

NIOSH is seeking comments on the scope and presentation of scientific information used to support research for asbestos fibers and other EMPs.

NIOSH seeking comments on its draft intelligence bulletin concerning asbestos fibers, other elongated mineral particles

By Edwin S. Hopson
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The U.S. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is responsible for conducting research and making recommendations for the prevention of worker injury and illness.

Recently, NIOSH requested comment by Sept. 30, 2008, on its proposed revised draft Current Intelligence Bulletin entitled “Asbestos Fibers and Other Elongated Mineral Particles: State of the Science and Roadmap for Research.”

Asbestos has been and continues to be a very visible public health issue. According to NIOSH, however, “The scientific literature has various inconsistencies and inconclusive evidence which have led to uncertainties in identifying and applying the term asbestos for health and regulatory purposes.”

Thus, NIOSH has put together a workgroup to investigate this matter and is now considering the scientific research needs to reduce the uncertainties in the science based on which worker protection policies for asbestos fibers and other elongated mineral particles (EMPs) have been formulated.

The outcome of this research will drive how NIOSH views occupational exposure to various minerals when there is a potential for inhalational of EMPs.

NIOSH earlier developed and disseminated a first draft of the document titled “Asbestos and Other Mineral Fibers: A Roadmap for Scientific Research,” and invited comments. As a result of comments received, NIOSH substantially revised the earlier draft.

According to NIOSH, the purpose of the proposed

document is “to outline major areas of controversy and to recommend a research framework that can serve as a guide for the development of specific research programs within and across disciplines ... [and] to provide answers to current scientific questions, reduce scientific uncertainties, and provide a sound scientific foundation for future policy development so that optimal health protection can be assured.”

This proposed draft, according to NIOSH, is intended as one step in the process. It is hoped that this will help focus the scope of the research in order to ultimately improve occupational and public health policies and practices.

Specifically, NIOSH is seeking comments on the scope and presentation of scientific information used to support the development of a research framework for asbestos fibers and other EMPs, and especially the following revisions to the draft document:

- A discussion of particle characteristics (e.g., dimension, chemistry) and their potential influence on biological responses (Sections 1.6.1, 1.6.2, 1.6.3, and 1.6.4);
- Toxicological research on EMPs (Section 2.2);
- Epidemiological studies of workers exposed to EMPs (Section 2.3.3); and,
- Capabilities and limitations of analytical instruments used to identify EMPs (Section 2.4.2).

NIOSH also seeks comments on the following new content in the document:

- A rephrasing of the NIOSH recommended exposure limit (REL) for asbestos and related EMPs (Section 1.8.2);
- The inclusion of how the proposed research could lead to the development of improved public

health policies for asbestos and other EMPs (Section 2.5);

- Clinical issues (Section 1.4); and
- Recommendations for clinical research (Section 2.3.4).

The draft bulletin entitled “Asbestos Fibers and Other Elongated Mineral Particles: State of the Science and Roadmap for Research” can be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/review/public/099/pdfs/revisedNIOSHAsbestosRoadmap_2008_draft.pdf. ▲

Safety and Health Training Schedule

September 29 - October 3, 2008

The following are free courses offered by the state OSHA agency. Register Online at <http://rsvpbook.com/event.php?63319>, or call 502-564-3070.

Owensboro

The Hines Center, One Wellness Drive, Philpot, Ky.

Agenda

Monday, September 29

Overview of Kentucky OSH Program 8:30-11:30 a.m.
This session discusses the obligation to provide a safe and healthy workplace. Topics include the Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health program, including enforcement and voluntary compliance services, and topics being considered for future standards and policies.

Injury/Illness Recordkeeping 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
For those persons responsible for maintaining the revised injury and illness records. Forms 300, 301, 300A will be covered, as well as regulations and guidelines for recordkeeping, and the compliance directive the KY OSH compliance officer will use to evaluate your records.

