

WORKMAN'S COMP EMPHASIS PROGRAM

OSHA and the Department of Labor have created a Workman's Comp Emphasis Program. They have selected 6 criteria of injuries that they will investigate based on information given to them from the Nebraska Workman's Comp office. This is a Nebraska State wide program that they expect to filter into other states. They review these criteria at the end of each fiscal year. Their fiscal year begins on October 1st. They anticipate a 7th criteria being added in October of 2012.

The criteria are as follows:

- 1) Amputations- Any loss of a limb
- 2) Electric Shocks - Electric injuries of ANY kind
- 3) Noise - This is mostly associated with hearing loss
- 4) Upper Extremities - This was explained to me by OSHA as issues caused by repetitive motion like carpal tunnel.
- 5) Lower Extremities - This was also explained by OSHA as disorders in the lower back to include inflammations caused by moving or lifting.
- 6) Chemical - Chemical accidents of ANY kind. This includes chemicals in the eyes, burning of the skin, ingested chemicals, etc.
- 7) Heat Stroke - This is anything associated with the heat in relation to receiving care. As of July 2012, this is not yet in affect but OSHA has said this will most likely be added in October 2012.

As you can see this is a BROAD spectrum of areas that they can investigate. When any of these accidents are reported to the state, OSHA may come in and inspect at any time.

Four items that you will be asked for during the OSHA visit will be;

- The appropriate state and federal posters (5 in 1 posters)
- A copy of your employee chemical training & Right to Know policy
- A copy of your Blood Borne Pathogens Policy
- A copy of your business safety inspections and safety meeting notes

You will need to show that each of your employees have received the training and signed the policies. The first document they request that you cannot provide it costs \$7,000.00. Each additional form that you do not have or are not using is multiplied. See the example:

Missing one form - \$7,000 fine

Missing two forms – an additional \$14,000 fine

Missing three items – an additional \$21,000 fine

Missing four items – an additional \$28,000 fine

So if you are missing all four forms, it would cost your business **\$70,000!**

If you are missing all four items, you will also be open to a FULL OSHA inspection of your business, not just what the scope of the investigation was that initiated their visit.

*****This information is provided as a rough guide ONLY. None of this information is intended to be taken as law and the Omaha Restaurant Association shall not be held responsible or liable for any misinformation. Please research these topics fully at www.osha.gov or contact your local OSHA office.*****