Yuma, the Second Time Around!

If you have not visited Yuma, Arizona, you may not know that they are an agricultural community. In fact, according to a 2013 University of Arizona study, agriculture contributes an estimated $2.5 billion a year to the Arizona economy. This is due to their rich soil, technologically savvy farmers, ample labor force, and impressive irrigation systems.

A title known by the locals and farmers is that Yuma is the Lettuce Capital of the world. Interestingly, Yuma County is responsible for 90% of all leafy vegetables grown in the United States from November through March. The Yuma area is home to nine salad plants that produce bagged lettuce and salad mixes. During peak production months, each of those plants process more than 2 million pounds of lettuce per day. Additionally, Yuma ranks number 1 in Arizona for growing lemons, tangelos, tangerines, watermelons, and cantaloupes. The area is also becoming known for Medjool dates as the industry continues to rise in productivity with new farms sprouting up across Yuma County.

To help understand the amount of labor needed and the transportation logistics, the ICA and ADOSH reached out to Joseph “Sonny” Rodriguez, owner of The Growers Company Inc., Mr. Rodriguez developed a tour to show the ICA Leadership and the ADOSH Director the process he has developed to ensure that labor is available for harvesting. Mr. Rodriguez’s full-service labor and delivery business uses retired school buses to shuttle field laborers to and from a field or job site they are assigned to for the day.

This process starts early, 5:00 in the morning, and continues throughout the day into the late afternoon or possibly evening based on the contract. On our visit we had the pleasure of visiting an active lettuce field where the labor Mr. Rodriguez set-up was working. Mr. Rodriguez provides routine safety and health training for the workforce as well as specialized training for operating the vehicles used to harvest the produce. His company also supplies men’s and women’s restroom facilities with hand-washing stations and paper towels. The mobile bathrooms all support the standards required by Federal, State, and local laws.

The ICA and ADOSH were appreciative to Mr. Rodriguez and other local stakeholders who gave us an inside look at the agricultural industry in Yuma and its vital role in the economy.
Heat Stress Prevention

ADOSH’s annual Heat Stress Prevention Campaign has started and we are encouraging employers and employees to be proactive with messaging. The message is simple — Water, Shade, and Rest. Employers should provide water where their employees are working, rest periods as needed, and shade where available. This campaign is for all outdoor workers including, but not limited to; construction workers, field laborers, delivery drivers, first responders, and others.

Many employers we have been working with over the years have adopted best practices which prevent heat related illness from occurring. One best practice includes acclimatizing employees to the heat that they will be exposed to slowly. Working a few hours outside and rotating with other employees who have already acclimated to our Arizona heat can help ensure that your employee is set-up for success in the coming months. Employers can use the Federal OSHA application which is downloadable using your smart device. The app, OSHA NIOSH Heat Safety Tool, provides information about the Heat Index that your employees will be exposed to for a given day. Additionally, it provides you with resources on signs and symptoms of heat stress and additional guidance for pre-planning your outdoor work activities.

ADOSH will provide classes and webinars for you and your staff free of charge. We will also provide a resource disk with educational materials and free sample training that can be used when needed. To request a copy of this disk contact the Phoenix or Tucson ADOSH Consultation office.

Using OSHA Heat App

With the release of the Heat App by OSHA more than five years ago, employers and employees have another tool which allows them to keep their workplaces safe. Designed for Android and iPhone smart phones, the heat app has come a long way with information and updates when working outside. The app is easy to download and is user friendly. ADOSH has promoted this technology to many outdoor working employers. For more information on the app please visit:

www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/heat_index/heat_app.html
VPPPA Region IX, Great Conference

On April 16, 2019, the Annual Regional VPPPA IX Conference was held in Tucson, Arizona. Companies from around the region gathered in Tucson to learn how to become a VPP Star site, how to retain the designation, and ways to increase awareness in their workplaces.

The event had a keynote speaker and a closing address by local Consultant and past ADOSH Assistant Director Mark Norton. The attendance at the event exceeded well over 400 people and vendors from around the country who converged at the conference to provide information and resources to current VPP Star sites.

During the opening session the ICA Director, James Ashley, and ICA Chairman, Dale Schultz, spoke about the importance of collaboration and ways the ICA is looking to improve their processes to improve outcomes for employers and employees.

