

# *National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in the West*

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National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Denver Regional Office



# *What Is NIOSH?*



**Federal agency charged with  
Occupational Safety and Health Research**

**Resides in:  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

**<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh>**



Workplace  
Safety and Health

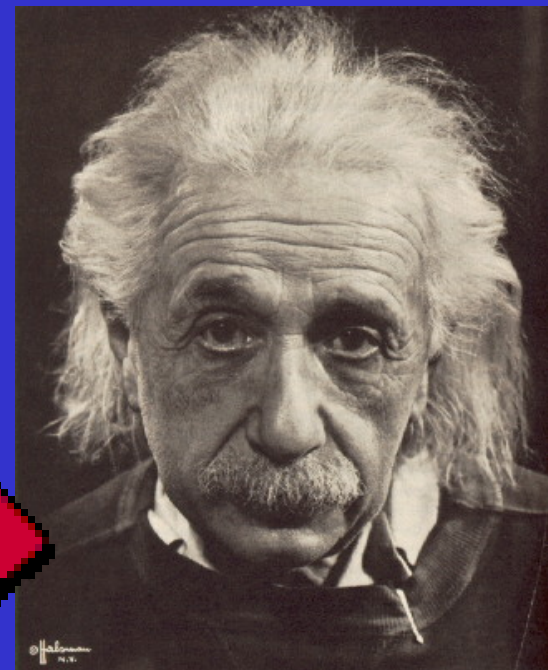


# ***NIOSH's Role***

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**NOT Enforcement...**



**but Scientific Research  
and Recommendations**

# *Origin of NIOSH*

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- Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (created NIOSH and OSHA)
- Mission: To provide leadership in research to prevent work-related illness, injury, disability, and death



# ***NIOSH***

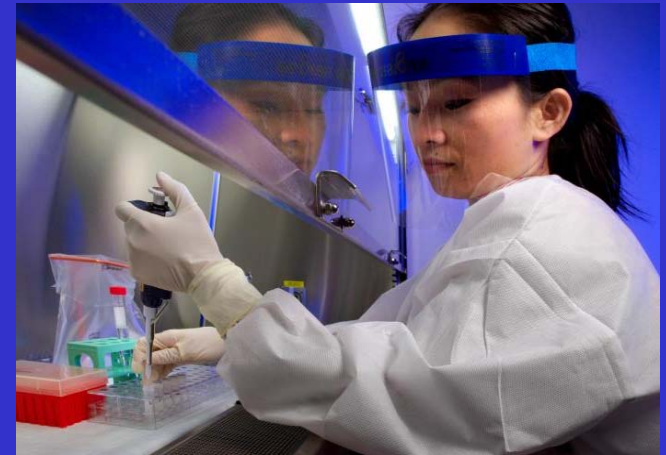
Conducts laboratory and field research

Develops methods for evaluating exposures

Provides education and training

Publishes reports/recommendations that are publicly accessible

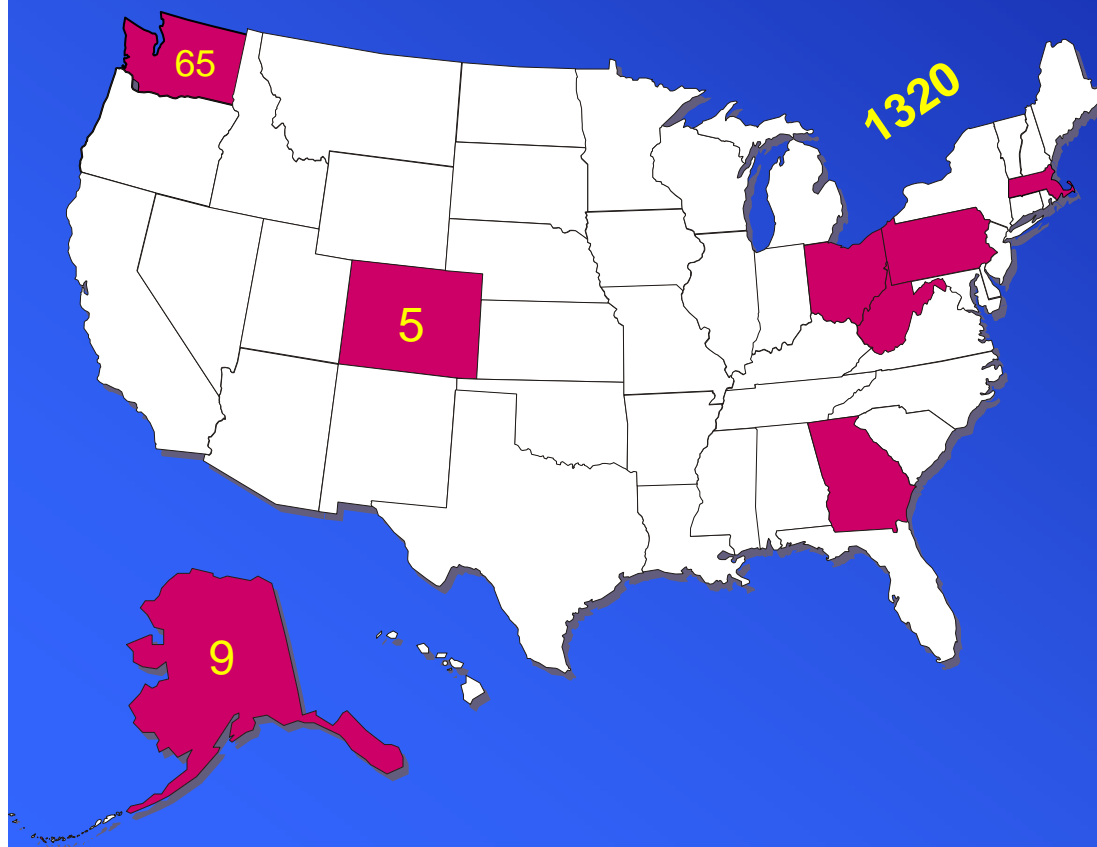
Has “right of entry” into workplaces in the US



