



DOL News Brief

May 12, 2011

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Words of Wisdom for NJCU



At the Izod Center in East Rutherford, N.J., Secretary Solis delivered remarks at the commencement of New Jersey City University's class of

2011 on Wednesday. She addressed the 1,650 graduates, as well as their families, friends and teachers, emphasizing the importance of education in the workforce and as a tool for attaining one's goals in life. In addition to citing her own story, Solis highlighted that of a student in the graduating class, Evelyn Malzberg, who at 84 has been taking one class per semester for the last 25 years at NJCU. Malzberg's example shows that education is a lifelong process. NJCU presented the secretary with an honorary doctorate of humane letters degree.

- View the Slideshow
Read the Secretary's Commencement Address

Immigration and 21st Century

As part of his commitment to bring about a thoughtful reform of the U.S. immigration system, President Obama has met with countless



faith-based representatives, business people, legislators, advocates and local community leaders. Secretary Solis has joined him at several of these meetings, where the message has been constant and clear: The current system is broken, and it is time to fix it. On Tuesday, the president traveled to El Paso, Texas, where — mere steps from the U.S.-Mexico border — he laid out a road map for an immigration system that is both rigorous and humane and that truly meets the needs of 21st century America. Among other things, the president underscored the work that has been done to secure our nation's borders. He

What's Hot

Keeping Track of Wages: DOL Has an App for That!

Having trouble keeping track of your hours at work? The U.S. Department of Labor has an app for that! The first DOL application for smartphones is a timesheet to help employees independently track the hours they work and determine the wages they are owed. In English or Spanish, users can track regular work hours, break time and any overtime hours for one or more employers. This information could prove invaluable during a Wage and Hour Division investigation when an employer has failed to maintain accurate employment records. "This app will help empower workers to understand and stand up for their rights when employers have denied their hard-earned pay," said Secretary Solis. The free app is currently compatible with the iPhone and iPod Touch.



- Learn More and Download the App
Read the News Release

More Assistance for Southern States Recovering From Severe Storms

The Labor Department announced two grants this week to assist cleanup and recovery efforts in Georgia and Mississippi in the wake of the severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding that struck last month. A \$5 million National Emergency Grant was awarded to assist with recovery efforts in Georgia. "We've all seen the pictures on television of devastation in Georgia," said Secretary Solis. "Today's grant will help affected communities to clean up and repair the damage." Additionally, a \$7 million National Emergency Grant was announced for recovery assistance in Mississippi. "The Department of Labor is part of a broad team of federal agencies focused on helping the state of Mississippi with efforts to clean up and recover from the devastation left in the path of this storm," said Solis. "The impacted communities need and deserve our help, and it is my hope that today's grant will help the people of Mississippi move forward."

- Read the Georgia News Release
FEMA Designated Disaster Areas in Georgia
Read the Mississippi News Release

Around DOL

DOL Honors Its Own

The 98th annual Honor Awards ceremony recognized the department's own employees for outstanding work in 2010, including their efforts following the Upper Big Branch Mine



videoconference, talking with hosts Secretary Solis and Deputy Secretary Seth Harris in real time. Shelby Hallmark, former director of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, received the department's top honor, the Philip Arnow Award, for his contributions to the accomplishments of the Department of Labor's mission throughout his career.

disaster and the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, among many others. Job Corps students in Massachusetts who handcrafted some of the awards were able to join in by

- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [Learn more about the UBB Job Corps Designed Awards](#)
- [Learn more about the Deepwater Job Corps Designed Awards](#)
- [Read about Shelby Hallmark, the Philip Arnow Awardee](#)
- [Read about the new Willard Wirtz Award & Winners](#)
- [Read about the Secretary's Impact Award Winners](#)