Keeping with tradition, ADOSH had their own breakout session where current and future VPP Star sites learned about ADOSH’s strategic focus for the coming year. The room was filled to standing room capacity. Overall the conference was a success and we would encourage any safety or health professionals to attend in the future.

Language Barriers Cause Safety Concerns on Cell Tower Jobsites

With the explosion of work in the wireless industry there is a shortage in the labor force. Many contactors are employing various employees who do not have basic knowledge of the hazards associated with the jobsite they will be working on. There could be many reasons for this but one in particular is that many current employees hired in the cell tower industry are non-English speakers.

Non-English speaking employees pose a unique challenge for many businesses because they are required to have the same type of safety instruction and/or training as their English speaking counterparts. This helps prevent many issues on the jobsite and can prevent serious injuries, illnesses, and fatalities. Employees who have been trained the same way regarding workplace safety on a jobsite do not have to speak the same language to watch out for hazards and look after a fellow employee’s safety.

Many third-party consultants and employers are starting to handle the problem by hiring interpreters to translate trainings while they are delivered in English. This works well for all employees because training is not delayed or segmented which can add to the total amount of time in a classroom. Another best practice is providing training packets that are in Spanish or in a language that is understood by an employee. These packets can be used as reference material later while on the jobsite.

To help with these challenges, ADOSH works with employers through our on-site Consultation and Training Program in the Tucson and Phoenix office. We work to help employers understand the importance of training a non-English speaking employee correctly so that safety or health concerns on a jobsite are effectively addressed before an issue occurs. Furthermore, we provide employers with Spanish material for their workforce and offer different ways to deliver the training. Having an employee trained in their first language protects not only themselves but fellow employees while they are out in the field.
ICA Special Fund Division

The Industrial Commission of Arizona will be highlighting different functions of our agency in every issue of the ADOSH Advocate. This is an opportunity for employers and employees to better understand what the ICA does and what resources are available to them.

The Special Fund Division plays a very important role in the workers' compensation community. Their responsibilities include providing benefits for uninsured claimants, vocational rehabilitation, continuing medical benefits for pre-1973 workers' compensation claims, partial coverage of workers' compensation benefits for second injury claims (apportionment), and continuing workers' compensation benefits for claimants of insolvent carriers and bankrupt self-insured employers.

The mission statement of the Special Fund Division is to efficiently provide various workers' compensation benefits to injured workers in accordance with applicable laws and rules. The Special Fund is a "trust fund" that was legislatively created in 1969 for the express purpose of providing workers' compensation benefits in the following areas:

Uninsured Claimants

The "No Insurance" Section of the Special Fund processes workers' compensation claims filed by employees of noninsured employers. Claims filed with the No Insurance Section are investigated, reviewed, and a compensability determination is made in accordance with workers' compensation guidelines. If found to be a compensable injury, benefits are paid by the Special Fund in accordance with the workers' compensation statutes. The Commission then pursues action against the noninsured employer for reimbursement of all benefits paid, including assessed penalties.

Vocational Rehabilitation

The Special Fund has discretionary power in providing vocational rehabilitation benefits. While rehabilitation is not mandatory in Arizona, the statutes specify that the Special Fund can provide assistance in this area if requested by the carrier or the injured worker, and if certain criteria are met. The Special Fund promotes and assists in vocational rehabilitation on both scheduled and unscheduled injuries. Since these are two distinct categories the Special Fund’s participation, policy statements, and costs may vary.

Supportive Medical Care

Supportive medical maintenance benefits are provided to employees injured prior to August 8, 1973 who have reached a stationary

Continued on page 5

ADOSH Fatality Update

In the past quarter ADOSH has investigated multiple accidents that resulted in a workplace fatality. We would like all employers and employees to understand that these accidents are preventable. We provide this information to the public for general knowledge.

- An employee fell from a tanker trailer.
- An employee was caught in between the Roll Over Protection System when he fell out of a compactor roller when it tipped over.
OSHA Requests Information on the Powered Industrial Truck Standard

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is requesting information as the Agency considers rulemaking to update the powered industrial truck standards for general, maritime, and construction industries. OSHA is requesting information on: the type, age, and usage of powered industrial trucks; types of accidents and injuries associated with operating these machines; costs and benefits of retrofitting the machines with updated safety features; and other components of a safety program. OSHA will use the information received in response to this request to determine what action, if any, it may take to reduce regulatory burdens and create jobs while improving worker safety.

