

Indiana

Department of Labor

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

MICHAEL R. PENCE, GOVERNOR
Rick J. Ruble, Commissioner

402 West Washington Street, Room W195
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2751

Phone: (317) 232-2655
Fax: (317) 233-3790

July 28, 2017

Joe Pettijohn
Owen County Highway Department
2032 N. US Hwy 231
Spencer, IN 47460

RE: Inspection # 318088085

Dear Mr. Pettijohn:

An inspection of the Owen County Highway Department was initiated on May 5th, 2017 investigating a fatality that occurred.

On or about 5/5/2017 a crew from the Owen county highway department was working on a county road (approx. 100 ft. from the corner of Jones Rd. and Little Mount Rd.) in Gosport Indiana (Owen County) clearing trees at 6 am with limited sunlight and no High Visibility vests, ear protection, and no safety glasses. A car was speeding and did not slow down when it swerved around the work truck and contacted the two employees. Both employees were thrown from the impact, the deceased traveled approx. 17 feet to the shoulder of the county road (left side) and the other employee suffered minor injuries and was found approx. 8 feet in the grass next to the county road (right side)

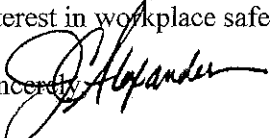
An OSHA standard applies but due to the lack of programs, training and personal protective equipment it's considered appropriate at this time to invoke IC 22-8-1.1, Section 2, the General Duty Clause of the Indiana Code, no citation will be issued for this hazard.

In the interest of workplace safety and health, I recommend that you take the following steps voluntarily to eliminate or reduce your employee's exposure to the hazard described above:

- The Owen County Highway Department should schedule an appointment with INSafe and have them help build safety programs to include but not limited to, hazardous communication programs, lock out tag out programs, OSHA recordkeeping and the use and implementation of PPE

You may voluntarily provide the Indiana Department of Labor with progress reports on your efforts to address these conditions. You can request free consultation, including on-site visits, from INSAFE which operates independently from the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA) regarding workplace safety and health issues at (317) 232-2688 or <https://secure.in.gov/dol/2386.htm>. Your interest in workplace safety and health is appreciated.

Sincerely,


Julie C. Alexander, J.D.
Director, General Industry

JCA:des/hd

certified mail # 7016 3010 0001 0290 2996 7-28-17 jfo



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

ERIC HOLCOMB, GOVERNOR
Rick J. Ruble, Commissioner
402 West Washington Street, Room W195
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2751
Phone: (317) 232-2655
Fax: (317) 233-3790

July 27, 2017

Owen County Highway Department
2032 North US Highway 231
Spencer, IN 47460

RE: Inspection Number 318088085

Dear : *Ma Petti John*

The Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration conducted an inspection at Owen County Highway Department located in Spencer, IN 47460. The inspection was completed on 5/5/2017. Enclosed is the Safety Order and Notification of Penalty resulting from this inspection.

As a public sector entity, please note that the associated penalties have been deferred pending receipt of evidence of corrective action. This is in conformance with the attached Inspection & Enforcement Policy-Public Sector Worksites & Employees.

Fifteen working days have been initially provided in which to provide evidence of corrective action. Extensions of this time may be accomplished by contacting this office and making arrangements with an IOSHA Supervisor or Director. We will make every effort to accommodate your reasonable requests for extension. However, unless such arrangements have been made, abatement documentation is expected by the date identified on the Safety Order. Please be advised that failure to provide timely documentation of corrective action will result in a follow-up inspection and the imposition of the deferred penalties for all unabated conditions.

It is our intention to work cooperatively with you in improving the safety and health conditions of our public sector employees.

Sincerely,

Julie C. Alexander, J.D.
Director of General Industry

JCA:

**PUBLIC SECTOR INSPECTION AND ENFORCMENT POLICY
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish the Agency's policy and procedures for all employees associated with the inspection and enforcement of proper standards regarding public sector employers and employees.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all safety compliance and consultative staff.