**Worker Protection for AAPI Community**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's regional office in San Francisco hosted a worker protection summit for the Bay Area's diverse population of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders on May 10. Federal, state and local agencies joined with community and faith-based organizations to discuss health and safety concerns, wage and overtime pay protections and employment discrimination. Keynoting the event was Patricia Shiu, director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, and a member of the federal Interagency Working Group of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Shiu brought important messages from Secretary Solis and President Obama committing to transforming the promise of "Good Jobs for Everyone" into a reality. She also shared her experiences growing up Asian American in Chicago before studying law and working in San Francisco as an employment and civil rights attorney. Newly appointed California Labor Commissioner Julie Su kicked off the afternoon agenda by sharing her recollection of working side-by-side the Wage and Hour Division in 1997 to help Thai garment workers in El Monte, Calif., and the importance of protecting vulnerable workers.



- [Read Shiu's Remarks](#)
- [View the Slideshow](#)

**International Scene**

**Polaski Testifies on Colombia Trade Agreement**



The Labor Department's Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs Sandra Polaski testified on Tuesday before the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance to discuss labor rights and conditions in Colombia, the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement's labor provisions and the Colombian Action Plan Related to Labor Rights. She urged Congress to reauthorize programs to help workers impacted by trade obtain job training and assistance so they can succeed in the job market. "President

also pointed to tremendous contributions of immigrants and added that unscrupulous businesses must be held accountable for both the exploitation of undocumented workers and the undermining of American workers and businesses that play by the rules. Later that day, Secretary Solis expanded on the president's call to action during a television tour that brought her, via satellite, into homes across such cities as Miami, San Antonio and Los Angeles.

- [Read the President's Remarks](#)
- [Watch the President's Speech](#)
- [Join the Conversation](#)

**Construction Safety for Youth**



Donning work boots, hard hats and reflective vests, 45 students from the Eastern Center for Arts and Technology and Central Montgomery

Vocational School in Montgomery County, Pa., learned first-hand about the importance of construction safety during the fourth annual Youth Safety in Construction Day held Tuesday. Hosted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Gilbane Building Co. and the Philadelphia Building Trades, the event was held at the construction site of the future Albert Einstein Healthcare Network and Montgomery Health System's New Regional Medical Center in Norristown, Pa. Students participated in interactive demonstrations on fall, electrical and rigging safety, and operated a crane simulator provided by a local engineering union.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

**Employment Forum in Chicago**

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs' Midwest Region hosted a "Linkage Party" event on Monday, bringing together nearly 200



federal contractors and veterans service organizations. "This was an incredible networking event that launched a new alliance among OFCCP, employers and VSOs to address barriers and improve the opportunity of finding employment for veterans," said Regional Director Sandra Zeigler. OFCCP kicked off the all day event with a stirring video tribute to veterans and

a state proclamation by Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn declaring May 9 Triple Nickle Day, in honor of special guests — members of Triple Nickle, the first all-black paratrooper unit in the U.S. Army.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

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## Solis Honored by HNBA



The Hispanic National Bar Association honored Secretary Solis Wednesday as the recipient of the 2011 Capital Award for her "tireless advocacy

for workers' fundamental rights to decent wages and benefits, safe working conditions, and job security. . . [and] critical efforts on behalf of workers in the Latino community." She thanked members for providing a voice in the legal profession for important issues affecting Latinos, and underscored the department's commitment to protecting the welfare of all workers.

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## National Dialogue on Workplace Flexibility in Cambridge, Mass.

A free forum on workplace flexibility in educational institutions held last week in Cambridge, Mass., by the Women's Bureau drew 140 attendees.



According to Regional Administrator Jackie Cooke, "It was an exciting morning, bustling with new connections, the sharing of best practices and new ideas for the future." Participants included representatives from colleges and universities across New England — including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University — and a few from as far away as Arizona and Washington, D.C. Also attending were officials from state agencies, nonprofit organizations, provider organizations, and labor and professional organizations. The bureau's director, Sara Manzano-Díaz, spoke at the forum. "Compelling research on this issue makes it clear that the time is now to expand workplace flexibility policies and practices to benefit all working women and their families," she said.