Comments must be submitted on or before June 10, 2019. Comments and materials may be submitted electronically at http://www.regulations.gov, the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal, or by facsimile or mail.

Power industrial trucks include forklifts, fork trucks, tractors, platform lift trucks, motorized hand trucks, and other specialized industrial trucks powered by an electric motor or an internal combustion engine.

Continued from page 4

status and require additional care to maintain their medical condition at a stable level. If benefits payable by the insurance carrier have been exhausted, all medical benefits related to the industrial injury are payable by the Special Fund. Supportive care files are maintained in the Special Fund Division, billings and medical reports are reviewed and processed in accordance with the workers’ compensation guidelines.

Apportionment

There are specific instances where permanent compensation benefits may be apportioned or divided between an insurance carrier and the Special Fund. Prior to January 1, 1986, apportionment laws were very restrictive; the apportionment statute as it pertains to injuries occurring from and after December 31, 1985, provides that the Special Fund will share in any loss of earning capacity award involving the following conditions:

1. When an employee has a non-industrial, pre-existing medical condition (set forth in the statute) and suffers an industrially related injury and meets the other criteria of the statute, or
2. An employee has had a scheduled injury and suffers a subsequent scheduled injury.

Upon receipt of an apportionment request, Special Fund reviews the claim file to determine if the file contains sufficient documentation for consideration of apportionment.

If the apportionment request is approved, reimbursement to the carrier is made in accordance with apportionment statutes. All reimbursement requests are reviewed prior to payment being issued to ensure that the requested amount is appropriate.

Insolvent Carriers

The Special Fund assumes liability for all workers’ compensation claims against insurance carriers that have become insolvent. These claims are assigned to the State Compensation Fund for processing. The Special Fund reimburses the State Fund the cost of the claim, plus an additional administration fee.

To learn more, visit www.azica.gov or call us at (602) 542-3294.
Importance of Drop Ceiling Tiles

Under OSHA’s General Industry standard, it is required that safeguards designed to protect employees during an emergency — including displaced ceiling tiles — must be in proper working order at all times (29 CFR 1910.37(a)(4)). Like OSHA, ADOSH requires that smoke barriers be provided to reduce warning times necessary for a safe escape of employees from the workplace and of the immediate work area. Missing ceiling tiles can delay the activation of the detection and alarm system, thereby increasing the time of an evacuation (29 CFR 1910.165(b)(1)).

Properly installed ceiling systems allow smoke detectors, heat detectors, and fire sprinklers to operate correctly in the event of a fire. They also provide a barrier to the spread of smoke and fire. Breaking, displacing, or removing ceiling tiles allows hot gases and smoke from a fire to rise and accumulate above detectors and sprinklers. Doing so delays their activation, enabling fires to rapidly grow larger before an alarm and response can occur.

Ceiling tile breakage, displacement, or removal often occurs as a result of mechanical system repair or maintenance. Because fires are unpredictable, displaced tiles must be returned to their intended position as soon as possible following repairs. Additionally, office occupants often move aside or remove ceiling tiles to improve personal comfort by altering air currents. The danger this create impacts not only the person who moves the tile but also endangers all building occupants. Older ceiling tiles may also contain asbestos and disturbing them may cause another health hazard. The smoke and hot gases from a fire decrease in concentration as height and horizontal distance from the center of the fire increase. Once the smoke and hot gases reach the ceiling, they travel horizontally, creating a “ceiling Jet” (a stream of risen smoke and hot gases that travel horizontally along the bottom of an intact ceiling). This ceiling jet is what usually triggers smoke alarms, heat detectors, and life-saving sprinkler systems.

Removal of ceiling tiles can enable smoke and hot gases to rise above the remaining ceiling system, circumventing the fire protection systems located at or slightly below the level of the ceiling. If a fire starts in a room with a missing ceiling tile the ceiling jet can travel to the hole created by the missing tile and can rise into the space above the drop ceiling. This space typically lacks monitoring devices and may delay smoke detectors from receiving the smoke concentration necessary to actuate them and to send an alarm sign. Most of the heat may also rise into the space above the ceiling bypassing heat detectors and sprinklers completely. This renders them ineffective until the smoke and heat fill the space above, greatly lengthening the time it takes for them to actuate. Because fires can double in size each minute, this delay enables a fire to grow much larger and become more difficult to extinguish.