# ***NIOSH Locations***

## ***~ 1400 Employees***

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Anchorage, AK (Safety, Western OSH)  
Spokane, WA (Mining)  
Denver, CO (Western OSH)  
Cincinnati, OH (DSHEFS, EID, DART, OCAS)  
Morgantown, WV (DRDS, HELD, DSR)  
Pittsburgh, PA (NPPTL, Mining)  
Atlanta, GA (Emergency Response)  
Washington, DC (Director)  
Boston, MA (HHE)

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/officers.html#eid>

# *National Occupational Research Agenda*

NIOSH partnership with academia, industry, labor, government  
Focusing on High Risk Sectors



Health Care



Construction



Mining



Agriculture

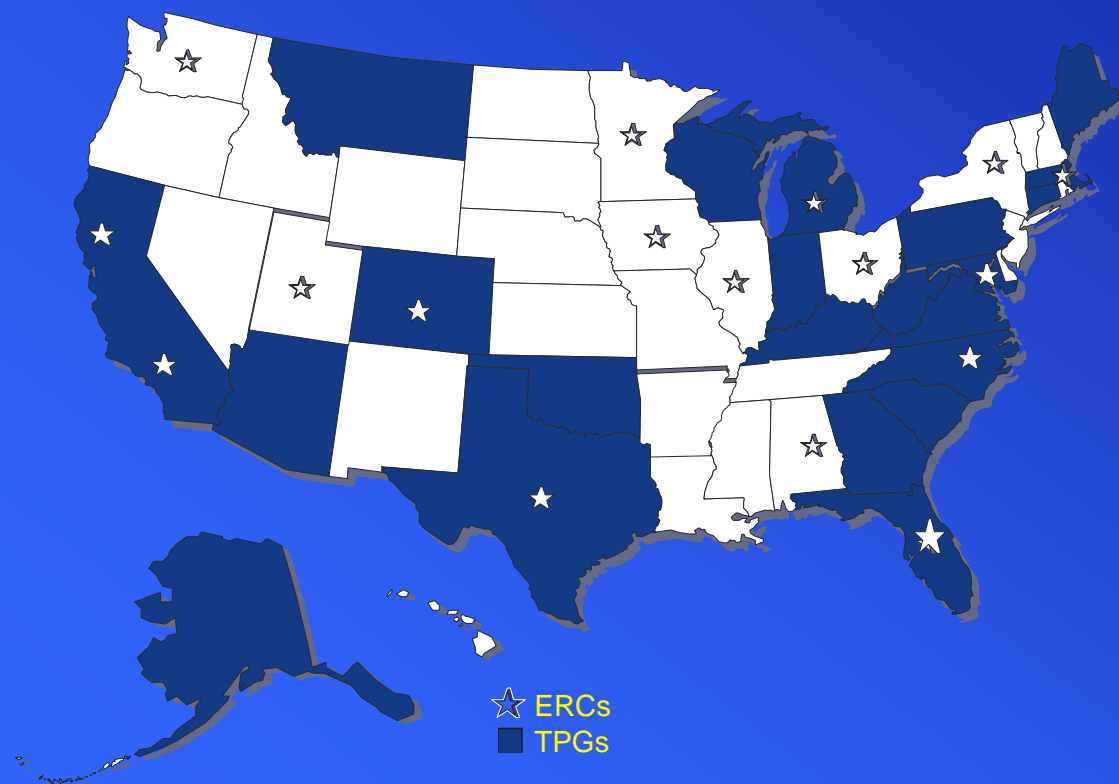


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# *Training Occupational Safety and Health Professionals*

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35 Training Project  
Grants in 22 states  
and Puerto Rico

