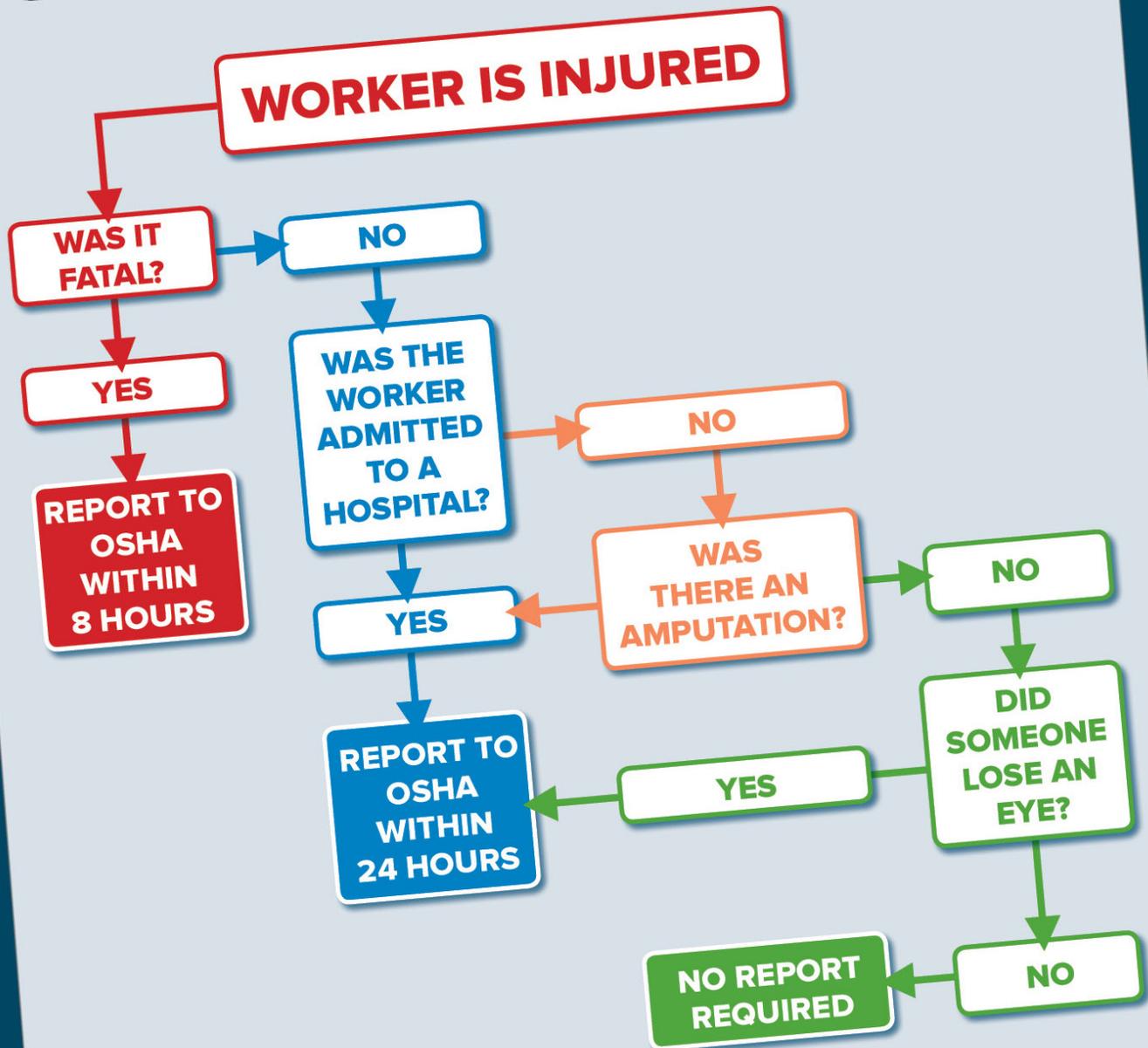
Trust. We'll build.



**ASH**  
ROCKERY



# OSHA's NEW REPORTING EXPLAINED



## HOW DO I REPORT?

Call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742) or your local OSHA office  
Report online at [www.osha.gov/report\\_online](http://www.osha.gov/report_online)

# You Asked, We Answered - New Reporting Requirements



**Why is the OSHA Recordkeeping Rule changing?** Federal OSHA has determined that focusing on the serious injury of any employee, not just when multiple employees are involved, will catch larger problems before they become catastrophes.

**When does this rule change take effect?** The reporting rule will take effect federally on January 1, 2015. As a state plan state, Indiana generally adopts federal changes 60 days after the change is implemented. This means the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA) will begin enforcing the new reporting procedures on or after March 1, 2015.

**Why does Indiana delay adopting federal standards?** Indiana generally delays adopting federal standards by 60 days to ensure Hoosier businesses have time to adapt their business practices to any new rules. The delay also allows any changes which need to be made at the federal level to be made clear before Indiana adopts the standard.

**Do I have to report every work-related injury to IOSHA?** Not necessarily. Employers subject to the OSHA recordkeeping requirements must still maintain the appropriate documentation, which includes the OSHA 300 log, 300(A) summary and either the 301 first report of injury or an equivalent form. However, employers will now be required to report work-related employee hospitalizations and all amputations or loss of an eye(s) to IOSHA.

There are some exceptions. If an employee is taken to the hospital for observation or testing, that particular incident does not require an immediate report or

notification to IOSHA. Employers are required to report only in-patient hospitalization that involves care or treatment.