Tuesday, September 30

Lockout/Tagout 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
This session familiarizes participants with Kentucky's lockout/tagout standard. Topics addressed include training requirements, documentation required, hardware, and group lockout procedures.

Introduction to Basic Electrical Safety 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Introduces participants to basic electrical concepts and hazards associated with them in general industry. The focus of the class is to show hazards looked for by KY OSH while conducting safety and health audits. Will familiarize students with the CFR 1910.300 through 1910.308 OSHA electrical standards. Topics include electrical hazards associated with the use of electric uti-

lization systems, wiring design and method, wiring protection, wiring components, electrical definitions, proper examination of electric equipment, electric equipment for specific locations, and acceptable installation and use of both portable and fixed electric equipment.

Wednesday October 1

Keeping New Employees Safe - Orientation That Works. 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

New and young employee injury rates are far in excess of their proportion in the workforce. Good company cultures set patterns for socializing newcomers. Prepare, show, tell, do and review are key training words. This course will help participants improve the safety component of new-hire orientation.

Back Care and Office Ergonomics 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Explains why many back injuries occur from lifting and how they may be prevented. The office ergonomics portion focuses on recognizing risk factors, reducing worker stress, and avoiding potential muscular skeletal disorders associated with everyday computer use.

Thursday October 2nd

Developing an Ergonomics Process 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

This session provides information, essential steps, and tools for developing an in-house ergonomics process. Students learn how to use a blueprint designed to help management and employees interact as a team in establishing achievable goals, objectives, and action plans.

Health Hazard Recognition 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

This session provides basic procedures to identify potential health hazards for those persons responsible for safety and health in the workplace that lack expertise in the industrial hygiene field. Topics of discussion include safety and health audits to anticipate, recognize, evaluate, and control health hazards in the workplace, types of health hazards common to the workplace, and, an overview of hazard monitoring methodology. While this course will not teach the attendee how to practice industrial hygiene, it will provide information as to the role of the industrial hygienist in industry and assist in determining when it may be necessary to utilize the services of an industrial hygienist.

Friday October 3

Fire Safety and Protection 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

This session introduces the participant to the recognition of potential fire hazards and emergency procedures. Topics include the chemistry of fire, types and effectiveness of extinguishing agents, means of egress, detection and alarm systems, fire brigades, fire prevention plans. 29 CFR 1910 Subparts E and L, and references to NFPA codes, provide the basis for the course. ▲

Next
KY OSH
free
training
courses
will be
given in
Owens-
boro
(The
Hines
Center in
Philpot),
Sept. 29
through
Oct. 3.

JUNE CITATIONS & FINES

Below is a partial listing of the citations and fines issued by the Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health agency during the month of June 2008. Provided here are summaries of the citations and the total amount of the fine. A company has 15 working days from receipt of the citations and proposed penalties to either elect to comply with them, to request and participate in an informal conference with the KOSH area director, or to contest them before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

MAGIC SPARKLE CAR WASH

5321 Preston Hwy., Louisville

Inspection site: 5321 Preston Hwy., Louisville

6-6-08

\$24,000

Failure to Abate

- Employer did not provide emergency eyewash or shower for employees working with corrosive chemicals, including hydrofluoric acid and sulfuric acid. \$12,000
- Employer did not implement and maintain at each workplace a written hazard communication program. \$12,000

SHIV OF ASHLAND DBA KNIGHTS INN

7216 U.S. 60, Ashland

Inspection site: 7216 U.S. 60, Ashland

6-19-08

\$13,500

Serious

- Employer did not provide emergency eyewash and shower for housekeeping employees using bleach and other corrosive cleaners. \$1,500
- Employer did not assess workplace to determine need for PPE. \$1,500
- Employer did not provide proper eye and face protection for housekeeping employees working with bleach and other corrosive cleaners; employer did not establish written exposure control plan for employees potentially exposed to blood. \$1,500
- Employer did not provide appropriate sharps container for housekeeping employees who might find discarded syringes in rooms. \$1,500
- Employer did not ensure that linens contaminated with blood were placed in properly labeled bags and containers. \$1,500
- Employer did not provide hepatitis B vaccine and vaccination series for housekeeping employees exposed to blood. \$1,500
- Employer did not properly train employees who encounter blood. \$1,500
- Employer did not maintain a written hazard communication plan for housekeeping employees working with bleach and other corrosive cleaners. \$1,500
- Employer did not properly train employees on potential dangers of hazardous chemicals in their work area. \$1,500