17 Education and  
Research Centers

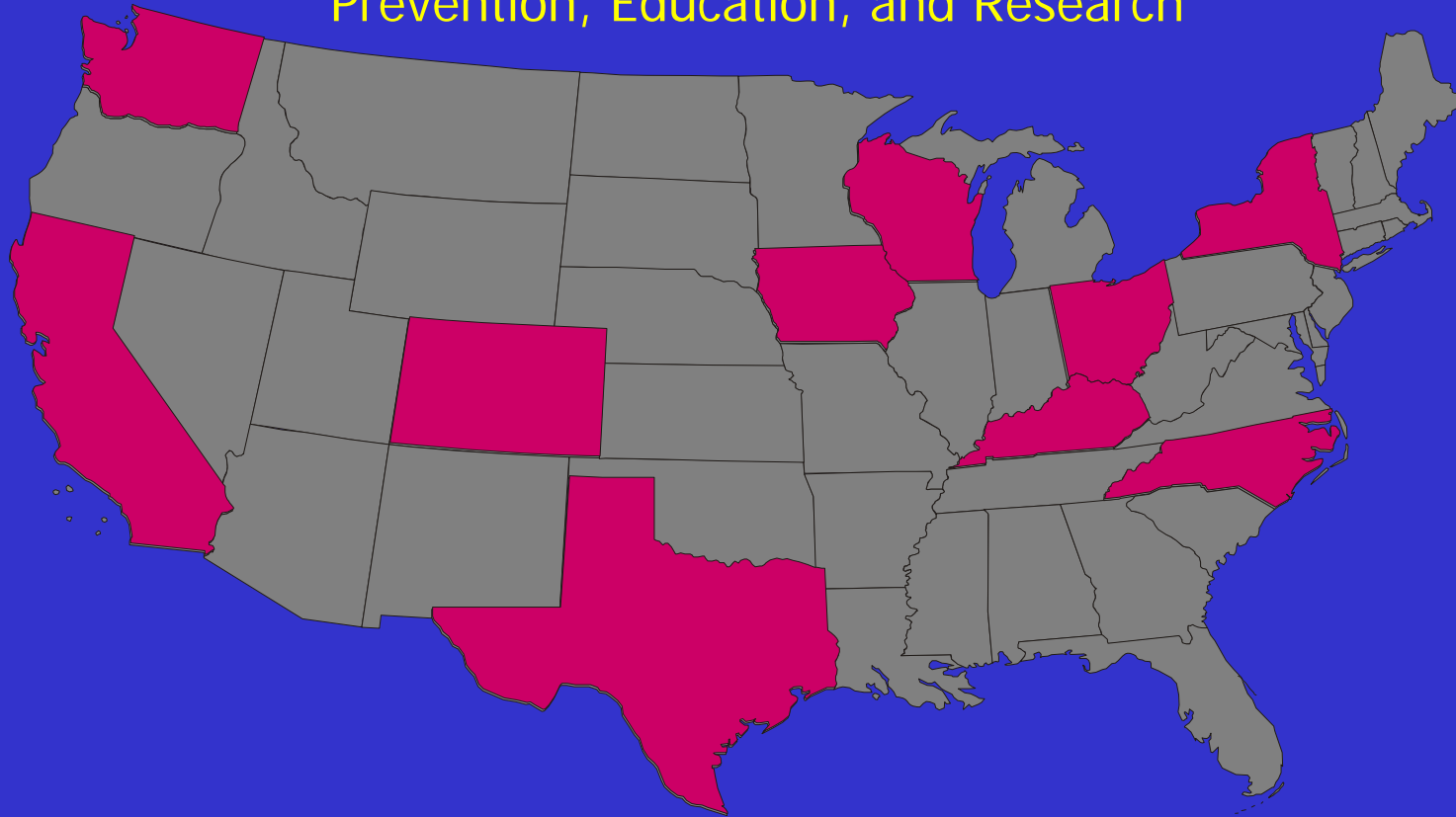
ERC in Seattle serves WA, OR, ID, AK <http://depts.washington.edu/nwcohs/>

The map displays the implementation status of the Epidemic Intelligence and Data System (EIDS) across the United States. The color scale ranges from dark blue (not implemented) to light blue (implemented). States with dark blue outlines indicate implementation status.

State	Implementation Status
Alabama	Not Implemented
Alaska	Implemented
Arizona	Implemented
Arkansas	Not Implemented
California	Implemented
Colorado	Implemented
Connecticut	Implemented
Delaware	Implemented
Florida	Implemented
Georgia	Implemented
Hawaii	Implemented
Idaho	Not Implemented
Illinois	Implemented
Indiana	Implemented
Iowa	Implemented
Kansas	Implemented
Kentucky	Implemented
Louisiana	Not Implemented
Maine	Implemented
Maryland	Implemented
Massachusetts	Implemented
Michigan	Implemented
Minnesota	Implemented
Mississippi	Not Implemented
Missouri	Implemented
Montana	Implemented
Nebraska	Implemented
Nevada	Not Implemented
New Hampshire	Implemented
New Jersey	Implemented
New Mexico	Implemented
New York	Implemented
North Carolina	Implemented
North Dakota	Implemented
Ohio	Implemented
Oklahoma	Implemented
Oregon	Implemented
Pennsylvania	Implemented
Rhode Island	Implemented
South Carolina	Implemented
South Dakota	Implemented
Tennessee	Implemented
Texas	Implemented
Vermont	Implemented
Virginia	Implemented
Washington	Implemented
West Virginia	Not Implemented
Wisconsin	Implemented
Wyoming	Implemented

# *Capacity Building*

NIOSH Centers for Agricultural Disease and Injury  
Prevention, Education, and Research



Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (PNASH)  
at U. Washington in Seattle



