



DOL News Brief

June 23, 2011

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On the HOTline



Assistant Secretary of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Dr. David Michaels joined

Secretary Solis on Thursday for an unprecedented conference call with TV and radio meteorologists and weather forecasters from across the country. With summer officially beginning this week, it was an opportunity to discuss the department's public education campaign to keep outdoor workers safe during the upcoming months. "Each year, thousands of outdoor workers experience heat illness, which often manifests as heat exhaustion," said Secretary Solis. "If not quickly addressed, heat exhaustion can become heat stroke, which killed more than 30 workers last year."

- [Listen to the Conference Call](#)
- [Learn More about the Campaign](#)

What's Hot

Tax Takers to Taxpayers

Secretary Solis, Attorney General Eric Holder and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Chair Jacqueline Berrien, as well as academics, practitioners and business leaders, joined forces on Tuesday at DOL headquarters for an important discussion on workforce development and employment strategies for the formerly incarcerated. To an audience of more than 200 participants, Solis announced the first-ever grant awards under the department's new Civic Justice Corps. Fifteen grants totaling \$20 million were awarded to organizations working with young people who have served in the juvenile justice system. The event concluded with a success story from Marlon Green, who, after being in prison, was connected to Jericho, a DOL grantee in Baltimore. After benefiting from mentorship, Green showed tremendous drive in achieving his career goal of becoming a commercial licensed driver.



- [Watch the Video](#)
- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read the Secretary's Blog Entry](#)
- [View the Slideshow](#)

Job Corps' Belk Honored for Community Service

Capital One Bank awarded Steven Belk, director of the Potomac Job Corps Center in Washington, D.C., its 2011 Community Champion Award for outstanding service within the community. The award was presented on Monday at a Washington Mystics basketball game. Belk was recognized for his mentoring work with Job Corps students and his previous work as an amateur league youth basketball coach. Belk called the award "a great honor."



\$38 Million Awarded Through Green Jobs Innovation Fund

Six organizations – serving workers in 19 states and the District of Columbia – received a total of \$38 million in funding to help existing career training programs leverage Registered Apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeship programs and community-based partnerships in building sustainable green career pathways. The Green Jobs Innovation Fund was authorized under the Workforce Investment Act to help workers receive job training in green industry sectors. "This grant program is an important part of the administration's efforts to equip workers with the skills they need to succeed in green industry jobs," said Secretary Solis. "These are smart investments in the green energy jobs of today and the green energy economy of the future."

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read the Secretary's Blog Entry](#)

Project Honors Wounded Warriors

Joined by Gov. of Connecticut Dannel Malloy and Florida Rep. Ted Deutch, among others,

Workers with Significant Barriers to Benefit from Job Skills Programs

Secretary Solis announced \$39.7 million for seven grants to help individuals with significant barriers to employment obtain the job skills they need through Enhanced Transitional Jobs Demonstration programs. These programs offer temporary, paid work experiences to improve the employability of low-income non-custodial parents and ex-offenders, and promote their self-sufficiency and long-term success in the workforce. The



Secretary Solis attended a summit in

honor of America's wounded veterans in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday. The Hero Health Hire Employment Summit brought together leaders of corporate and government health care industries alike, as part of the Hero Health Hire program, to share perspectives and offer ideas on how they can continue to support our nation's wounded veterans. Solis was also joined by Ray Jefferson, assistant secretary for the Veterans' Employment and Training Service, who led a discussion on DOL initiatives to hire veterans.

- [View The Slideshow](#)

Job Corps Serves It Up

Nearly 80 culinary students from Job Corps centers across the mid-Atlantic, New England and southern regions and Puerto



Rico competed for top honors during the annual Culinary Arts Expo and Iron Chef competition held last week in Mays Landing, N.J. Teams battled it out during two rounds of competition with hopes of earning first place. The winners, for the second consecutive year, were the talented chefs from the Edison Job Corps Center in New Jersey.

- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [Meet the Winners](#)

Message to AAPI Stakeholders



Secretary Solis delivered the keynote speech at the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community

Development's 12th Annual Convention on Monday. The theme was "Building the Future: Investing in Social Capital and Fostering Community Assets." She outlined numerous DOL funding opportunities of interest, including H-1B technical training grants and Susan Harwood training grants, which focus on workplace hazards and control measures, among others. More than 200 attendees from community, member and housing organizations, as well as AAPI nonprofit groups, attended.

programs will be in Manhattan; Syracuse, N.Y.; Atlanta, Ga.; San Francisco, Calif.; Fort Worth, Texas; Indianapolis, Ind.; and Milwaukee, Wis.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Assessments to Help Speed Job Seekers' Return to Work

Thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia will receive nearly \$49 million to implement re-employment and eligibility assessments in One-Stop Career Centers for beneficiaries of unemployment insurance. "These grants are part of our commitment to help America get back to work by ensuring that unemployment insurance beneficiaries have access to the individualized tools they need to land their next jobs," said Secretary Solis. "At the same time, these eligibility reviews enhance the integrity of unemployment insurance payments, resulting in a system that works better for both job seekers and the employers that help pay for benefits."

- [Read the News Release](#)

News You Can Use

Comment Period Extended on Changes to Vets Employment Rules

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs has announced a 14-day extension of the comment period for its notice of proposed rulemaking to revise regulations implementing Section 4212 of the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974. "At OFCCP, we are making comprehensive updates to the laws we enforce and felt that some additional time for public comment was in the best interest of the regulations," said Director Patricia Shiu. "We are balancing the requests for an extended comment period with the need to quickly put in place rules that will help our nation's veterans find and keep good jobs." The rules proposed by OFCCP would strengthen affirmative action provisions for protected veterans, detailing specific actions federal contractors must take to satisfy their obligations under the law.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Miners: Know Your Rights

The Mine Safety and Health Administration wants to ensure that all miners are aware of their rights. The agency has developed Web-based training tools to help them better understand the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, which specifically prohibits discrimination against miners, applicants for employment and representatives of miners for exercising statutory rights, especially those concerning safety or health activities. The new materials include the full text of "A Guide to Miners' Rights and Responsibilities," an electronic form for filing an anonymous hazard complaint, a discrimination complaint packet, black lung benefits and resources, and a compendium of videos. The package is also available upon request in CD and DVD formats. "All miners, including supervisors and contractors, have the right to identify hazardous conditions and refuse unsafe work without fear of discrimination or retaliation," said MSHA Assistant Secretary Joseph Main. "Ensuring that miners understand their rights has been a priority of mine since well before I was appointed to this job in 2009. We hope these online tools will help give miners the confidence to exercise those rights."

- [Read the News Release](#)

[View the Slideshow](#)

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

Sharing Ideas in Austin

Last week, Deputy Secretary Seth Harris joined Undersecretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs Rebecca Blank to meet with delegates from the Austin Chamber of Commerce. The roundtable meeting focused on ways the Labor and Commerce Departments can encourage economic development and job creation through trade; the development of training programs for skilled workers; and interagency coordination. Harris and Blank highlighted several of the administration's efforts to stimulate growth, and solicited feedback from attendees on ways to better coordinate with local and regional workforce investment boards, as well as colleges and universities.

WH Fellows Sit Down with Solis

Secretary Solis is committed to developing and inspiring future leaders to become involved with their community and government. This week she was able to do just that when she met with the participants of the White House Fellows Program — which provides



outstanding young professionals with first-hand experience in the highest levels of government. Solis emphasized the department's role in enforcing workplace policies and helping workers to develop skills for a 21st century job market. Through a recount of her journey to becoming Labor Secretary, she emphasized the importance of public service and urged the fellows to use their experiences to give back to their respective communities. This class of fellows comes from an array of backgrounds ranging from military officers to lawyers.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

The New Workplace Revolution



With the Rocky Mountains as a backdrop, the Women's Bureau Denver Regional Office hosted a National Dialogue on Workplace

Flexibility forum last Thursday for the hospitality, restaurant and tourism industries. Characterizing workplace flexibility as "The new revolution," Sara Manzano-Díaz, director of the bureau, noted,

- [Learn More](#)

ERISA Advisory Council to Hold Public Meeting in July

The Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefit Plans (also known as the ERISA Advisory Council) will meet July 19-21 at the department. In addition to testimony from invited witnesses, the agenda will include an update on the activities of the Employee Benefits Security Administration. Three topics of study by this year's council include: hedge funds and private equity investments, privacy and security issues affecting employee benefit plans (other than health care plans), and current challenges and best practices for Employee Retirement Income Security Act compliance for 403(b) plan sponsors. The meeting is open to the public.

