

**N.C. Department of Labor Report on Impact of the Special Emphasis
Inspection Program on Safety and Health Compliance and Enforcement**

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Impact of the Special Emphasis Inspection Program on Safety and Health Compliance and Enforcement

North Carolina Department of Labor

Occupational Safety and Health Division

FY 2011



Introduction

Pursuant to G.S. 95-136.1, the N.C. Department of Labor submits the following annual report on the impact of the department's Special Emphasis Inspection Program (SEP) on safety and health compliance and enforcement.

To determine which specific industries and employers will be targeted for the SEP, the N.C. Department of Labor uses multiple resources. Some industries included in the SEP are determined by federal OSHA, which are generated by high injury and illness rates or fatality rates on a national level. Most industries and specific employers though are selected for the SEP at the state level and are generated during the strategic planning process. The decision to include an industry is based on a review of injury, illness and fatality data and generally industries with the highest rates are selected as an SEP.

The strategic planning process occurs on a five year cycle, meaning that SEP industries are reevaluated every five years. However, NCDOL also annually reviews the plan to ensure that industry goals are met. The department is currently operating under a strategic plan cycle that became effective October 1, 2008 and will conclude September 30, 2013. The industries included in this report were selected in a planning process that occurred prior to October 1, 2008.

The FY 2008-2013 strategic management plan includes two primary outcome goals:

- Reduce the rate of workplace fatalities by 5%
- Reduce the rate of all workplace injuries and illnesses by 15%

The areas of emphasis included in the FY 2008-2013 strategic management plan include:

- Construction Industry Fatality Reduction
- Logging and Arboriculture Fatality Reduction
- Sawmills, Veneer, Manufactured Home and other Wood Products Manufacturing
- Long Term Care Injury Reduction
- Exposures for Specific Health Hazards
- Food Manufacturing

During the strategic planning process, outcome goals are set for each industry. The attached figures reflect each industry's goal and the associated actual outcome. Baseline fatality rates are calculated by finding the average number of fatalities during FY 2005, 2006, and 2007 for the Construction and Logging and Arboriculture industries. Baseline rates for Days Away, Restricted or Transfer (DART) are also calculated based on the average of previous years' DART rates.

North Carolina continues to utilize a combination of compliance, consultation and training as an effective approach toward reducing injury, illness and fatality rates among all industries and employers. The success of this approach is evidenced by the state's total recordable case rate of 3.3 for CY 2010, which is the lowest in the program's history. Fatality statistics for the current five year planning cycle are some of the lowest in program history.

**Impact of the Special Emphasis Inspection Program (SEP)
On Safety and Health Compliance and Enforcement FY 2009-2013**

1.1 Reduce Construction Industry Fatality Rate Statewide by 5% by the end of FY 2013

This industry has been carried over from the FY 2003-2008 strategic management plan. At the conclusion of that strategic plan cycle, the state succeeded in its goal of reducing the statewide construction fatality rate by 15%. Despite the great safety and health strides that have been made in the construction industry, the baseline rate of 24 fatalities indicates that this industry is still a leader in workplace deaths and can have a significant impact on the state's overall outcome goal of reducing the rate of workplace fatalities. However, the total number of fatalities and the fatality rate has been lower than the baseline rate during the current planning cycle.

Outcome	2005	2006	2007	2008	New Baseline	2009	2010	2011
Fatalities	23	29	24	18	24	11	18	17
Rate	.0104	.0118	.0097	.0070	.0102	.0040	.0072	.0085
Hispanic	8	12	2	7	N/A	7	6	8

Activity in Emphasis Counties

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Inspections	1,687	1,727	1,365	2,095	1,698	1,270	1,366
Goals	1,390	1,255	1,215	1,550	1,440	1,320	1,310
Consultation	176	201	271	258	229	186	152
Goals	100	115	120	140	140	150	150
Trained*	6,916	10,927	8,165	7,748	2,703	2,394	1,669
Goals*	10,000	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	2,500	2,500

*Includes all persons trained in the Construction industry.

1.2 Decrease Fatality Rate in Logging and Arboriculture Activity (NAICS 56173 and 11331) by 5% by the end of FY 2013

This industry has been carried over from the FY 2003-2008 strategic management plan. The State had success in the past reducing the number of logging and arboriculture fatalities. Experience has shown that a reduction in OSH activity can translate into an increase in the number of injuries and fatalities in this industry. The first state Special Emphasis Program for logging was initiated in FY 1994 in response to 13 logging fatalities in FY 1993. The total of two fatalities in FY 2011 is lower than the baseline rate and matches the lowest total in program history.