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## Dep. Sec. Visits Lone Star State



During a two-day trip to Austin and San Antonio, Texas, last week, Deputy Secretary Seth Harris conducted a series of

Obama is committed to pursuing an ambitious trade agenda that will help grow our economy and support good jobs for American workers by opening new markets. An essential component of this agenda is ensuring that our trading partners respect fundamental labor rights so that U.S. businesses and workers compete on a level playing field," said Polaski.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read Polaski's Testimony](#)

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## US-China Sit Down for Labor Dialogue

The Bureau of International Labor Affairs hosted a two-day labor dialogue with officials of China's Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security. In opening remarks on May 10, ILAB Deputy Undersecretary Sandra Polaski welcomed China's Vice Minister Wang Xiaochu and his colleagues. Both officials spoke of the challenges facing their countries and the opportunity to learn from each other, particularly with regard to protecting vulnerable populations and creating new, quality jobs. Presentations focused on China's new minimum wage law and its implementation; how the Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division enforces laws in the construction industry; China's rural-urban social security system; and pension protections for U.S. workers.



- [View the Slideshow](#)

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## News You Can Use

### Mine Exploration a Dangerous Game, Warns NFL Running Back



When he's not breaking rushing records in the NFL, Kansas City Chiefs running back Thomas Jones is speaking out about the dangers associated with recreational pursuits on mine property. Last year, Jones took up the mantle of national spokesman for "Stay Out-Stay Alive," a public safety campaign sponsored by the Mine Safety and Health Administration and

aimed at warning young people that active and abandoned mine sites are not playgrounds. Each year, dozens of people are injured or killed while swimming in quarries, four-wheeling on sand and gravel pits, or exploring abandoned mine shafts. Jones is no stranger to such antics. Having grown up the son of coal miners in southwest Virginia, he, too, was lured by the promise of adventure underground — and nearly lost a friend in the process. Today, he hopes to discourage youngsters from similar behavior. Jones met with members of Congress to discuss "Stay Out-Stay Alive" and how state governments can join forces with MSHA to keep children safe. During a conference call with MSHA Assistant Secretary Joe Main and members of the media, Jones said: "I know how dangerous these quarries, caves and abandoned mines can be. This is not a glamorous cause, but this is a serious situation and it's close to me because I lived it."

- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [Visit Stay Out-Stay Alive Web Page](#)

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## MSHA Solidifies Working Relationship with IMCC

In an effort to address mine emergency response gaps and improve coordination during mine emergencies, the Mine Safety and Health Administration hosted a meeting with the Interstate Mining Compact Commission in

meetings with community business and labor leaders. The discussions included two "Winning the Future" White House Business Council roundtables with small business owners; a federal government-small business procurement fair with General Services Administrator Martha Johnson, local officials and regional representatives from several federal agencies; and two meetings with labor leaders. The talks focused on ways the Labor Department and other federal agencies can promote job creation through expansion of and hiring in high-growth, including high-tech, industries. The roundtables are part of an ongoing series of visits by senior administration officials to all 50 states for more than 100 meetings by the end of the year. At the procurement fair, Harris highlighted DOL's track record of working with small businesses in procurement.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

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## Solis Addresses Faith Leaders

Along with President Obama, Secretary Solis addressed more than 600 Latino pastors and community leaders from 28 states Thursday at Esperanza's National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast. Citing herself among America's distinguished Latinos, she said, "We're on the Supreme Court, in the president's cabinet, in governors' mansions and in the leadership of Congress. We're CEOs of Fortune 500 companies and leaders of the American labor movement. ... We've even seen a Latino farm worker become an astronaut." Recognizing Esperanza for helping many at-risk Latino youths turn around their lives, she emphasized how skills training and job opportunities can make all the difference in giving youth offenders a second chance to succeed.

- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [Read the Secretary's Remarks](#)

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## Enforcing Labor Laws in the Construction Industry

A strengthening economy and more construction projects underway across the country thankfully mean more jobs. However, it's important that those jobs pay prevailing wages and are safe. Speaking Monday at the National Issues Conference of the Quality Construction Alliance, a coalition of construction trade groups, Deputy Secretary Seth Harris reiterated the department's

Triadelphia, W.Va. The IMCC, which is comprised of governors of member states that are concerned with mining regulation, signed a memorandum of understanding with MSHA to facilitate coordinated and timely communications that promote and protect the nation's mining workforce. MSHA and the IMCC have agreed to collaborate in a number of areas, including accident investigation and reporting, emergency notification and response, and mine rescue teams and training. "Good communication between federal agencies and state governments is critical to improving mine safety and health," said MSHA Assistant Secretary Joe Main.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [See the Single Source Page](#)
- [View the Slideshow](#)



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## DOL Working for You

### VETS Rural Outreach Program Aids Veteran



Washington state Army Reserve veteran Geoffrey Talkington is on the road to a new career thanks to a rural outreach pilot program begun in that state by the Veterans' Employment and Training Service. VETS partnered with state and local organizations and volunteers, who contacted thousands of rural veterans in 21 counties by telephone, mail and in person to offer employment services assistance. Talkington, who has served multiple deployments to Iraq and Kuwait, wanted a career different from his previous retail management experience. He lives in a rural area miles from the closest major city. Through the VETS program, he received months of commercial truck training. Upon graduation he was offered a good paying job with a commercial trucking company. He now logs almost 3,000 miles per month driving through Washington, Oregon, and Canada's Alberta and British Columbia provinces. Thanks to the training program, Talkington said, "I have a better quality of life" and an opportunity "to reinvent myself."

### Job Corps Grad Is A Boat Builder

Twenty-year-old Michael Nason had dropped out of high school and admitted he had no direction in his life. But now he is helping to build naval vessels for a large shipbuilder thanks to training received at the Exeter Job Corps Academy in Exeter, R.I. Nason enrolled in advanced manufacturing courses and studied welding at Job Corps. He graduated as one of the best students in the welding class while also finding time to earn his GED certificate. Now Nason makes a good salary as a welder working for the General Dynamics Electric Boat company in Rhode Island. "I had to do something to turn my life around," Nason said. "Job Corps helped me find my career."



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## DOL in Action

### MSHA Releases Transcripts from Fatal 2010 Mine Blast

The first in a series of transcripts from witness interviews conducted during the investigation of the April 2010 Upper Big Branch Mine explosion have

commitment to enforcing labor laws to protect workers and ensure that businesses that play by the rules are not at a disadvantage when competing against those that don't. Phyllis Borzi, assistant secretary for the Employee Benefits Security Administration, also spoke at the conference. She reminded participants about the importance of taking fiduciary responsibilities seriously when managing union apprenticeship funds.

- [Learn More About QCA](#)
- [Learn More About EBSA's Activities](#)

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## Labor Ministers Meet



Amenah Afzali, Afghanistan's minister of labor, social affairs, martyrs and disabled, met with Secretary Solis on Tuesday to discuss the

department's technical assistance to that country's ministry. Last year, the Labor Department committed more than \$1 million in funding to enhance the capacity of the ministry. This funding will support reform of labor laws and upgrading of labor administration in Afghanistan until April 2014. During the meeting, Solis underscored the importance of the relationship between the Labor Department and the ministry, the department's commitment to supporting the ministry's capacity building efforts, and the department's keen interest in Afghan workers' rights and welfare as well as efforts against child labor. In 2010, Afghanistan ratified a series of international conventions on child labor.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

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## OWCP Head Testifies on FECA