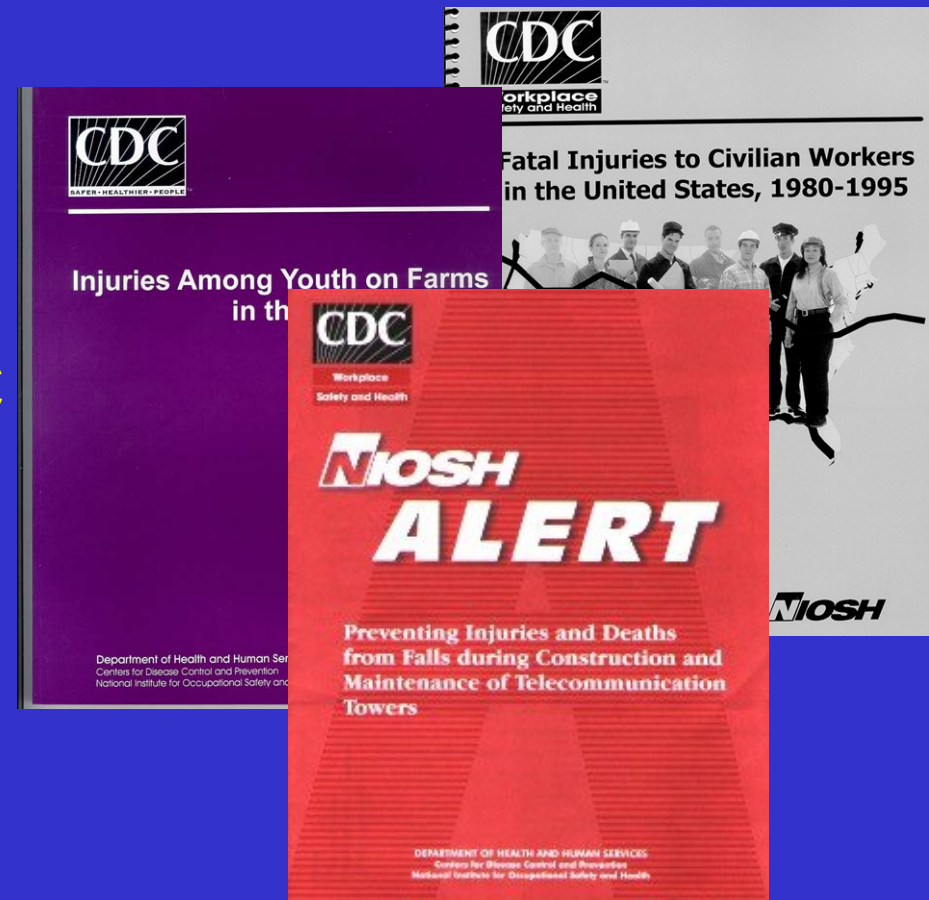
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<http://depts.washington.edu/pnash/>



# Information

- Reports, alerts, updates, etc.
- Available to the public
- NIOSH Web site  
[www.cdc.gov/niosh](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh)



# ***NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) Program***



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# *What is a NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation?*

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An evaluation to determine whether particular workplace exposures, processes, or conditions pose a hazard to workers



# *HHE Program Legal Authority*

## 1970 OSH Act

Following a written request by any employer or authorized representative of employees, determine whether any substance normally found in the place of employment has potentially toxic effects in such concentrations as used or found and submit such determination both to employers and affected employees as soon as possible.

# *Who Can Request an HHE?*

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- Employees
- Employers
- Employee representatives (unions)
- Government agencies (with employer cooperation)