Missing ceiling tiles are not just a risk to those in the area where the tiles were removed. Space above a drop ceiling system also can provide a route for air to be drawn back to a conditioner ductwork and fan that re-circulates the air, therefore, smoke that enters this space is often spread to other areas in the building, exposing other occupants to smoke and toxic gases.

Minimizing the number of unnecessary ceiling openings will make a building safer for all occupants. Employees should report any unnecessary ceiling openings to appropriate maintenance authorities.


Learning from the Journey

MI Windows and Doors in Prescott Valley is unlike many companies in Arizona. The company has involvement from all staff, they have a progressive safety and health program, provide routine training for all employees, created an active safety and health committee, maintains several safety professionals to monitor goals and outcomes of their safety program, employed outside third-party auditors for a total safety program evaluation, and had management involvement from the very beginning. So what made them so different from all other employers that they succeeded in their journey to become one of the best workplaces for safety?

It may be that the company had a positive experience with ADOSH in the past. In fact, the company had successfully accomplished the SHARP designation several years before their VPP Star accomplishment. Therefore, they were probably happy to share best practices with the audit team and ways they improved their overall safety and health management system. During the audit the team found a few discrepancies with several programs which were quickly corrected by the attending safety committee champions. So, if you have thought about VPP and are worried of what we will find, I encourage you to reach out to MI Windows and Doors leadership and ask them about their experience.

Let the ADOSH Consultative teaming be a part of your journey to workplace safety excellence.

The 4th Annual ICA on the Capitol Lawn Event

Once a year the Industrial Commission of Arizona hosts an event on the Arizona Capitol lawn where they recognize employers and employees who go above and beyond the OSHA workplace safety standards. Each of the entities recognized have taken advantage, in some form or another, of the Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health’s (ADOSH) consultative services and have chosen to take the next step in workplace safety. The Industrial Commission’s consultative services offered through ADOSH are free of charge to any employer willing to make workplace safety a priority.

At this year’s event the ICA recognized 10 entities including cities, counties, companies, and a special recognition award for a Kids Chance scholarship recipient. The one underlining constant with all the award winners is an appreciation and a passion for workplace safety.

In addition to recognizing employers and employees, the ICA presented Arizona Senate President Karen Fann with their annual Golden Hard Hat Award. This award was given to President Fann for her dedication and hard work for the betterment of the workers’ compensation community, workplace safety, and Arizona as a whole.

To learn more about the Industrial Commission of Arizona’s consultative services, please contact ADOSH at (602) 542-5795.

The ICA Director and Commissioners present the ICA Golden Hard Hat Award to Senate President Karen Fann

More pictures from the ICA on the Capitol Lawn Day can be found on pages 12 and 13.
# ADOSH Education and Training Calendar

## April 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
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<tr>
<td>4/5/19</td>
<td>8:30am - 11:30am</td>
<td>Lockout/Tagout Awareness</td>
<td>2675 E Broadway Blvd</td>
<td>Tucson</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/9/19</td>
<td>9:00am - 12pm</td>
<td>GHS Hazard Communication</td>
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<td>Crane Safety Awareness</td>
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<td>Flagstaff</td>
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<td>Excavation Safety Awareness</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/30/19</td>
<td>9am - 12pm</td>
<td>Accident Investigation</td>
<td>100 Colonia De Salud</td>
<td>Sierra Vista</td>
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To register for a class please feel free to call the number associated with the class or register at [www.ezregister.com/promoters/1607](http://www.ezregister.com/promoters/1607)
## ADOSH Education and Training Calendar

### May 2019

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<td>Workplace Violence</td>
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## ADOSH Education and Training Calendar

### June 2019

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<td>Silica in Construction</td>
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<td>Managing OSHA Written Programs</td>
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<td>Hazard Assessment for PPE</td>
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# ADOSH Education and Training Calendar

## July 2019

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<td>9am - 12pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/24/2019</td>
<td>8:30am - 11:30am</td>
<td>OSHA 300 Recordkeeping</td>
<td>2675 E Broadway Blvd</td>
<td>Tucson</td>
<td>520-628-5478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/25/2019</td>
<td>9am - 12pm</td>
<td>Fall Protection Awareness</td>
<td>WEBINAR</td>
<td>Phoenix</td>
<td>602-542-1769</td>
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</table>

To register for a class please feel free to call the number associated with the class or register at [www.ezregister.com/promoters/1607](http://www.ezregister.com/promoters/1607)
The Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health Outreach and Training department has a scheduled Safety Summit in the City of Tucson. We have been working with Pima Community College to bring a two day summit for the many employers and employees in the area. This summit will take place at Pima Community College West Campus. The summit is scheduled for May 29 and 30, 2019. At this time we will be offering OSHA 10 hour classes. One for General Industry and the other for Construction. All OSHA 10 hour classes are first come first serve and require a payment of $8 to the instructor of the class. All money received is used to purchase the employee cards through a third-party vendor.

