

NOTES FROM SARI MEETING

May 20, 2009

The speaker was Michael Gross, a Compliance Safety Officer from the Providence OSHA office, who presented an OSHA Update. Mr. Gross cited BLS statistics that showed 28,401 workplace fatalities between 2003 and 2007, compared to an average of 15,000 per year prior to the establishment of OSHA in 1970. The most common causes of work-related fatalities are Transportation, Assaults/violent acts, and Falls.

The Top 10 most cited OSHA regulations nationally in 2008 for General Industry are: Hazard Communication; Respiratory Protection; Lockout/Tagout; Electrical wiring methods; Powered Industrial Trucks; Machine Guarding; Electrical Systems Design; Mechanical Power Transmission Apparatus; Personal Protective Equipment; and, Guarding Floor/Wall Openings and holes.

The Top 10 for Construction in 2008 were: Scaffolding; Fall Protection; Ladders; Fall Protection Training; Hazard Communication; Aerial Lifts; General Safety & Health Provisions; Excavations; Head Protection; and, Scaffolding Training Requirements.

OSHA's 2010 budget will be increased by \$51 million, providing for 130 additional Compliance Safety Officers. There will be increased enforcement of safety violations, including expanding OSHA's oversight to state and government workers. Expect stricter penalties for violations, with penalties indexed to inflation, establishment of monetary penalties for incidents involving workplace fatalities, referrals of citations to the Dept. of Justice for prosecution, improved whistleblower protection, and, involving of families of workers killed on the job in the litigation process.