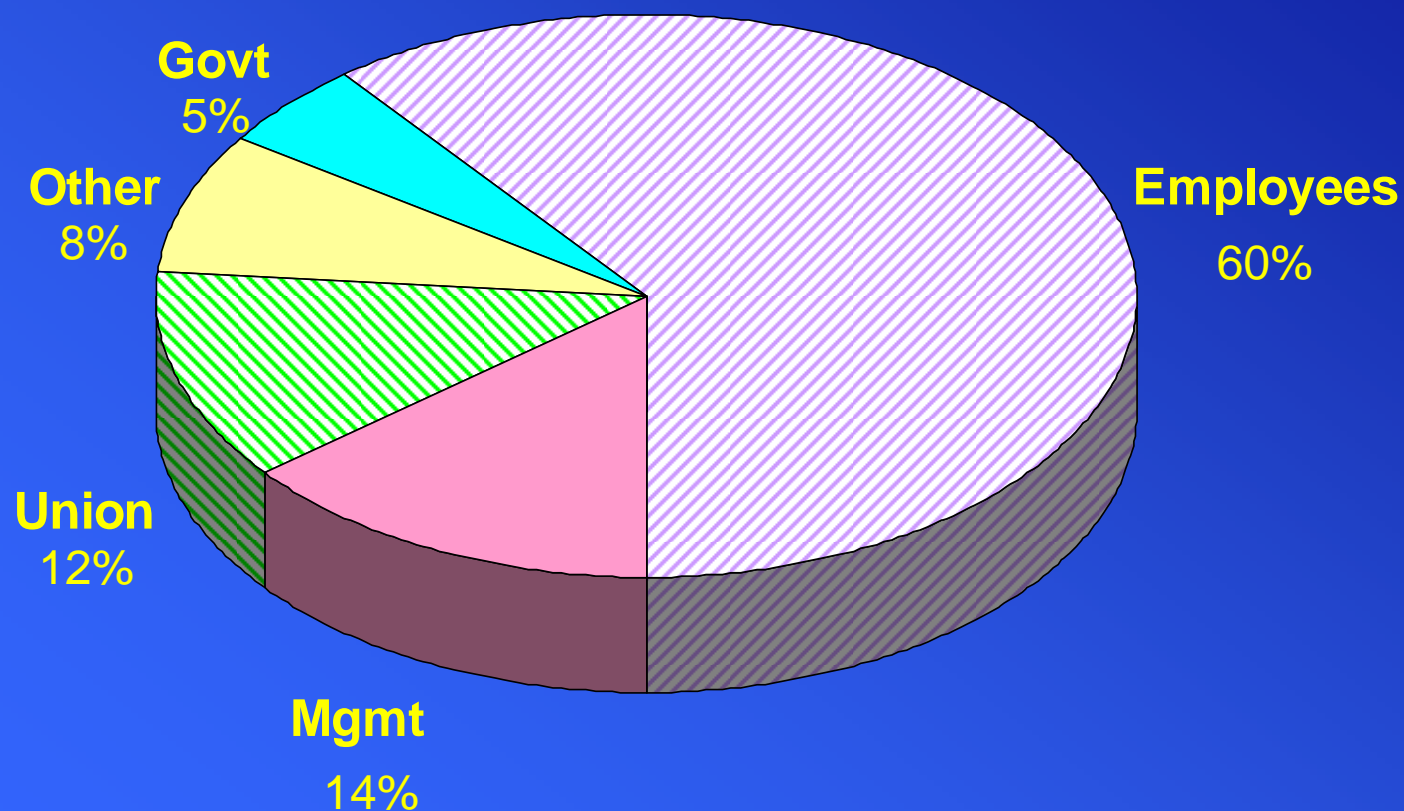


Notification sent to OSHA and State Epidemiologist

Can be confidential

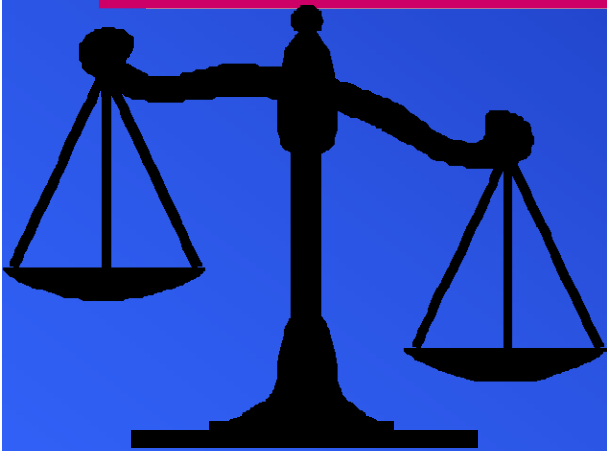
# *HHE Requests by type of Requester*

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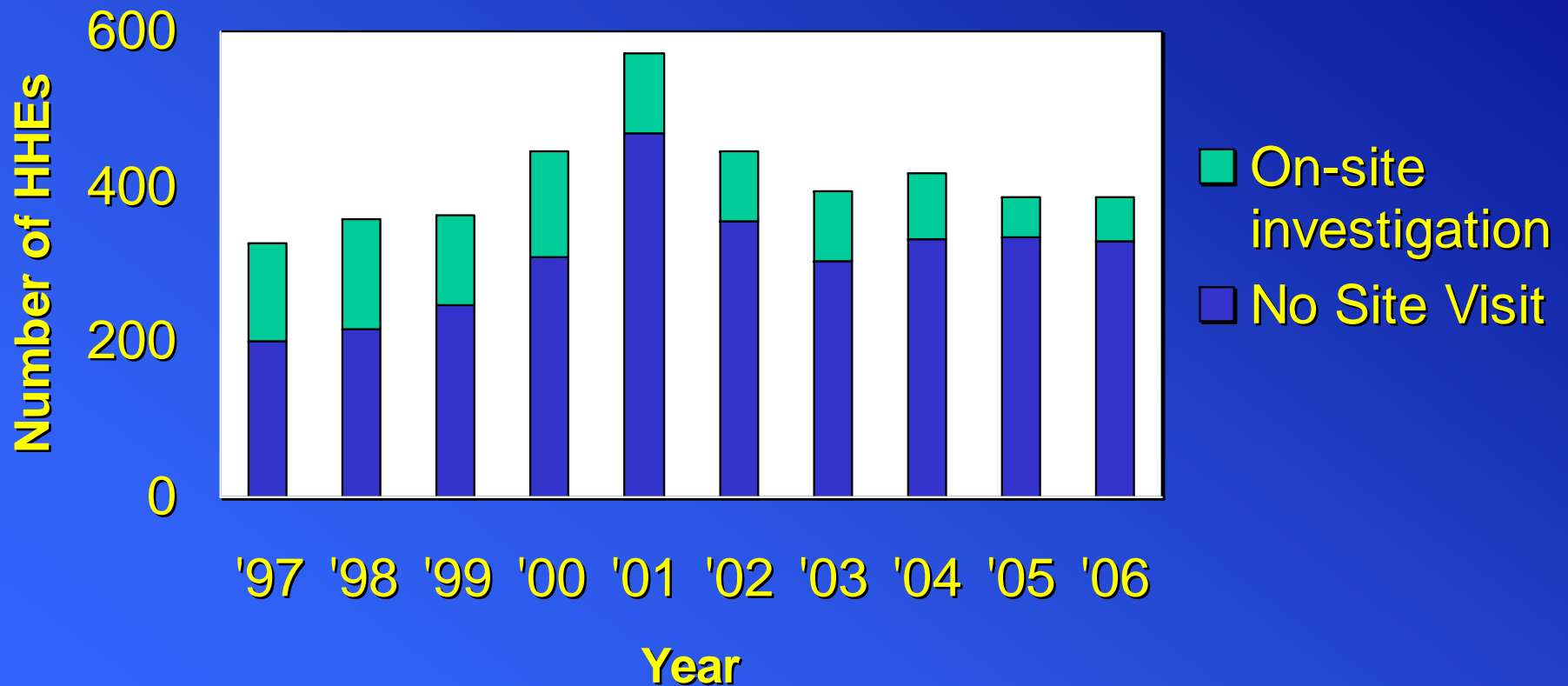
# *Triage*

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- Not every request warrants the same level of response
- Must balance resources and benefits
- Cannot do an on-site investigation for all requests
- Resources are chosen for the greatest impact

# *Site Visit vs No Site Visit*



# *Response without site visit*

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Utilized when:

- Well-known problems
- Recognized solutions
- Available guidance

Response includes...

- Referrals
- Phone consults
- Letters of information/  
recommendations



# *Site Visits conducted to help identify:*

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NEW exposures, processes,  
hazards

Exposure to unregulated agents

Illnesses of unknown cause

Health effects from exposures  
below standards



# *Workplace Site Visits*

Involves evaluation by a diverse team including physicians, epidemiologists, toxicologists, industrial hygienists, engineers, etc.