**How does OSHA define amputation?** Amputations include a part, such as a limb or an appendage, that has been severed, cut off or amputated (either completely or partially); fingertip amputations with or without bone loss; medical amputations resulting from irreparable damage; and amputations of body parts that have since been reattached. Amputations do not include avulsions (tissue torn away from the body), enucleations (removal of the eyeball), degloving (skin torn away from the underlying tissue), scalping (removal of the scalp), severed ears or broken or chipped teeth.

**Where can I go to learn more information about this update?** More information including answers to frequently asked questions, fact sheets and guides for the OSHA Recordkeeping Rule update is available on federal OSHA's webpage at [www.osha.gov/recordkeeping2014/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping2014/index.html)

**Who can I call to get clarification if I'm not sure about whether I should report something?** Employers may contact INSafe with questions or concerns about workplace safety and health, including OSHA Recordkeeping. Call INSafe at (317) 232-2688, or email your inquiry to [insafe@dol.in.gov](mailto:insafe@dol.in.gov).

INSafe also provides free workplace safety and health consultation to Hoosier employers by request. Learn more about INSafe online at [www.in.gov/dol/insafe](http://www.in.gov/dol/insafe). Employers may initiate a request for free workplace safety and health consultation by completing and submitting the form online at [www.in.gov/dol/insafeconsultation](http://www.in.gov/dol/insafeconsultation).

*Are you in on it?*

## Join the conversation!

Your questions answered

Latest safety and health news

Updates from wage and hour



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On July 18, 2014, Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann honored 17 Indiana high school and college students who earned \$5,000 scholarships by urging their social media followers to “Drive Now. TXT L8R.” The celebration was held at the Indiana Statehouse.

“A texting driver is 23 times more likely to get into a crash than a non-texting driver,” said Lt. Governor Ellspermann, who voted for the 2011 ban while serving in Indiana’s House of Representatives. “Instead of making a tragic mistake behind the wheel, Hoosier high school and college students put their smartphones to good use educating others.”

During Distracted Driving Awareness Month in April, a total of 179 students posted more than 7,000 tweets and 47 photos or videos using Instagram or Vine. Staff from the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, Indiana Department of Labor, Indiana Department of Transportation and Indiana State Police tracked the posts and judged the entries that were the most creative.

The U.S. Department of Transportation reported that in 2009, more than 5,400 people died in crashes linked to driver distraction. The majority of text message citations and warnings issued by Indiana State Police last year were for drivers under age 30.

The “Drive Now. TXT L8R.” contest was funded through a federal grant by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. More information about the contest and winning entries may be found at [www.txtl8r.in.gov](http://www.txtl8r.in.gov). Follow @INDeptofLabor or “like” the Indiana Department of Labor’s Facebook page for more information about a future scholarship opportunity coming in January!



Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann with the winners of the 2014 Drive Now, Text Later scholarship contest.



### College Division

- Most Tweets, Retweets and Favorites on Twitter: Melanie Shebel from Purdue University North Central
- Most Creative on Instagram: Emily Morris from University of Indianapolis
- Most Likes on Instagram: Shakeya Caines from Ball State University
- Most Creative on Vine: Austin Hoffman and Logan Schroering from University of Southern Indiana
- Most Likes on Vine: Abdiel Garcia and Abner Garcia from Ivy Tech Community College

### High School Division

- Most Tweets, Retweets and Favorites on Twitter: Hannah Kline and Marcos Navarro from Warsaw Community High School
- Most Creative on Instagram: Skyler Blanton, Madi Rogers and Allie Bertram from Jennings County High School -
- Most Likes on Instagram: Laura Brown, Leah Hoff and Hunter Crispin from Rochester High School
- Most Creative on Vine: Erica Brown from Pike High School
- Most Likes on Vine: Omar El-Khodary from Signature School

# Upcoming Training Opportunities

**Mid-America OSHA Education Center sponsored training:** For more information about Mid-America OSHA Education Center, please visit [www.midamericaosha.org/](http://www.midamericaosha.org/). Course fees are established by Mid-America OSHA Education Center and are available on their website. **Note, you must create an account at Mid-America OSHA to sign up for training courses.**

Date	Sponsor	Class	Location	Time
02-13-2015	Mid-America OSHA Education Center	OSHA 7505 - Intro to Accident Investigation	IGC-S	8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
03-02-2015	Mid-America OSHA Education Center	OSHA 510 - Standards for Construction Industry	INTECH	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
03-23-2015	Mid-America OSHA Education Center	OSHA 500 - Trainer Course	INTECH	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## Recognizing Excellence

**Recognizing Excellence** spotlights Hoosier employers and their employees for their efforts in achieving status in either the Indiana Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) or Indiana Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (INSHARP). The Indiana Department of Labor congratulates the following employers and employees for their efforts to ensure Hoosier occupational safety and health. Additional information on INSHARP and VPP may be found online at [www.in.gov/dol/2824.htm](http://www.in.gov/dol/2824.htm)

### INSHARP

**New:** River Metals Recycling, LLC (Greensburg)  
Hewitt Molding Company (Oakford)  
SIRS Industries (Ferdinand)

**Recertified:** Olan Industries (Washington)  
ProBuild (Terre Haute)  
Quadrant EPP (Fort Wayne)  
Fishers Pediatric Dentistry (Fishers)

### VPP

**New:** Marathon Petroleum Company (MPC) LP (Indianapolis)  
Paoli (Orleans)

**Recertified:** Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (Mt. Vernon)  
Cintas Corporation Location 366 (Frankfort)  
Kimball National Office Furniture (Jasper)



## Indiana Labor Insider

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is a free electronic newsletter of the Indiana Department of Labor's onsite OSHA consultation division, INSafe.



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