

U.S. RECORDABLE INJURY AND ILLNESS RATES & LOST WORKDAY RATES LOWEST SINCE BLS BEGAN REPORTING

On June 13, 2005, the Acting Assistant Secretary for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Jonathan L. Snare, told a gathering of safety and health professionals at the American Society of Safety Engineers Annual National Conference in New Orleans, LA, that the nation's recordable injury and illness rates have declined 7.1 percent from 2002 to 2003 and lost workday rates have declined 7.7 percent from 2002 to 2003; both of which are at the lowest level since the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) began reporting this information in the 1970s.

Acting Assistant Secretary Snare described what he called OSHA's "balanced approach" and said that OSHA's new strategic management plan would be the agency's roadmap to continuing success. The Acting Assistant Secretary cited a study completed in 2004 of OSHA's Site-Specific Targeting system and stated that the study demonstrates that the OSHA target system is making a significant difference.

OSHA Inspection Targeting System Validated

According to Acting Assistant Secretary Snare, the study, sponsored by the Department of Labor as part of its oversight of OSHA, found that companies that were inspected by OSHA had injury and illness **declines ranging from 12 to 13.8 percent over the three years following the OSHA inspection.** Further, he stated that the BLS data released in March, along with the 7 percent decline in workplace injuries and illnesses from 2002 to 2003 that BLS reported last December, validated OSHA's policy of targeting outreach and enforcement resources where they will have the most impact. Acting Assistant Secretary Snare noted that these data validated OSHA's Strategic Management Plan and the agency's "balanced approach."

The Acting Assistant Secretary also noted during his keynote address that for the first time in the 50-year history of the World Safety Congress, the United States will be hosting the event in Orlando, FL. This conference is sponsored by the National Safety Council (NSC) and the International Labor Organization (ILO). He noted that OSHA is supporting the conference and participating as a government partner on the national organizing committee.

The full text of the speech Acting Assistant Secretary Snare gave to the Annual National Conference of the American Society of Safety Engineers is found on the OSHA web site at: http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=SPEECHES&p_id=840