POLICY:

To assure the fair and equal enforcement of the laws of the State of Indiana, prior policies or procedures that may have exempted public employers from enforcement acts and activities by the Indiana Department of Labor are immediately revoked.

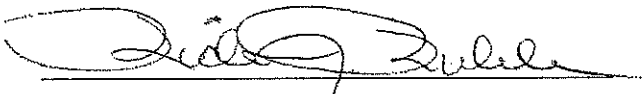
Enforcement of all safety and health standards and requirements shall apply equally to public and private sector employers and employees. Any and all statutorily mandated or established exemptions for public sector employers shall also be applicable to public sector employees.

This policy is implemented to assure that "Every employer and place of employment under the jurisdiction of the Department of Labor...shall: (1) furnish employment that is safe for the employees therein; (2) furnish and use safety devices, safeguards, methods, and processes reasonably adequate to render employment and place of employment safe; and (3) do every other thing reasonably necessary to protect the safety of the employee." IC 22-1-1-10.

Recognizing that worker safety is the paramount purpose and goal of the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Act and recognizing that public sector employers receive all funding from the taxpayers of their respective jurisdictions, the Commissioner of Labor and designees shall use reasonable discretion in assessing and collecting fines and penalties regarding public sector employers, as long as abatement of all cited health and safety violations are promptly and thoroughly undertaken and documented. Failure of public sector employers to abate and correct safety and health violations may result in the assessment and collection of statutorily authorized fines, penalties, and costs.

REFERENCES: IC 22-1-1-10

Effective: 10-11-2013



Date: 10/11/2013

Rick J. Ruble, Interim Commissioner of Labor

Indiana Department of Labor

Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration
402 West Washington St - Room W195
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317-232-2691 FAX: (317)233-3790



Certified Mail # 76163010 00010290 2996 7-28-17 jfs

Safety Order and Notification of Penalty

To:
Owen County Highway Department
2032 North US Highway 231
Spencer, IN 47460

Inspection Number: 318088085
CSHO ID: B6160
Optional Report No.: 0334-17
Inspection Date(s): 5/5/2017
Issuance Date: 7/28/2017

Inspection Site:
Jones Road and Little Mount Road
Gospport, IN 47433

The violation(s) described in this Safety Order and Notification of Penalty is (are) alleged to have occurred on or about the day(s) the inspection was made unless otherwise indicated within the description given below.

An inspection of your place of employment has revealed conditions which we believe do not comply with the provisions of the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Act (Indiana Code Chapter 22-8-1.1) or the standards or rules adopted thereunder. Accordingly, enclosed please find safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty describing such violation(s) with references to applicable standards, rules, or provisions of the statute and stating the amount of any penalty(ies).

Informal Conference - Please be advised that it may be possible to informally settle any potential dispute without initiating the more elaborate proceedings brought on by a petition for review. Prior to filing a petition for review, you may request an informal conference concerning any of the results of the inspection (safety orders, penalties, abatement dates, etc.) by contacting the Indiana Department of Labor/IOSHA, preferably by telephone, in a prompt manner. Please be advised that a request for an informal conference cannot extend the fifteen working day period for filing a petition for review. Informal conferences frequently resolve any possible disputes, and therefore you are urged to take advantage of this opportunity. Because of the limited time period and in order to facilitate scheduling, any requests for an informal conference should be made promptly upon your receipt of the safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty.