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# *Workplace Site Visit Tasks: Industrial Hygiene/Environmental*

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- Observe tasks, procedures, work practices
- Talk to workers, supervisors, managers, union reps
- Collect environmental samples
- Review exposure records
- Evaluate engineering controls



# *Workplace Site visits: Medical/Epidemiologic Tasks*

- Medical literature review
- Confidential Employee Interviews
- Review of health logs
  - OSHA Illness/Injury logs
  - First Aid Logs
  - Workers' Compensation Records
- Limited physical exams
- Biological Monitoring



# *HHE Employee Interviews*

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- Voluntary on the part of the employee
- Private and confidential
- Participation during work hours
- To obtain information on work practices, exposures, health effects, concerns, medical records



# *Findings/recommendations published in Health Hazard Evaluation Reports*

- Sent to:
  - Employees/Reps
  - Employer
  - OSHA
- Public record
  - NIOSH web site  
([www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe))
  - National Technical Information Service



# *How to Request a Health Hazard Evaluation*

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Submit an HHE Request Form via

- Fax
- Mail

On-line <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe>

# *HHEs in Oregon*

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- Coe Manufacturing, Inc., Portland
- PCC Schlosser, Redmond
- Roth's Foodliners, Albany
- Spirit Mountain Casino, Grand Ronde Threemile Canyon Farms, Columbia River Dairy, Boardman
- US Air Force Reserve, Portland
- US Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, Portland
- US Forest Service Deschutes National Forest, Bend
- Wilbanks International Inc. (Adolph Coors Company), Hillsboro

<http://www.cdc.niosh/hhe>

# *HHEs in Washington*

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- Alaska Airlines, Seattle
- Asarco, Incorporated, Tacoma Plant, Ruston
- Associated Grocers, Inc., Seattle
- Beaufort Air-Sea Equipment Company, Seattle
- Boeing Aircraft, Seattle
- Boise Cascade, Timber and Wood Products Division, Kettle Falls
- Boise Cascade, Vancouver
- Certain-Teed Products, Inc., Tacoma
- CH2M Hill Hanford Group, Inc. and United States Department of Energy, Office of River Protection, Richland
- Composite Report on Thiram, Weyerhaeuser Company, Centralia
- Cowlitz County Health Department, Longview HETA 97-0045-2676, Cle Elum-Roslyn High School, Cle Elum
- Dallas and Mavis Forwarding Company, Seattle
- Federal Occupational Health, Seattle
- Horizon Air, Seattle
- Intalco Aluminum Corporation, Ferndale
- Kaiser Aluminum, Mead
- Kaiser Aluminum, Trentwood Works, Spokane

# *HHEs in Washington (continued)*

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- Lamiglas, Woodland
- LCI Excelon Products, Inc., Woodland
- Labels West, Inc., Redmond
- Olympic Medal Laboratories, Bremerton
- Olympic Peninsula Kidney Center, Bremerton
- Pacific Grinding Wheel Company, Marysville
- Procraft, Spokane
- Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton
- Scott Paper Company, Everett
- Sea-Land Service, Seattle
- Seattle Public Schools, Seattle
- Simpson Timber Company, Shelton
- Stericycle, Inc., Morton
- Sundstrand Data Control, Redmond
- Swedish Hospital, Seattle
- University of WA, Seattle
- U.S. Park Service, Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, Cheney
- West Seattle Community Hospital, Seattle
- Weyerhaeuser Corporation, Longview