Other

- Employer did not ensure that employees on site were trained in and able to provide first aid. \$0

KOBE ALUMINUM AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS

525 Central Court, Bowling Green

Inspection site: 525 Central Court, Bowling Green

6-5-08

\$10,375

Serious

- Employer did not provide emergency eyewash or shower for employees working with corrosive chemicals. \$3,500
- Settling tank was not effectively marked as a permit-required confined space. \$1,375
- Employer did not ensure employee cleaning settling tank was not exposed to an oxygen-deficient atmosphere. \$1,375
- Atmospheric testing and monitoring equipment was not provided or used for employee cleaning settling tank; no body harness or other emergency equipment were in place for employee in tank in case a rescue was needed. \$1,375
- No entry supervisor was designated for employee entering permit-required confined space (settling tank). \$1,375
- Employer did not provide employees with training on permit-required confined spaces. \$1,375

EMERSON ELECTRIC CO.

150 Emerson By-Pass Road, Russellville

Inspection site: 150 Emerson By-Pass Road, Russellville

6-20-08

\$8,500

Serious

- Employees were exposed to eight-hour time-weighted average of 100 ppm of carbon monoxide. \$4,250
- Employer did not develop, implement and maintain a written hazard communication program; employees voluntarily sought medical observation after being exposed to carbon monoxide. \$2,125
- Employer did not provide employees with effective information and training on the hazards of carbon monoxide in their work area. \$2,125

HARTFORD STANDARD CO.

816 Oakwood Dr., Hartford

Inspection site: 816 Oakwood Dr., Hartford

6-5-08

\$8,250

Serious

- Employer's lockout/tagout program was deficient; employer did not properly train employee on proper lockout/tagout procedures. \$375
- Point of operation on press brake was not properly guarded. \$1,500
- Two-hand controls on mechanical power presses did not require concurrent use. \$1,500
- Points of operation on five power presses were not properly

guarded. \$1,500

- Mechanical power presses were not equipped with control systems or brake monitors. \$1,500
- Employer did not establish regular inspections for mechanical power presses. \$1,500
- Unused opening in breaker box was not guarded. \$375

Other

- Employer had not certified that a workplace hazard assessment of PPE had been conducted. \$0
 - Employees provided with fire extinguishers were not trained on their use. \$0
 - Employer did not conduct daily inspection on industrial truck. \$0
 - Unused openings on power press control box were not covered. \$0
 - Employer had not developed, implemented nor maintained a written hazard communication program. \$0
 - Employer did not provide training for employees using/storing oils, lubricants and compounds. \$0
-

TOP LINE CONTRACTING

2455 Sulpher Creek Road, Columbia

Inspection site: U.S. 60, Frankfort

6-12-08

\$7,500

Serious

- Two employees working in trench were not wearing protective helmets. \$1,500
 - Employees working in trench were not provided with a safe means of egress. \$1,500
 - Spoil pile was located directly on edge of trench. \$1,500
 - No competent person inspected excavation for hazardous conditions. \$1,500
 - Two employees working in trench were not provided with cave-in protection. \$1,500
-

CONTINENTAL CONVEYOR AND EQUIPMENT CO.

P.O. Box 189, Salyersville

Inspection site: RR 460, Salyersville

6-6-08

\$6,950

Serious

- Open flames and other ignition sources were within possible path of vapor travel for employee working with Class 1B liquids. \$2,450

Other

- Employer did not orally report a work-related incident that resulted in hospitalization. \$4,500
 - Employer did not provide employees with proper information on respirators. \$0
 - Employer did not provide a hazard communication program for non-routine tasks. \$0
-

CARTER SIGN CO.