Acting Director for the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Gary Steinberg testified in front of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections to discuss proposals to reform and maintain the Federal Employees' Compensation Act as the model workers' compensation program for the 21st century. FECA's fundamental purposes are to provide compensation for wage loss and medical care, facilitate return to work for employees who have recovered from their injuries and pay benefits to survivors. "The faces of FECA include the postal worker whose mail truck is hit while delivering mail, the Federal Bureau of Investigation agent injured or killed in the line of duty, the Department of Veterans Affairs nurse

been made public. The Mine Safety and Health Administration has released 25 transcripts from interviews covering mine rescue and recovery activities immediately following the blast. The transcripts describe how rescuers were called to the West Virginia coal mine following the explosion, as well as their activities underground while searching for the missing miners, establishing communications with the surface and ultimately recovering the 29 victims. MSHA Assistant Secretary Joe Main praised the rescue teams, saying, "We owe these individuals our gratitude for their willingness to respond to these difficult circumstances and to place themselves at risk for the sake of others."

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read the Transcripts](#)

## OSHA Fines Alabama Canopy Company More Than \$200,000

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Chapman Canopy Inc. with 12 safety violations for exposing workers to fall hazards while installing canopies in Pinson, Albertville and Tuscaloosa, Ala. Of these, 10 repeat violations include failing to fully plank the scaffold platform and not having fall protection for employees working from a scaffold. Proposed penalties total \$202,040. "Chapman Canopy's refusal to implement proper fall protections reflects a careless approach to workplace safety, leaving workers at risk of serious injury and possible death," said Roberto Sanchez, OSHA's area director in Birmingham. "This company needs to take immediate steps to eliminate these hazards."

- [Read the News Release](#)

## Back Wages Recovered from 9 Southern Oklahoma Businesses

Nine Oklahoma businesses have agreed to pay \$94,889 in back wages to 101 employees following an investigation by the department's Wage and Hour Division that found minimum wage and overtime violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Employees worked as many as 50 hours a week without receiving overtime; illegal deductions were made, resulting in wages falling below the federal minimum wage; workers were misclassified as independent contractors to avoid paying overtime compensation and required record keeping was not maintained. "It is a top priority of this department to ensure that all workers receive the wages they have rightfully earned," said Cynthia Watson, regional administrator for the WHD in the Southwest. The companies are located in McAlester, Keoto, Clayton and Eufaula.

- [Read the News Release](#)

## Former APWU Officer Sentenced to Prison

Labor union officials have an obligation to use union funds solely for the benefit of the union and its members. When they do not, the department takes action to make things right. On May 2, in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, former American Postal Workers Union Southern Regional Coordinator Frankie L. Sanders of Houston, Texas, was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison without parole for theft of union funds. In November 2010, a jury found Sanders guilty of submitting false travel receipts seeking and obtaining more than \$10,000 in union funds for reimbursement, in violation of 29 U.S.C. 501(c). Sanders also was sentenced to a three-year-term of supervised release and ordered to pay restitution to the APWU in the amount of \$10,078.40. The Office of Labor Management Standards initiated an investigation after an audit of union funds disclosed falsified hotel receipts. The OLMS investigation leading to Sanders' indictment and arrest was conducted by Senior Investigator Shane Geren and Investigator Jose R. Lopez based on information and assistance received from the APWU National in Washington, D.C.

- [Read More About the Case](#)

who hurts her back while lifting patients and the federal employee injured in the recovery efforts in Japan. All of these employees will receive benefits provided by this act," said Steinberg. OWCP administers a number of workers' compensation programs, which cover 2.7 million federal and postal workers and represent one of the largest self-insured workers' compensation systems in the world.

- [Read Steinberg's Testimony](#)

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## **New OSHA Regional Administrator**

John M. Hermanson was recently named regional administrator for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Region 6, which encompasses the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Hermanson started his career with OSHA in 1976 as an industrial hygienist in the Indianapolis Area Office shortly after completing his graduate studies at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, S.D. While in OSHA's Chicago region, he became the assistant administrator for enforcement programs, overseeing enforcement operations for the six Great Lakes states. He also has served as the agency's area director in Illinois, California and Arizona. Hermanson was deputy regional administrator for OSHA's Denver region and served as regional administrator in Philadelphia prior to his appointment to Dallas.