Right to Contest - You are hereby also notified that you are entitled to seek administrative review of the safety order(s), penalty(ies), or both by filing a written petition for review at the above address postmarked within fifteen working days of your receipt of the safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty. ("Working days" means Mondays through Fridays, but does not include Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays under a state statute or days on which the Indiana Department of Labor's offices are closed during regular business hours). If you do not file such a petition for review (contest), the safety order(s)

and penalty(ies) shall be deemed final orders of the Board of Safety Review and not subject to review by any court or agency. The issuance of a safety order does not constitute a finding that a violation has occurred unless no petition for review is filed, or if a petition for review (contest) is filed, it must contain a statement of its basis and should reference the above inspection number. Upon receipt of your petition for review, we will affirm, amend or dismiss the safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty. If we affirm, your petition for review will be granted (unless it was not timely) and the dispute will be certified by the Board of Safety Review for further proceedings. The Board of Safety Review is an independent agency appointed by the governor with authority to conduct hearings and to issue decisions concerning disputed safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty. If we amend the safety order(s) or notification(s) of penalty, your petition for review shall be deemed moot. However, you will then be given an opportunity to file a petition for review concerning the amended safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty.

Please be advised that an employee or representative of employees may file a petition for review to contest the reasonableness of the time stated in the safety order(s) for the abatement of any violation.

Posting - Upon receipt of any safety order(s) you are required to post such safety order(s), or a copy thereof, unedited, at or near each place an alleged violation referred to in the safety order(s) occurred. However, if your operations are such that it is not practicable to post the safety order(s) at or near each place of alleged violation, such safety order(s) shall be posted, unedited, in a prominent place where it will be readily observable by all affected employees. For example, if you are engaged in activities which are physically dispersed, the safety order(s) may be posted at the location from which the employees operate to carry out their activities. You must take steps to ensure that the safety order is not altered, defaced, or covered by other material. Posting shall be until the violation is abated, or for three working days, whichever is longer.

Penalties - Penalties are due within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of this notification unless contested. Abatement does not constitute payment of penalties.

Abatement - The conditions cited in the safety order(s) must be corrected (abated) on or before the date shown for each item on the safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty unless:

(1) You file a petition for review concerning the violation, in which case the full abatement period shall commence from the issuance of a final decision by the Board of Safety Review or the courts which requires compliance with the safety order; or

(2) The abatement period is extended by the granting of a petition for modification of abatement date.

PMAs - The petition for modification of abatement date is a manner in which you may seek additional time to correct (abate) a violation without having to file a petition for review concerning the safety order, or after the expiration of the time period to file such a petition for review when it becomes apparent that you need extra time to abate the violation. A petition for modification of abatement date shall be in writing and shall include the following information:

(1) All steps you have taken, and the dates of such actions, in an effort to achieve compliance during the prescribed abatement period.

(2) The specific additional abatement time necessary in order to achieve compliance.

(3) The reasons such additional time is necessary, including the unavailability of professional or technical personnel or of materials and equipment, or because necessary construction or alteration of facilities cannot be completed by the original abatement date.

(4) All available interim steps being taken to safeguard employees against the cited hazard during the abatement period.

(5) A certification that a copy of the petition has been posted, and if appropriate, served on the authorized representative of affected employees, and a certification of the date upon which such posting and service was made.

A petition for modification of abatement date shall be filed with the Indiana Department of Labor/IOSHA no later than the close of the next working day following the date on which abatement was originally required. A later-filed petition shall be accompanied by the employer's statement of exceptional circumstances explaining the delay. A copy of such petition shall be posted in a conspicuous place where all affected employees will have notice thereof or near such location where the violation occurred. The petition shall remain posted until the time period for the filing of a petition for review of the Commissioner's granting or denying the petition expires. Where affected employees are represented by an authorized representative, said representative shall be served a copy of such petition.

Notification of Corrective Action - Correction of the alleged violations which have an abatement period of thirty (30) days or less should be reported in writing to us promptly upon correction. A "Letter of Abatement" form and an "Abatement Photographs" worksheet are enclosed for your assistance in providing adequate documentation of abatement. Reports of corrections should show specific corrective action on each alleged violation and the date of such action. On alleged violations with abatement periods of more than thirty (30) days, a written progress report should be submitted, detailing what has been done, what remains to be done, and the time needed to fully abate each such violation. When the alleged violation is fully abated, we should be so advised. Timely correction of an alleged violation does not affect the initial proposed penalty..