# ***NIOSH Denver Regional Office***



# Denver Office Staff

Currently: 3 IH, 1 Medical,  
1 Administrative

Had been conducting  
Health Hazard Evaluations

On track to add  
Communications,  
Safety and Epidemiology  
personnel



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# *Objective*

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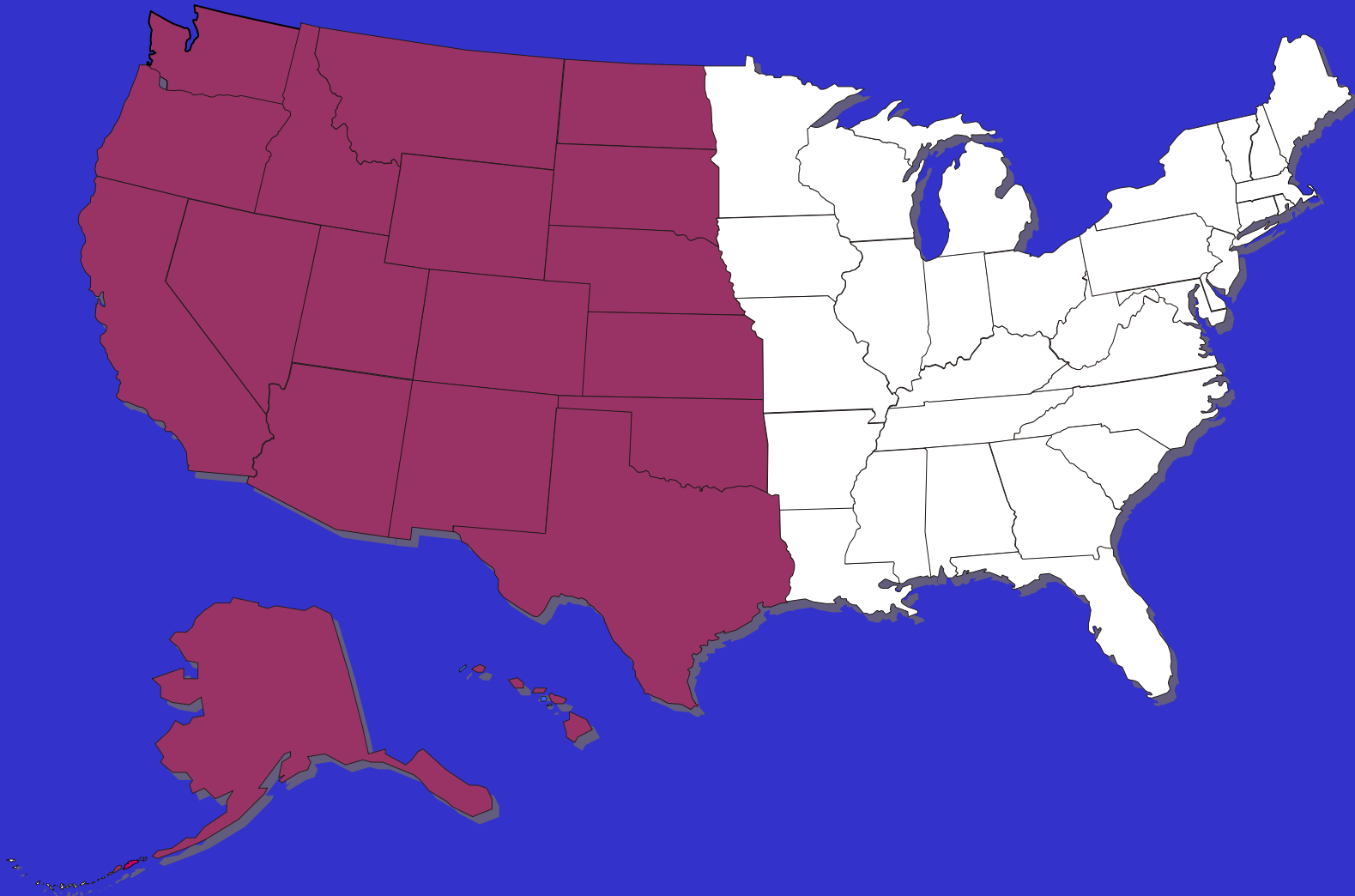


From NIOSH Director 1/2007

Utilize existing NIOSH Denver resources to identify and address emerging and growing occupational health and safety (OH&S) issues in the West

# *States in NIOSH Western Region*

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# *Review: OH&S in the West*



- The West grew faster than all other U.S. regions every decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Nine western states plus Florida were the fastest growing from 1990 to 2000
  - Nevada's population grew faster than any other state; Arizona was second

U.S. Census Bureau



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# *Review: Fatal occupational injury rates*

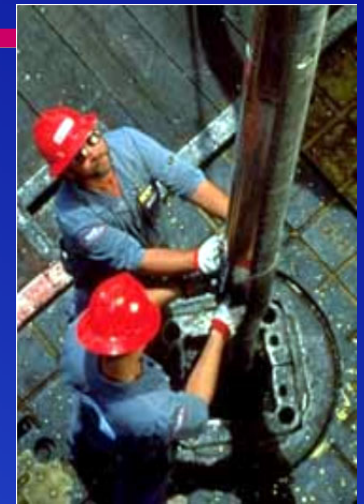
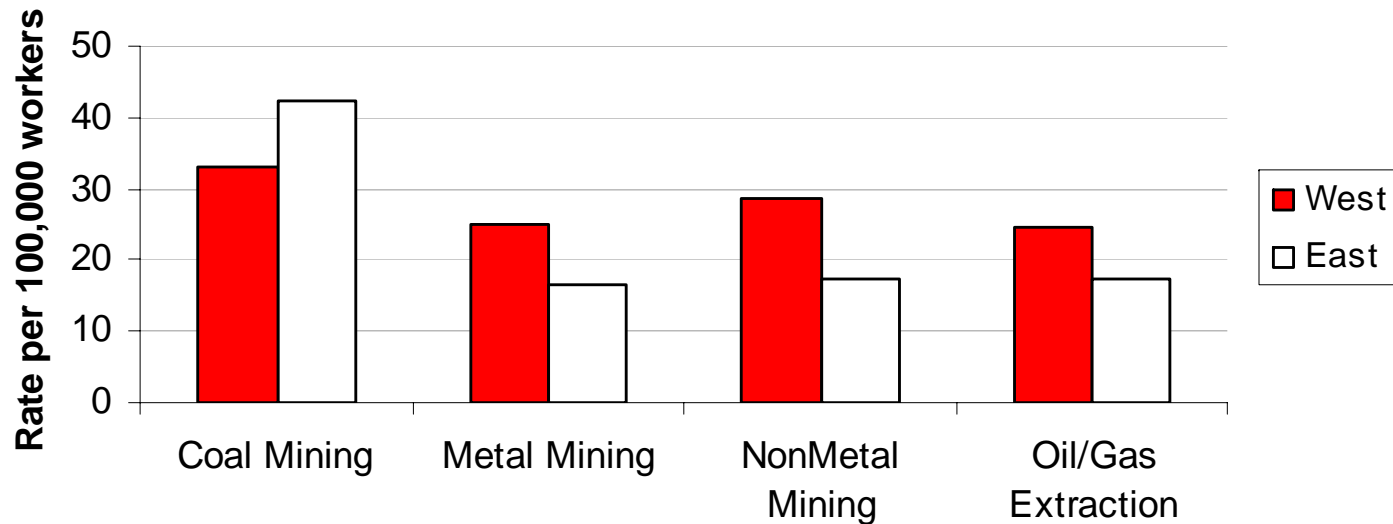