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## **Upcoming Deadlines & Events**

Check out the grant opportunities with DOL.

- [Open Funding Opportunities](#)

### **EBSA — HIPAA and Other Health Benefits Laws: Compliance Assistance Seminar**

- [May 17-18 — Austin, TX](#)

### **EBSA — Understanding Your Fiduciary Responsibilities Under ERISA Workshop**

- [May 19 — Boston, MA](#)

### **MSHA — Spring Thaw Workshop**

- [May 16 — Billings, MT](#)

### **OFCCP — Bay Area Affirmative Action Conference on Employment**

- [May 17 — Berkeley, CA](#)

### **OFCCP — Building Partnerships for the Community**

- [May 14 — Jackson, MS](#)
- [May 17-18 — Biloxi, MS](#)
- [May 29 — Charlotte, NC](#)
- [May 29 — Raleigh, NC](#)

### **OFCCP — Community Outreach and**

## **Court Upholds OSHA Subpoena in Grain Engulfment Case**

A U.S. district court in Chicago has upheld a subpoena issued by OSHA requesting documents from Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Co. and ordered records concerning inspections and reports the company prepared for Haasbach LLC be provided to OSHA. Two teenage workers were killed in a grain engulfment at Haasbach's Mount Carroll, Ill., site in July 2010. "The court affirmed OSHA's authority to obtain relevant information from an employer's workers' compensation insurance company. This is not surprising legally, but it does illustrate that workers' compensation and OSHA are not separate worlds divorced from each other," said OSHA Assistant Secretary Dr. David Michaels.

- [Read the News Release](#)

## **Employee Hazards at San Juan National Historic Site in Puerto Rico**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has issued 16 notices of unhealthful and unsafe working conditions to the National Park Service-San Juan National Historic Site in Puerto Rico for violations of workplace health and safety standards, including exposing workers to hazards during lead paint encapsulation work in a building at the site. The notices address alleged failure to comply with health and safety standards governing work with lead, respirator use, personal protective equipment, hazard communication, electrical safety and record keeping.

- [Read the News Release](#)

## **Assistance for Tsunami Recovery Efforts Along Northern Calif. Coast**

The Labor Department has announced a \$6,498,100 National Emergency Grant to assist cleanup and recovery efforts in the aftermath of the tsunami waves that struck California's Crescent City in Del Norte County and coastal areas of Santa Cruz County on March 11, following the magnitude-9 earthquake in Japan. "In the blink of an eye, natural disasters can overtake entire communities, causing death as well as destruction to both property and livelihoods," said Secretary Solis. "The tsunami wave surge brought serious damage to ports and coastal areas in Northern California. The people who live there deserve our support as they rebuild."

- [Read the News Release](#)

## **San Antonio Co. Cited for Exposing Workers to Amputation Hazards**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited printing company Focus Direct with 12 serious, one repeat and four other-than-serious safety and health violations after an inspection found that workers were exposed to amputation hazards at the company's San Antonio, Texas, facility. "A lack of guards on printing presses can lead to serious injuries, including amputations," said Jeff Funke, OSHA's area director. Serious violations include failing to provide adequate machine guarding of printing presses, training employees on energy control procedures and ensuring all electrical components were maintained.

- [Read the News Release](#)

## **Connecticut Contractor Cited for Repeat and Serious Fall Hazards**

Total Remodeling Services LLC, a Shelton, Conn., roofing contractor, has been cited by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for 16 alleged repeat and serious violations of workplace fall protection, scaffolding and ladder safety standards. The contractor, which OSHA cited for several similar hazards in 2009 and 2010, faces a total of \$139,260 in proposed fines after OSHA found its employees exposed to falls of 20 to 33 feet at a Bridgeport, Conn., worksite. "The sizable fines proposed here reflect both the gravity of these hazards and the recurring nature of several of them," said Robert Kowalski, OSHA's area director in Bridgeport.