194 S. Archer St., Woodbine

Inspection site: 174 Adams Road, Corbin

6-4-08

\$6,000

Serious

- Employer did not conduct regular inspections and maintenance on aerial lift attached to bed of truck, resulting in employee's fatal fall from at least 40 feet. \$1,500
- Employee working in basket of aerial lift was not wearing full-body harness for fall arrest. \$1,500
- Grounding conductor to upper control box of aerial lift was spliced and exposed to the weather. \$750
- Flexible conduit containing wiring was not connected to upper control box. \$750

Other

- Employer did not notify Kentucky Department of Labor within eight hours of the death of an employee. \$1,500
 - Upper controls of aerial lift were not marked as to their function. \$0
-

EMILIANO AGUIRRE

129 Bermuda Lane, Louisville

Inspection site: 2351 Buena Vista Road, Lexington

6-25-08

\$6,000

Repeat Serious

- Ten roofing employees were working at least 18 feet above ground without proper fall protection. \$4,000
 - Employees were exposed to falls while mounting and dismounting ladder that was not secured and did not extend at least three feet above landing surface. \$2,000
-

J.C. INDUSTRIES

273 Terry Blvd., Louisville

Inspection site: 1231 E. Hwy. 22, Crestwood

6-24-08

\$6,000

Repeat Serious

- Two employees working at least 10 feet above the ground were not protected from falling. \$6,000
-

FIRE BRICK ENGINEERS CO.

P.O. Box 341278, Milwaukee, Wisc.

Inspection site: 487 Corn Creek Road, Bedford

6-12-08

\$5,000

Serious

- Employer did not implement a lockout/tagout program or similar procedures to protect employees from unexpected startup. \$2,500
 - Point of operation and ingoing nip points on mixer were not properly guarded. \$2,500
-

LILY CREEK INDUSTRIES
92 Progress Dr., Russell Springs
Inspection site: 92 Progress Dr., Russell Springs
6-12-08 **\$5,000**

Serious

- Employer did not ensure that emergency eyewash or shower was available for employee who charges battery-powered fork-lifts and adds water to batteries. \$1,250
- Employer did not provide safety glasses with side shields for employees wearing prescription lenses. \$1,250
- Employer did not provide annual training to employees who were provided with portable fire extinguishers. \$750
- Employer did not develop a written hazard communication program for employees who work with and around chemicals, including Starchem Rp-70 and StarBright 415; employer did not ensure bottles containing chemicals were properly labeled. \$750

Other

- Employer did not have anyone on site trained to render first aid. \$0
- Employer did not record injury and restricted-duty requirement on the 300 log. \$500
- Employer did not develop or implement a noise-monitoring program; employer did not make audiometric testing available to employees; employer did not institute hearing-protection training. \$500

MONESSEN HEARTH SYSTEMS CO.
149 Cleveland Dr., Paris
Inspection site: 149 Cleveland Dr., Paris
6-20-08 **\$4,500**

Serious

- Hydraulic press brake was not properly guarded, resulting in amputation of thumb. \$4,500

ASSOCIATED PALLETS
P.O. Box 86, Bremen
Inspection site: 71 Premium Dr., South Carrollton
6-13-08 **\$4,250**

Serious

- Band wheels on band saw were not properly guarded. \$875
- Trimmer saw did not have adequate baffles to protect operator from flying debris. \$2,500
- End saw on trim saw was not properly guarded. \$875

FREDERICK AND MAY CONSTRUCTION
P.O. Box 337, West Liberty
Inspection site: 200 Second St., Maysville
6-12-08 **\$3,750**

Serious

- Employees laying metal decking at least 27 feet above ground

- were not protected from falling. \$2,500
- Perimeter safety cables did not have a mid-rail. \$1,250

