

**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 2013



Introduction

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

To determine which specific industries and employers will be targeted for the SEP, the NCDOL uses multiple resources. Some industries designated as SEP's were initiated by federal OSHA and 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 created during the strategic planning process. The decision to include an industry is based on a review of injury, illness and fatality data, and employment levels. Generally, industries with the highest employment levels and the highest injury and illness rates are selected as an SEP.

The NCDOL strategic planning process occurs on a five year cycle, but SEP industries are evaluated annually. The NCDOL also annually reviews the plan to ensure that industry activity goals are met. The department is currently operating under a strategic plan cycle that became effective October 1, 2013 and will conclude September 30, 2018. The industries included in this report, however, were selected in a planning process that occurred prior to October 1, 2008, and covered the five year planning cycle from October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2013.

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 and activity goals are set for each industry. This report includes each industry's goal and the associated actual results. Baseline fatality rates were 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) were 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 3.1 for Calendar Year 2012, 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

Great safety and health strides have been made in the construction industry. The baseline rate of 24 fatalities indicated that this industry was still a leader in workplace deaths that could have a significant impact on the state's overall outcome goal of reducing the rate of workplace fatalities. However, the total number of fatalities decreased to seven in FY 2013 and the fatality rate declined by 60%.

Outcome	2006	2007	2008	New Baseline	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Fatalities	29	24	18	24	11	18	17	10	7
Rate	.0118	.0097	.0070	.0102	.0040	.0072	.0085	.0060	.0042
Hispanic	12	2	7	N/A	7	6	8	4	3

Activity in Emphasis Counties

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Inspections	1,727	1,365	2,095	1,698	1,270	1,366	1,392	1,476
Goals	1,255	1,215	1,550	1,440	1,320	1,310	1,075	1,075
Consultation	201	271	258	229	186	152	173	215
Goals	115	120	140	140	150	150	150	150
Trained*	10,927	8,165	7,748	2,703	2,394	1,669	1,963	2,046
Goals*	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	2,500	2,500	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

North Carolina has had success in the past reducing the number of logging and arboriculture fatalities. Experience has shown that a reduction in Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) activity can translate into an increase in the number of injuries and fatalities in this industry. The first state SEP for logging was initiated in FY 1994 in response to 13 logging fatalities in FY 1993. There were a total of five fatalities in FY 2013 but only two in three of the previous five years.

Outcome	2006	2007	2008	New Baseline	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Fatalities	4	3	4	4	2	6	2	2	5
Rate	.0128	.0096	.0275	0.1688	.01640	.02754	.0177	.0173	.042

Activity in Logging and Arboriculture Industry

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Inspections	102	105	67	83	73	74	110	100
Goals	100	100	100	75	75	75	75	75
Consultation	19	15	15	16	15	16	18	17
Goals	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Trained	818	701	325	0	55	138	86	117
Goals	150	150	100	75	25	25	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

The 3.1 industry DART rate is a reduction from the 3.3 baseline. The inspection and consultative activity levels were higher than established goals.

Outcome

	2006	2007	New Baseline	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
DART Rate	4.0	2.8	3.3	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.6	3.1

Activity in Wood Products, Furniture and Related Products Manufacturing

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Inspections	173	150	164	73	104	106	100
Goals	100	100	100	100	100	80	80
Consultation	91	125	91	86	85	93	72
Goals	25	30	30	50	70	70	70
Trained	22	0	0	18	11	12	14
Goals	300	20	20	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

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. The 2012 DART rate of 4.4 is 8% less than the baseline rate of 4.8.

Outcome

	2006	2007	New Baseline	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
DART Rate	4.8	4.2	4.8	4.6	5.3	5.1	4.5	4.4

Activity in Long-Term Care

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Inspections	78	110	103	132	118	130	89	94
Goals	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Consultation	54	45	32	38	45	67	49	53
Goals	15	20	20	20	20	25	25	25
Trained	691	26	52	39	67	82	108	110
Goals	75	75	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

North Carolina established the health hazards 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 goals in this area of emphasis. However, 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. Consultative and compliance activity goals were met in this SEP in 2013.

Activity for Selected Health Hazards

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Inspections	184	188	223	210	203	284	307	341
Goals	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Consultation	122	138	156	185	147	171	131	105
Goals	30	40	50	50	75	100	100	100
Trained	1582	527	422	906	659	546	752	396
Goals	500	500	500	500	700	700	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 DART rate dropped to 2.6 in 2012 which is a 40% reduction from the baseline rate of 4.3.

Outcome

	2006*	2007*	New Baseline	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
DART Rate	4.9	3.5	4.3	3.9	2.9	3.0	3.1	2.6

Activity in Food Manufacturing

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Inspections	77	65	55	53
Goals	60	60	50	50
Consultation	25	13	14	18
Goals	10	10	10	10
Trained	9	84	55	17
Goals	25	25	25	25

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

Summary

North Carolina has developed Special Emphasis Programs with outcome and activity goals that are documented in this department's OSH Strategic Management Plan. The plan's Special Emphasis Programs are managed by specific committees made up of OSH Division employees. Strategies to achieve outcome goals are continuously reviewed and can be altered to enhance program performance.

The state has also achieved most of its goals in the specific areas of special emphasis. Injury and illness rate reductions have been realized in Sawmills, Veneer, Manufactured Homes, and Other Wood Products; Long-Term Care; and Food Manufacturing. The fatality rate has also been reduced in construction.

Most of the Special Emphasis Program activity goals have also been met at a time when budgets and personnel levels have been reduced. The State conducted an average of 4,483 inspections per year over the five year period of the Strategic Plan and averaged 1,273 consultative visits.

Success in the Special Emphasis Program elements has helped the OSH Division make progress in achieving two overall outcome goals included in the Strategic Management Plan. These include reducing the workplace fatality rate by 5% and the injury and illness rate by 15%. With four years of statistical data available, the State has reduced the fatality rate by 16% and the injury and illness rate by nearly 13%.