- The U.S. rate was 3.9 per 100,000 employed workers in 2006 (BLS)
- Fatal occupational injuries exceeded 10 per 100,000 employed workers in Alaska, Wyoming, and Montana in 2002

*(Sources: BLS [2003a]; BLS [2003b].)*

# ***Review: Mining – specifically non-coal mining***

**Occupational Fatality Rate During 1992-2001**



CFOI data – approved by BLS

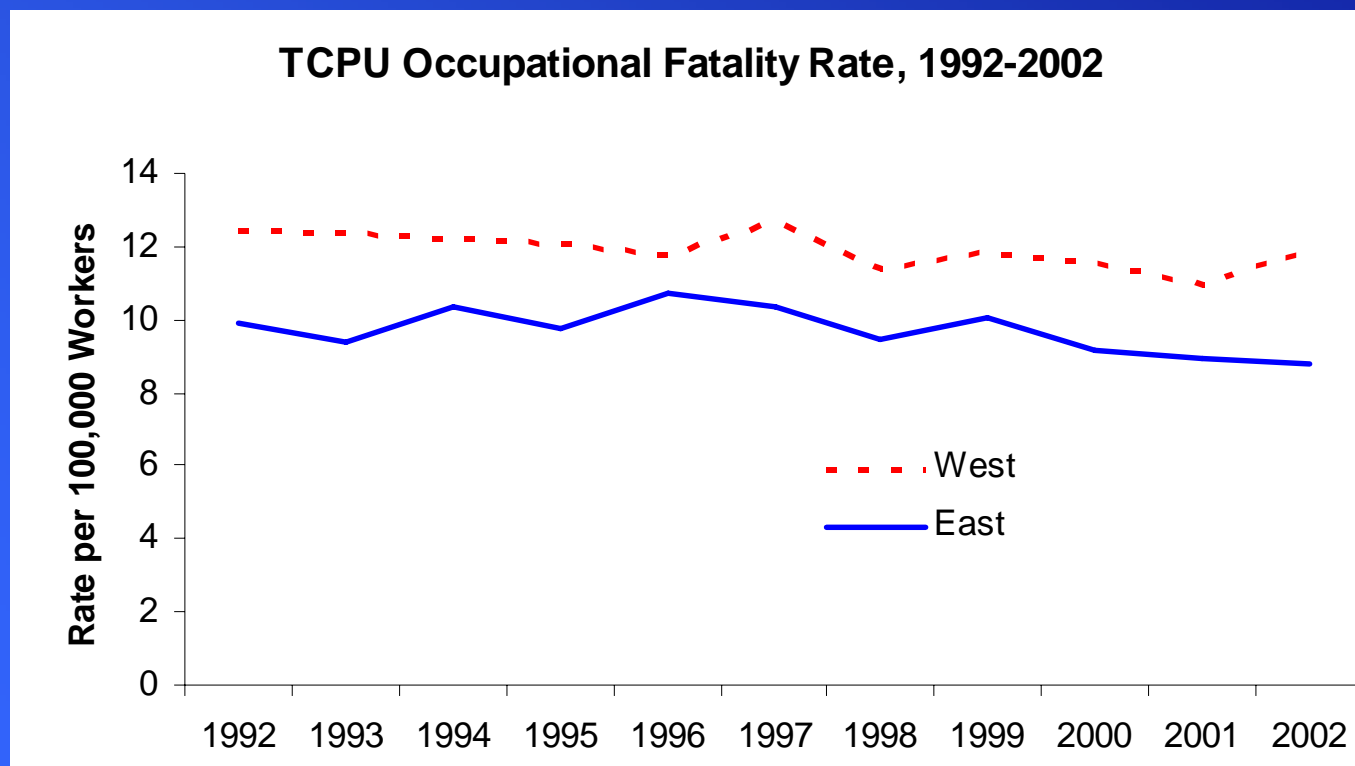
# ***Review: Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing***

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- AK, WY, MT, ID were the four states with the highest occupational fatality rates in the US during 1980-2000
- all reported Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing as one of their leading industries in terms of numbers of fatalities (CFOI 2000-02)



# ***Review: Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities***



CFOI data – BLS



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# *Review: Unique Hazards and Issues*

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- Work at Altitude
- Climate
- Distance
- Wildland Fire Fighting
- Work in remote locations



# *Current Emphasis Areas*



## Surveillance/OHS Program Development

- Supporting states with limited OHS capacity
- CSTE Indicator collection
- Collaboration with ERCs

## Natural Resource Extraction

- Oil and Gas – identifying potential exposures of concern (diesel, silica, VOCs)

## Federal Agency Support

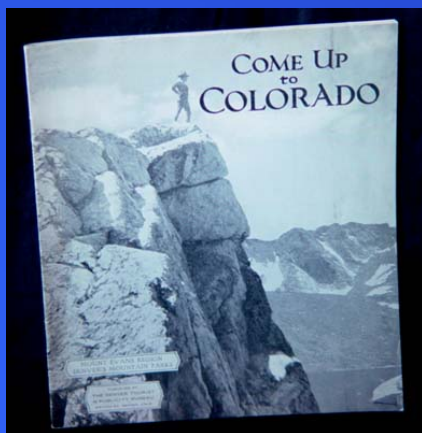
- USGS/DOI/USDA/EPA/OSHA

## Communication

- Web Page/Hosting Regional Meetings

Western "Gateway" to all of NIOSH

# *Upcoming Activities in Denver*



June 8-12 CSTE Meeting

July 29-30 NORA Meeting

August 25-28

Democratic National Convention  
(emergency response)

September 25-26

Western Occupational Network  
(WESTON) Meeting



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# *Questions?*

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NIOSH Website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh>