PILKINGTON NORTH AMERICA
102 Kuhlman Ave., Versailles
Inspection site: 102 Kuhlman Ave., Versailles
6-12-08 **\$3,750**

Serious

- Employees were not protected from the pinch point created by a moving shuttle and a robot cage door frame, injuring employee who tripped and was pinned between the shuttle and door frame. \$3,750

HANSON BRICK
P.O. Box 549, Stanton
Inspection site: 2014 Morris Creek Road, Stanton
6-9-08 **\$3,250**

Serious

- Open-sided floor was not guarded by a standard railing. \$1,625
- Points of operation were not properly guarded on three setter machines. \$1,625

HUNT CONSTRUCTION GROUP
8001 A Crittenden Dr., Louisville
Inspection site: 911 Grade Lane, Louisville
6-20-08 **\$3,250**

Serious

- Hunt Construction supervisor instructed subcontractor employees to access an area with floor openings not installed with covers or guardrails. \$3,250

SHRED-IT USA
10115 Production Court, Louisville
Inspection site: 10115 Production Court, Louisville
6-25-08 **\$3,250**

Other

- Amputation injury that occurred in mobile document shredder truck was not reported to KY OSH within 72 hours of occurrence. \$3,250

TOKICO (USA) INC.
301 Mayde Road, Berea
Inspection site: 301 Mayde Road, Berea
6-5-08 **\$3,250**

Serious

- Shock slide racks used by employees were not designed and fabricated in a manner to prevent racks from overturning,

resulting in employee's serious physical injury when one over-
turned. \$3,250

BEN HUR CONSTRUCTION CO.

3250 Profitt Dr., Fairfield, Ohio

Inspection site: 911 Grade Lane, Louisville

6-24-08

\$3,200

Serious

- Employer did not install covers on or guardrails around struc-
turally designed openings to prevent employees from falling in.
\$3,250

D. KANNAPELL DBA KANNAPELL TREE SERVICE

5215 Cherry Valley, Prospect

Inspection site: 4051 Ormond Road, Louisville

6-20-08

\$3,000

Serious

- Employees working on the ground wore no head protection,
exposing them to falling tree branches. \$1,500

Other

- Employer did not report fatal accident within eight hours of
the accident. \$1,500

INTEGRITY REFRACTORY CO.

4418 E. State Road 144, Mooresville, Ind.

Inspection site: 487 Corn Creek Road, Bedford

6-16-08

\$3,000

Serious

- Employer did not implement a lockout/tagout program or sim-
ilar procedures to protect employee from unexpected startup.
\$1,500
- Point of operation and ingoing nip points on mixer were not
properly guarded. \$1,500

UNCLE CHARLIE'S MEATS

P.O. Box 1028, Richmond

Inspection site: 406 N. Estill Ave., Richmond

6-5-08

\$2,500

Serious

- Adjustable guard on bandsaw was not adjusted to protect
employee from unused portion of the blade. \$2,500

BERNABE DE LEON DBA DE LEON MASONRY

1202 Quest Dr. Apt. 4, Louisville

Inspection site: 145 Buffalo Run Road, Shepherdsville

6-5-08

\$2,100

Serious

- Employees were working on a four-buck scaffold at least 18
feet above ground with no fall protection in place. \$1,500
- Employees were working on a four-buck scaffold at least 18
feet above ground with no toe boards present to prevent bricks
and other materials from falling on other employees. \$600

IRVING MATERIALS, INC.

