



(CompMinute provides a briefing to Texas workers' compensation system participants on new initiatives underway at the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation).

TDI Delivers Safety Training Based on Incidence of Workplace Injuries, Illnesses

(August 21, 2007) The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI), Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) has announced a new service delivery model to train Texas employers and employees about workplace injury and illness prevention. The training efforts for Fiscal Year 2008 will focus on industries and occupations with the highest incidence of occupational injuries and illnesses.

Transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing and service industries are the Texas industries with the highest incidences of occupational injuries and illnesses, based on data collected by TDI for the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The occupations with the highest incidence of injuries and illnesses include truck drivers, construction trades workers and customer service representatives.

Safety training for the targeted industries and occupations is being planned at eight regional safety summits scheduled from October 2007 through August 2008 in Beaumont, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, El Paso, Brownsville, Houston, Lubbock and Dallas/Fort Worth. Planning is also underway for the 12th Annual Texas Safety Summit in Spring 2008.

"We are adding value to our training efforts by concentrating on those industries and jobs where the most injuries occur," said Patricia Gilbert, DWC Executive Deputy Commissioner for Operations. "This change in service delivery will hopefully benefit the workers' compensation system by reducing injuries and illnesses overall in the state."

Case and demographic information from the BLS data shows that Hispanic workers are involved in a high number of work-related fatalities, and workers in the 16-19 years and 65 years and older age groups experience high median days away from work when injured. The Division will also focus its development and delivery of training and education resources to these demographic groups.

TDI provides health and safety resources to employers, employees and other entities that support the Texas workforce to eliminate the occurrence of injuries and hazardous exposures. TDI continues to provide workplace safety materials including video-taped training sessions at no charge to Texas employers. For more information, send an e-mail to: ResourceCenter@tdi.state.tx.us

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