- [Read the News Release](#)

MSHA to Host Public Briefing on Upper Big Branch Mine Disaster

The Mine Safety and Health Administration will hold a briefing on Wednesday, June 29, to update the public about its investigation into last year's Upper Big Branch Mine explosion. It will begin at 10 a.m. EDT and take place at the National Mine Health and Safety Academy in Beaver, W.Va. "Though our investigation is ongoing, we have been holding briefings throughout the process to keep the public informed and share what we can," said MSHA Assistant Secretary Joseph Main. "MSHA also has pledged to cooperate with the U.S. attorney and the FBI as they bring to justice those who may have broken the law. This public briefing will be a thorough look at what we know so far, while keeping in mind the need to support other ongoing investigations."

- [Read the News Release](#)

DOL Working for You

Job Corps Education Leads to Research Scientist Position

A troubled childhood led Jonathan Tucker's mom to suggest he enroll in the Jacksonville, Fla., Job Corps center. There he flourished, earning a GED diploma and IT certification while also bringing discipline and confidence into his life. Now the 26-year-old works as a research scientist for a large engineering company at a U.S. Department of Energy site in West Virginia. He is studying how to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from coal to produce cleaner fuel. Job Corps "gave me the opportunity to get away from everything bad and a technical foundation to build upon," Tucker said. While working, he is also attending a local university, where he is studying toward an undergraduate degree in physics. Afterward, he plans to pursue a doctorate in materials science.



One-Stop Career Center Helps Worker Find Employment in Real Estate

For the first time in her life, Amy Gilthorpe faced the reality of collecting unemployment insurance benefits after the real estate market crashed. But career assistance at a Dover, N.J., One-Stop Career Center sharpened her skills to find a good job. Gilthorpe took courses on interviewing skills, resume writing and how to network. Counselors helped her polish her "30 second elevator speech" and focus her search on jobs that most matched her skill set. Those efforts landed her



a job in two months. She now works for a large real estate company, helping people who are being relocated by their employers.

"Women serve us when we are on vacation, when we stay in hotels and eat in restaurants, but they also need to serve their own families at home. Work-life balance is important for both workers and businesses to stay competitive." Representatives from women's organizations, employers, research and education professionals, and government employees attended.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

Mayors Get Summer Job Info

Forty black mayors from across the country convened in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday for the 2011 Legislative Policy



Summit of the National Conference of Black Mayors. The summit is an annual opportunity for the group to engage with policymakers throughout the federal government and administration, as well as innovative business leaders in the private sector. Secretary Solis participated, highlighting department efforts across the country including the 2011 Summer Jobs Initiative, the Pathways out of Poverty Grants, and green energy jobs.

Continued Focus on Retirement

Choosing to save for retirement today is a smart move whether you are planning to retire in five years or 35. This week, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Employee Benefits Security Administration Michael Davis joined academics, retirement plan sponsors and investment professionals at the Financial Engines/Pension Research Council Retirement Income Summit in Chicago. Nearly 100 conferees learned about the department's efforts to promote greater retirement security by enhancing the availability of lifetime income options for 401(k) plan participants.

- [Learn More](#)

DOL Hosts AAPI Interns

The Washington Leadership Program is dedicated to building the next generation of leadership from within the South Asian American community through internship opportunities in the

DOL in Action

Roofing Company Fined for Exposing Workers to Fall Hazards

Peach State Roofing Inc. of Lawrenceville, Ga., has been cited by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for five safety violations at work sites in Atlanta and Temple Terrace, Fla. The company exposed workers to a fall of approximately 36 feet while installing roof insulation, did not require them to wear eye protection and allowed them to carry roofing tiles balanced on their shoulders up a ladder. Penalties total \$155,800.

- [Read the News Release](#)

OSHA Looks at Powered Industrial Truck Hazards in Southeast

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's regional office in Atlanta is focusing on reducing fatalities and injuries related to powered industrial trucks in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi. Inspectors are reviewing the training operators receive, maintenance and repair, and the pathways trucks travel to ensure clear visibility and determine any possible struck-by hazards. "Powered industrial trucks are a significant source of serious and fatal injuries to workers," said Cindy Coe, OSHA's regional administrator. "Employers are responsible for ensuring that workers follow the proper safety procedures and for eliminating hazards."