109 Ready Mix Road, Brandenburg

Inspection site: 109 Ready Mix Road, Brandenburg

6-5-08

\$1,875

Serious

- Cover was missing from electrical box, exposing energized
wires to employees. \$1,875

TRINITY GLASS INTERNATIONAL

P.O. Box 51205, Bowling Green

Inspection site: 115 Corporate Court, Bowling Green

6-13-08

\$1,875

Serious

- Breaker panel did not have lockout devices, exposing employ-
ee to potential electrical shock; lockout device was removed
from machinery. \$375
- Wiring in CNC machine was not installed in accordance with
instructions. \$375
- Wiring in CNC machine was not protected from abrasion.
\$375
- Prepunched outlet box hanging from flexible cord was used as
substitute for fixed wiring. \$375
- Cable supplying heater controls on injection molding machine
was not provided with strain relief. \$375

BREMNER FOOD GROUP

1475 U.S. Hwy. 62 W, Princeton

Inspection site: 1475 U.S. Hwy. 62 W, Princeton

6-9-08

\$1,625

Serious

- Crimper guard had openings larger than permitted, allowing
operator access to cutting blades on crimper. \$1,625

LSI METAL FABRICATION

3871 Turkeyfoot Road, Erlanger

Inspection site: 3871 Turkeyfoot Road, Erlanger

6-9-08

\$1,625

Serious

- Points of operation on two press brakes were not properly
guarded. \$1,625

PRESBYTERIAN HOMES AND SERVICES OF KY
2116 Beuchel Bank Road, Louisville
Inspection site: 2116 Beuchel Bank Road, Louisville
6-5-08 \$1,625

Serious
 • Employees were exposed to electrical hazard while working on energized buss ducts; employees were not provided with proper PPE. \$1,625

ASSOCIATED TUBE USA
333 Peterson Dr., Elizabethtown
Inspection site: 333 Peterson Dr., Elizabethtown
6-13-08 \$1,500

Serious
 • Production line carriage was not properly guarded to prevent employee from being struck by or caught between it and roller supports. \$1,500

FEEMSTER ROOFING
2510 Steel Road, Griffin, Ga.
Inspection site: 237 Alsab Court, Lexington
6-9-08 \$1,500

Serious
 • Four roofing employees working at least 12 feet above ground were not protected from falling. \$1,500

INDEPENDENT STEEL CO.
2781 Coral Ridge Road, Brooks
Inspection site: 1231 E. Hwy. 22, Crestwood
6-23-08 \$1,500

Serious
 • Employee installing decking at least 23 feet above ground was not protected from falling. \$1,500

JAMES MAST DBA J&T CONSTRUCTION
6245 Helena Road, Mayslick
Inspection site: 149 Edwards Ave., Georgetown
6-20-08 \$1,500

Serious
 • Six roofing employees working at least 16 feet above ground were working without proper fall protection. \$1,500

JUAN PABLO ROBLES
272 Bigwood Way, Louisville
Inspection site: 131 Stapleton Way, Georgetown
6-24-08 \$1,500

Serious
 • Employees working on roof at least 11 feet above ground were not protected from falling. \$1,500

MENJIVAR ROOFING
340 Legion Dr., Suite 18, Lexington
Inspection site: 3407 Pimlico Pkwy., Lexington
6-5-08 \$1,500

Serious
 • Six employees working on roof at least 17 feet above ground were not using fall protection. \$1,500

ROGELIO GOMEZ
218 Eric Court, Louisville
Inspection site: 13219 Cane Lane, Louisville
6-25-08 \$1,500

Serious
 • Four roofing employees working at least 11 feet above ground were not protected from falling. \$1,500

NOVELIS CORP.
1430 S. 13th St., Louisville
Inspection site: 1430 S. 13th St., Louisville
6-13-08 \$1,275

Serious
 • Floor holes were not properly guarded. \$1,275

RUTHMAN PUMP & ENGINEERING DBA GUSHER PUMP
22 Ruthman Dr., Dry Ridge
Inspection site: 22 Ruthman Dr., Dry Ridge
6-25-08 \$1,250

Serious
 • Safety latch on hook on two-ton crane was missing; safety latch on hook on one-ton crane was bent. \$625
 • Breaker box was missing covers, exposing live electrical parts. \$625

Other
 • No floor load-limit signs were posted for overhead storage area. \$0
 • Vertical mill did not have required shield to protect operator and others from flying chips or sparks. \$0
 • Circuit breaker box was not labeled to indicate what each breaker controls. \$0
 • Three breaker boxes were blocked by stored items. \$0
 • Junction box had polarity reversed. \$0
 • Employees had transferred oil from original container to unlabeled bottle. \$0 ▲