Additionally, we will have many other classes that address silica, forklift training, recognizing hazards in the workplace, and more.

For more information on the upcoming safety summit, please contact either ADOSH Consultation Office:

Phoenix (602) 542-1769
Tucson (520) 628-5478
ICA on the Capitol Lawn Day

ICA Chairman Dale Schultz presents Diversified Roofing with the Alliance Award

ICA Chairman Dale Schultz presents the UofA Mirror Lab with the Chairman’s Award

ICA Commissioner Steve Krenzel presents Western Growers Association with the Alliance Award

ICA Chairman Dale Schultz presents Lisa Hogle with the Chairman’s Award

ICA Commissioner Scott LeMarr presents Furtmann Brothers with the Partnership Award

ICA Commissioner Steve Krenzel presents Vantage West Credit Union with the SHARP Award

ADOSH Director Jessie Atencio presents Arti Patel with the Special Recognition Award

ICA Commissioner Steve Krenzel presents Suntec Concrete with the Alliance Award

ICA Commissioner Steve Krenzel presents Forest Endoscopy Center with the SHARP Award

ICA Chairman Dale Schultz presents Navajo County with the PEPP Award
Follow the ICA on Social Media

To stay up to date with everything going on with the Industrial Commission of Arizona and ADOSH, follow us on Twitter and Facebook. Our handle on Twitter is @IndCommAZ and we can be found on Facebook by searching “Industrial Commission of Arizona”.

ICA - ADOSH @IndCommAZ
Industrial Commission of Arizona
Phoenix, AZ azica.gov Born February 1, 1926 Joined January 2016 253 Following 269 Followers

Social Media Recap

ICA - ADOSH @IndCommAZ · Apr 9
#WorkZoneAwarenessWeek. When driving through a work zone remember to slow down, be aware, and stay safe. This will keep you, and those working, safe.

ICA - ADOSH @IndCommAZ · Apr 2
Every year at the Capitol we recognize a legislative member who has gone above and beyond to promote workplace safety and health with a golden hard hat. This year for her dedication to the work comp community and the state of Arizona we recognized President @FannKfann Thank you!

THANK YOU

President Karen Fann

for going above and beyond to promote and advocate for workplace safety!
City of San Luis Signs Newest PEPP Agreement

During their February 27th meeting, the Mayor and City Council of San Luis unanimously approved signing a 3-year Public Entity Partnership Program (PEPP) agreement with ADOSH. The city joins 8 other cities and counties who have entered into partnerships with ADOSH.

PEPP was created by ADOSH to engage with public sector employers to help improve or enhance safety and health practices at all levels within the business. Through the program, ADOSH will look to help the city implement best practices and improve upon existing programs for safety as well as highlight what is already working well for safety in the departments.

To be considered for a PEPP partnership, public entities must determine what departments will be focused on and what goals will be measured. If you or your department head would like more information on the PEPP program, please contact ADOSH Compliance Assistance Supervisor Brandon Stowell at (602) 542-1636.

Willmeng Construction & Wilson Electric Serve Lunch for Safety!

On February 7th, Willmeng Construction with Wilson Electric Services Corp hosted a Safety (Hot) Dog event out at Project Flight to bring more awareness to their ongoing VPP efforts. Over a hundred and fifty subcontract employees were invited for a hot dog lunch with ADOSH, vendors, giveaways, and a VPP safety message.

R. Directional Drilling and Underground Technologies, Inc. signs Partnership with ADOSH

In the first quarter of the new federal fiscal year R. Directional Drilling and Technologies signed a formal Partnership Agreement with ADOSH. The partnership signed with ADOSH will focus on reducing the injury/illnesses in the workplace as well as improving the overall safety and health management systems currently in place.

If you would like to become a partner with ADOSH, please contact Steve Morgan at (602) 542-1694 or Brandon Stowell at (602) 542-1636 for more information.

R. Directional Team pose for a photo in front of their company sign.