



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 360-4-18

SUBJECT: PER-SAFETY AND HEALTH

Purpose. To provide information on Safety, Health and Return-to-Employee Initiative (SHARE), established by President George Bush.

Expiration Date. January 31, 2005.

President Bush has issued a memo to agencies reminding them of the costs of injury compensation benefits for their employees and establishing an initiative to lower injury rates and lost work time.

The cost of Federal workplace injuries, when measured by workers' compensation losses, is more than \$2 billion and 2 million lost production days annually. In fiscal year 2003, the Federal workforce of almost 2.7 million filed more than 168,000 injury claims. President George Bush has established SHARE: **S**afety, **H**ealth, **A**nd **R**eturn-to-Employment Initiative for Fiscal Years 2004-2006. The initiative's four goals cover the most important elements of a strong safety and health management program: lower workplace injury and illness case rates, lower lost-time injury and illness case rates, timely reporting of injuries and illnesses, and fewer lost days resulting from work injuries and illnesses. All executive branch departments and agencies are expected to participate in SHARE for this 3-year period.

The Department of Labor will measure and track agency performance, and will report to President Bush annually on each agency's progress towards meeting their goals. The Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Office of Workers' Compensation Programs will also work with Federal departments and agencies to develop new workplace strategies to improve safety and health.

Federal supervisors and managers must focus management tools and resources on eliminating unsafe and unhealthy working conditions. Federal employees should be encouraged to perform their jobs safely, effectively and alertly to remain injury-free. Remember many workplace injuries are preventable.

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State Conservationist

DIST: AE



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