Followup Inspections - Please be advised that a followup inspection may be made for the purpose of ascertaining that you have posted the safety order(s) and corrected the alleged violations. Failure to correct an alleged violation may result in additional penalties for each day that the violation has not been corrected.

Employer Discrimination Unlawful - The law prohibits discrimination by an employer against an employee for filing a complaint or for exercising any rights under this Act. An employee who believes that he/she has been discriminated against may file a complaint no later than 30 days after the discrimination occurred with the Indiana Department of Labor/IOSHA at the address shown above.

Notice to Employees - The law gives an employee or his/her representative the opportunity to object to any abatement date set for a violation if he/she believes the date to be unreasonable. The contest must

be mailed to the Indiana Department of Labor/IOSHA at the address shown above within fifteen (15) working days (excluding weekends and State holidays) or receipt by the employer of this safety order and penalty.

If you wish additional information, you may direct such requests to us at the address or telephone number stated above.

Indiana Department of Labor

NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE

An informal conference has been scheduled with IOSHA to discuss the safety order(s) issued on 7/28/2017. The conference will be held at the IOSHA office located at 402 West Washington Street, Room W195, Indianapolis, IN 46204 on _____ at _____. Employees and/or representatives of employees have a right to attend an informal conference.

Indiana Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Date(s):5/5/2017

Inspection Number: 318088085
Inspection
Issuance Date: 7/28/2017
CSHO ID:B6160
Optional Report No.: 0334-17

Safety Order and Notification of Penalty

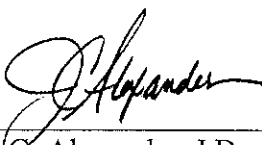
Company Name: Owen County Highway Department
Inspection Site: 2032 North US Highway 231, Spencer, IN 47460

Safety Order 01 Item 001 Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.132(a): Protective equipment, including personal protective equipment for eyes, face, head, and extremities, protective clothing, respiratory devices, and protective shields and barriers, shall be provided, used, and maintained in a sanitary and reliable condition wherever it is necessary by reason of hazards of processes or environment, chemical hazards, radiological hazards, or mechanical irritants encountered in a manner capable of causing injury or impairment in the function of any part of the body through absorption, inhalation or physical contact:

County Road corner of Jones Road and Little Mount Road, Gosport, Indiana, On or about 5/5/2017 employees were exposed to struck by hazards due to not wearing Hi Visibility PPE while clearing a tree from the road.

Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated: 8/30/2017
Proposed Penalty: \$7,000.00



Julie C. Alexander, J.D.
Director of General Industry

Indiana Department of Labor

Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration
402 West Washington St - Room W195
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: (317)232-2691 FAX: (317)233-3790



INVOICE/DEBT COLLECTION NOTICE

Company Name: Owen County Highway Department
Inspection Site: 2032 North US Highway 231, Spencer, IN 47460
Issuance Date: 7/28/2017

Summary of Penalties for Inspection Number: 318088085

Safety Order 1, Serious = \$7,000.00
TOTAL PENALTIES = \$7,000.00
= \$0.00 Upon completion of abatement

Penalties are due within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of this notification unless contested. Make your check or money order payable to: "Indiana DOL/IOSHA". Please indicate IOSHA's Inspection Number (indicated above) on the remittance.

IOSHA does not agree to any restrictions or conditions or endorsements put on any check or money order for less than full amount due, and will cash the check or money order as if these restrictions, conditions, or endorsements do not exist.

Corrective action, taken by you for each alleged violation should be submitted to this office on or about the abatement dates indicated on the Safety Order and Notification of Penalty.

A work sheet has been provided to assist in providing the required abatement information. A completed copy of this work sheet should be posted at the worksite with the safety order(s).

Julie C. Alexander, J.D.
Director of General Industry

7-28-2017

Date