- [Read the News Release](#)

Former APWU Officer Sentenced for Embezzling

The indictment and conviction of a union official followed an investigation by the Office of Labor-Management Standards that disclosed embezzled union money was being used for gambling. Gary Weightman, former president of American Postal Workers Union Local 190 in Clifton, N.J., was sentenced to one year of home confinement followed by 48 months of supervised release and ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine for tax evasion. Weightman received a reduced sentence because his cooperation with federal investigators assisted in the conviction of John McGovern, former secretary-treasurer of Local 190. McGovern previously pleaded guilty to and was sentenced for one count of conspiracy and embezzling union funds after working with Weightman to embezzle \$200,000 from the union.

MSHA Strengthens Standards on Rock Dust

"Inadequate rock dusting can increase the potential for explosions that destroy mines, lives, families and communities, and we must minimize that potential," said Secretary Solis this week as the Mine Safety and Health Administration released a final rule on incombustible content of rock dust. MSHA's final rule follows a September 2010 emergency temporary standard, which leveraged information gathered from the agency's review of accident investigation reports on mine explosions, and a related report issued by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The final rule increases the total incombustible content for all areas of the mine,

nation's capital. This summer's group visited DOL headquarters last Thursday as part of a speaker series on communications and messaging in government. Mentors from several agencies answered questions posed from an inquisitive audience. "It's important that young people from the AAPI community have the opportunity for these types of experiences to see government and public service from a more personal angle," said Parag Mehta, special assistant in the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs.

Meet Apprenticeship Superstars



For 100 years, Registered Apprenticeship programs have combined on-the-job training and related instruction so that workers can learn the practical and theoretical aspects of a highly skilled occupation. In a June 6 anniversary event on

the National Mall, Secretary Solis, joined by business and union officials, highlighted the success of the century-old program as well as several participating apprentices.

"Inspiring young apprentices are getting the skills they need to re-build this country – and their lives," Solis said. "They demonstrate the necessity for Registered Apprenticeships now more than ever as we strive to get Americans back to work by providing job seekers with the skills to land good-paying jobs while linking employers with highly trained talent."



- [Meet Some Apprentices](#)

Upcoming Deadlines & Events

Check out the grant opportunities with DOL.

- [Open Funding Opportunities](#)

EVENTS SPOTLIGHT: WH and DOL Invite Faith and Community-Based Organizations to Talk Transitional Jobs

Faith and community-based organizations have been at the forefront in helping non-custodial parents connect to the workforce and provide for their families. On Thursday, DOL announced grants to seven consortia to provide transitional jobs and employment services to low-income non-custodial parents. Joshua DuBois, director of the White

other than return air courses, from 65 to 80 percent. "We are committed to enforcing this important standard that ultimately will save lives," added MSHA Assistant Secretary Joseph Main.

- [Read the New Release](#)
- [Read the NIOSH Report](#)
- [Watch a Video on Coal Dust Explosions](#)
- [Read the Final Rule](#)

Oil Field Workers in Houston Receive Overtime Back Wages

Oilfield Drilling Equipment & Rig Co. Inc. in Houston has agreed to pay nearly \$140,000 in back wages for 139 workers following a Wage and Hour Division investigation that found violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Employees were misclassified as independent contractors and consequently denied overtime compensation. "There is no excuse for depriving workers of their rightful wages, and the resolution of this case demonstrates that the Labor Department will vigorously pursue violators to ensure accountability and compliance with the law," said Cynthia Watson, regional administrator for the division. ODERCO also has agreed to properly classify its employees and comply with the FLSA in the future.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read the News Release](#) (En Español)

Manufacturer and Recycler Cited Following Workplace Amputations

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited Jefco Manufacturing Inc. in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., for six safety, including two willful, violations involving exposing workers to unguarded machinery hazards after a worker suffered an amputation of three fingers while operating a mechanical power press. Proposed penalties total \$94,200. In a separate incident, OSHA cited Triple P Farms in Glen, Miss., for four safety violations following the amputation of an employee's legs when his foot was caught in a baling machine as he attempted to clear cardboard that had jammed. Proposed penalties total \$73,500. One willful and three serious violations include failing to develop an energy control program.

- [Read the Florida News Release](#)
- [Read the Mississippi News Release](#)

\$7.7 Million Grant for Maryland and DC BRAC Closures

The Labor Department has provided a \$7,666,392 National Emergency Grant to assist about 6,530 U.S. Department of Defense civilian workers, contractors and military spouses impacted by the realignments and closures of military facilities in the District of Columbia and Maryland. The grant will fund strategies to minimize the time that workers are unemployed, as well as provide services to help them upgrade their skills and obtain jobs that support the growth of several military installations. "When a military facility closes or relocates, it impacts both military families and local civilians," said Secretary Solis. "This grant will help prepare affected workers for jobs in growing industries, especially the jobs that will be created by the expansion of military facilities in nearby areas."