#### Education Event

- [May 26 — Richmond, VA](#)

#### OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar

- [May 19 — Miami, FL](#)

#### OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Construction Contractors

- [May 19 — Memphis, TN](#)

#### OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Supply & Service Contractors

- [May 19 — Seattle, WA](#)
- [May 19 — San Diego, CA](#)
- [May 24 — Jacksonville, FL](#)
- [May 26 — Memphis, TN](#)

#### OFCCP — Compliance for Construction Contractors

- [May 20 — Los Angeles, CA](#)
- [May 24 — Mountainside, NJ](#)

#### OFCCP — DOL Informational Outreach & Forum

- [May 25 — Houston, TX](#)

#### OFCCP — Employment for Veterans Conference

- [May 25 — Concord, CA](#)

#### OLMS — Compliance Assistance Seminar

- [May 13 — Buffalo, NY](#)
- [May 25 — New York, NY](#)

#### OLMS — Trustee Workshop

- [May 21 — Champaign, IL](#)

#### OSHA — Combustible Dust Expert Forum

- [May 13 — Washington, DC](#)

#### WHD — Wage and Hour Division Prevailing Wage Conference 2011

- [May 24 - 26 — New York, NY](#)

#### OFCCP Webinar — Active Case Enforcement Procedures Webinar

- [May 17 — Webinar](#)

- [Read the News Release](#)

#### Texas Co. Cited for Exposing Workers to Scaffolding and Fall Hazards

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Jose Ramirez, doing business as RB Plastering, with seven serious, seven repeat and one other-than-serious violation following a safety and health inspection at the company's worksite in Austin. The investigation found that employees were exposed to numerous workplace hazards, including working on scaffolds of heights up to 28 feet without guardrails or other fall protection devices. "This is not the first time RB Plastering has exposed its employees to workplace hazards," said Casey Perkins, OSHA's area director in Austin. The company was cited for similar violations in 2009 at a worksite in Bee Cave, Texas. OSHA standards require that an effective form of fall protection, such as guardrails, safety nets or personal fall arrest systems, be in use when workers perform residential construction activities 6 feet or more above the next lower level.

- [Read the News Release](#)

#### Grant to Assist Workers Affected by Layoffs at Maine Military Authority

The Labor Department announced a \$463,083 National Emergency Grant to provide training and re-employment services to about 75 workers affected by layoffs at Maine Military Authority in Limestone, Maine. "This grant will provide affected workers in Maine with access to services that will help them in preparing for good jobs in the state's growing industries," said Secretary Solis. The funds will be used to prepare workers for positions in high-growth sectors in the area, including health care and social assistance, leisure and hospitality, professional and business services, and retail trade. Layoffs from Maine Military Authority occurred on March 1. The company refurbishes military vehicles and equipment.

- [Read the News Release](#)

#### OSHA Cites Best Buy Following Worker Injury

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited the Best Buy Co. Inc. store in Duluth, Ga., with five safety violations after a worker suffered severe head injuries from a fall in January. The company faces penalties totaling \$76,000. "This injury resulted from managers' complacency, as they failed to oversee powered industrial truck operators to make sure that fall protection was being used," said Bill Fulcher, director of OSHA's Atlanta-East Area Office. "The fact that the body belt was too big for the operator shows a lack of concern and a desire to get the job done regardless of danger to the worker."

- [Read the News Release](#)

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#### Follow USDOL on

- US district court upholds OSHA subpoena in grain engulfment case [05/12/2011] <http://1.usa.gov/k6JFzY> about 22 hours ago
- New on the Blog - For Auto Communities, Investments are Paying Off <http://bit.ly/mLkllq> 1 day

[ago](#)

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