Outcome	2005	2006	2007	2008	New Baseline	2009	2010	2011
Fatalities	5	4	3	4	4	2	6	2
Rate	.0160	.0128	.0096	.0275	0.1688	.01640	.02754	.0177

Activity in Logging and Arboriculture Industry

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Inspections	133	102	105	67	83	73	74
Goals	100	100	100	100	75	75	75
Consultation	19	19	15	15	16	15	16
Goals	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Trained	1,084	818	701	325	0	55	138
Goals	600	150	150	100	75	25	25

2.1 Reduce the Injury and Illness Rate in Sawmills, Veneer, Manufactured Home, and Other Wood Products Manufacturing (NAICS 321) by 15% by the end of FY 2013

This industry has been carried over from the FY 2003-2008 strategic management plan, except for the furniture manufacturing component. The baseline DART rate of 3.3 was higher than the CY 2007 North Carolina average of 1.9 for all industries including state and local government.

Outcome

	2005	2006	2007	New Baseline	2008	2009	2010
DART Rate	4.0	4.0	2.8	3.3	2.8	2.5	2.6

Activity in Wood Products, Furniture and Related Products Manufacturing

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Inspections	200	173	150	164	73	104
Goals	220	100	100	100	100	100
Consultation	79	91	125	91	86	85
Goals	25	25	30	30	50	70
Trained	25	22	0	0	18	11
Goals	300	300	20	20	20	20

2.2 Reduce the Days Away, Restricted, or Transferred (DART) Rate in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities by 15% by the end of FY 2013

This industry has been carried over from the FY 2003-2008 strategic management plan. While some progress has been made in this industry group, the baseline rate of 4.8 was still more than twice the CY 2007 North Carolina average of 1.9 for all industries including state and local government.

Outcome

	2005	2006	2007	New Baseline	2008	2009	2010
DART Rate	4.7	4.8	4.2	4.8	4.6	5.3	5.1

Activity in Long-Term Care

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Inspections	64	78	110	103	132	118	130
Goals	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Consultation	39	54	45	32	38	45	67
Goals	15	15	20	20	20	20	25
Trained	259	691	26	52	39	67	82
Goals	200	75	75	75	75	75	75

2.3 Conduct Emphasis Inspections, Training, and Consultation Activity in Establishments Where Employees Might be Exposed to Health Hazards Such as Lead, Silica, Asbestos, Hexavalent Chromium, and Isocyanates

Exposure for health hazards is carried over from the FY 2003-2008 strategic management plan. The State established this special emphasis program to address health hazards in the work place, including lead, silica, asbestos, hexavalent chromium, and isocyanates. Tracking mechanisms have not been developed to allow for the establishment of specific outcome measures in this area of emphasis. The state will continue to monitor the progress of Federal OSHA in developing reliable outcome measures for health issues. A reduction in illnesses relating to the emphasis health hazards could have an affect in the primary outcome goal of reducing the overall injury and illness rate by 15% during the five year cycle of the strategic plan.

Activity for Selected Health Hazards

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Inspections	175	184	188	223	210	203	284
Goals	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Consultation	100	122	138	156	185	147	171
Goals	30	30	40	50	50	75	100
Trained	1859	1582	527	422	906	659	546
Goals	1200	500	500	500	500	700	700

2.4 Reduce the Injury and Illness Rate (DART) in Establishments in Food Manufacturing (NAICS 311) by 12% by the end of FY 2013

The strategic planning process is intended to allocate limited resources in those areas of emphasis with above average injury and illness rates in an attempt to impact the overall state injury and illness rate. The food manufacturing DART rate for North Carolina was 3.5 in CY 2007 which was over twice the CY 2007 North Carolina average of 1.9 for all industries including state and local government. For this reason, food manufacturing was added to the current strategic management plan that began on October 1, 2008. The first year (FY 2009) of the five year cycle was a planning year. Intervention relating to the strategic plan began on October 1, 2009. The injury and illness rates for the first three years of the current five year planning cycle were less than the baseline rate.

Outcome	2005*	2006*	2007*	New Baseline	2008	2009	2010
DART Rate	4.5	4.9	3.5	4.3	3.9	2.9	3.0

Activity in Food Manufacturing

	2010	2011
Inspections	77	65
Goals	60	60
Consultation	25	13
Goals	10	10
Trained	9	84
Goals	25	25

***NOTE:** Food Manufacturing was not included in the strategic management plan in FY 2005, 2006, and 2007. This data is included solely to provide an historical background.

Summary

North Carolina has developed a strategic management plan with outcome goals that are consistent with federal OSHA activity. The plan is reviewed on an annual basis and strategies can be altered and activities increased or decreased to enhance program performance.

A review of statistical and program information indicates that after three years of the five year strategic management plan, the state is making adequate progress in meeting the five year goals contained in the plan. All comparative injury and illness data is not yet available. However, the progress in reducing workplace fatalities is demonstrated by the fact that the fatality rate has been lower than the baseline rate in two of the three years of the current five year cycle. The total recordable case rate for North Carolina declined again to 3.3 in CY 2010, a historic low.