Decline in workplace injuries reduces cost of employers' WC premiums

The Kentucky Department of Insurance recently announced that the national organization representing insurance companies that write workers' compensation policies in Kentucky, in its annual filing of how much to charge employers for WC coverage, has recommended a reduction of 5.1 percent for non-coal businesses. The National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI), an arm of the insurance companies, collects data on workplace injuries — such as lost wages, level of disabilities and medical payments for injuries — and uses that data to determine how much the insurance companies propose to charge in the coming year for WC premiums, following an administrative procedure, which allows the state insurance commissioner to have certain powers in the matter. The insurance commissioner, Sharon P. Clark, said in a press release that WC premium costs are going down because the NCCI report “shows a continuing decline in the number of workplace injuries and a slight decline in the severity of those claims.” An actuary with NCCI credits OSHA, in part, for the decline in work injuries in Kentucky — another factor being demographics. The actuary said Kentucky has “a higher percentage of workers who are between the ages of 45 and 64, and they have fewer claims.” ▲

Safety & Health Award goes to Western KY Energy and Clark Material Handling Co.

Kentucky Labor Cabinet Secretary J.R. Gray on Aug. 8 presented Western Kentucky Energy the Governor's Safety and Health Award for exceeding 500,000 work hours (two and a half years) without a lost-time injury or illness. The award was presented to the company and its employees for their safety initiatives and record at their K.C. Coleman Station coal-fired plant in Hawesville. Western Kentucky Energy is a subsidiary of E.ON U.S., based in Louisville. This is the K.C. Coleman Station's seventh governor's safety award.

“The Labor Cabinet's No. 1 responsibility is ensuring the safety of Kentucky's workforce,” Deputy Secretary Mark Brown told employees of Clark Material Handling Company during a ceremony Aug. 22 in Louisville, in presenting the company a Governor's Safety and Health Award for working more than 437,000 hours without a “lost-time” injury or illness. It was the 105-year-old company's third governor's safety award. ▲

Fatal injuries in workplace declined last year to lowest number since 1992

There were 5,488 fatal work injuries in the United States in 2007, a decrease of 6 percent from the 5,840 fatal work injuries reported for 2006. Based on those counts, the rate of fatal injuries nationally last year was 3.7 per 100,000 employees, down from 4.0 per 100,000 employees in 2006 and the lowest since the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program was first conducted in 1992. The figure for 2007 is preliminary until a final report is released next April.

Other key findings of the 2007 census were:

- The number of fatal falls in 2007 rose to a series high of 835 — a 39 percent increase since 1992 when the CFOI program was first conducted.
- Transportation incidents, which typically account for two-fifths of all workplace fatalities, fell to a series low of 2,234 cases in 2007.
- Workplace homicides rose 13 percent to 610 in 2007 after reaching a series low of 540 in 2006.
- The number of fatal workplace injuries among protective service occupations rose 19 percent in 2007 to 337, led by an increase in the number of police officers fatally injured on the job.
- Fatal occupational injuries incurred by non-Hispanic Black or African American workers were at the highest level since 1999, but fatal work injuries among Hispanic workers were lower by 8 percent in 2007.

In Kentucky in 2007, the number of fatal injuries dropped from 147 the year before to 112 — of which, 57 were transportation incidents; 10 assaults and violence; 21 contact with objects or equipments; 10 falls; 4 fire and explosions, and 1 other cause.

Nearly all types of transportation fatalities saw sizable decreases in 2007 relative to 2006, including non-highway incidents (down 15 percent); workers struck by vehicle, mobile equipment (down 10 percent); water vehicle incidents (down 28 percent); railway incidents (down 26 percent); and aircraft incidents (down 23 percent). Highway incidents also decreased, but only by 3 percent. ▲