- [Read the News Release](#)

Houston Employer Cited for Exposing Workers to Chemicals

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Schumacher Co. Inc. in Houston with 31 serious and two other-than-serious violations for exposing employees to multiple safety and health hazards. "This company jeopardized the safety of its workers by not providing personal protective equipment required while working with dangerous chemicals," said Area Director Mark Briggs. OSHA's standards require employees to wear

House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, along with department officials will hold a special conference call on Friday, June 24, at 3 p.m. EDT for faith and community leaders to discuss the Enhanced Transitional Jobs Demonstration programs. Join the call to learn more about the initiative and grantees, and how these programs support President Obama's Responsible Fatherhood efforts.

- [Learn More.](#)

Reminder: Preliminary Regulatory Reform Plan Review to Close July 1
Earlier this year, President Obama issued an executive order that outlined his vision for a 21st century regulatory system. Each federal agency will review regulations and remove those that are out-of-date, unnecessary, duplicative, confusing or overly burdensome. The Labor Department released a preliminary plan open for public comment through July 1.

- [Make a Comment](#)
- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read the Deputy Secretary's Blog Entry](#)
- [Read the Executive Order](#)

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

- [June 28-29 — Raleigh, NC](#)

EBSA — Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program Workshop

- [June 24 — Silver Spring, MD](#)

OFCCP — 45th Anniversary of Executive Order 11246

- [June 29 — Portland, OR](#)

OFCCP — ABC's of the AAP

- [July 22 — Los Angeles, CA](#)

OFCCP — Building Partnerships for the Community

- [June 29 — Charlotte, NC](#)
- [June 29 — Raleigh, NC](#)

OFCCP — Community Outreach and Education Event

- [July 7 — Richmond, VA](#)
- [July 21 — Richmond, VA](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Construction Contractors

- [June 30 — Memphis, TN](#)
- [July 20 — San Diego, CA](#)

appropriate personal protective equipment, such as chemical aprons, sleeves/gauntlets and footwear, while working with acids and hexavalent chromium. Proposed penalties total \$166,500.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Grant to Assist Laid-Off Workers of Ohio Cabinet Maker

A \$4,593,515 National Emergency Grant will provide re-employment services to about 690 workers affected by the closure of Masco Retail Cabinet Group in Pike County, Ohio. Awarded to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, it will provide training and support services in conjunction with other aid the workers will receive as Trade Adjustment Assistance benefits. "Southern Ohio has been hit hard by the economic downturn, and many workers have been laid off through no fault of their own," said Secretary Solis. "The Labor Department is committed to helping these workers prepare for good jobs in Ohio's growing industries, such as advanced energy, health care and food processing."

- [Read the News Release](#)

Plastic Systems Cited for Safety and Health Hazards

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Plastic Systems in El Paso, Texas, for exposing its workers to safety and health hazards, including failing to maintain a workplace in a clean and orderly manner, maintain an effective hearing conservation program and provide eye protection for employees working near grinding machinery. Last year OSHA cited the company for similar violations.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Tortilla Company Cited for Multiple Safety and Health Hazards

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited San Antonio-based Sanitary Tortilla Co. Ltd. with serious and repeat violations for failing to ensure machine guarding, correct electrical deficiencies, and ensure fire extinguishers were accessible and fully operational. "This is not the first time Sanitary Tortilla has jeopardized the safety of its employees," said Jeff Funke, OSHA's area director. The agency cited the company in 2008 for similar violations. Proposed penalties total \$59,400.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Continued Assistance for Delaware Auto Workers and Suppliers

In an effort to continue retraining and re-employment services for affected workers in the automobile sector, the department provided a \$707,550 National Emergency Grant increment to assist about 450 workers affected by layoffs at Chrysler LLC in Newark, Del.; General Motors Corp. in Wilmington, Del.; and five suppliers to the two companies. "This grant will provide important training and employment services to auto industry workers from Delaware who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own," said Secretary Solis.

- [Read the News Release](#)

\$119K in Fines Proposed to Honeywell International

Honeywell International Inc. in Metropolis, Ill., has been cited by Occupational Safety and Health Administration with 17 serious safety violations for process safety management violations after its processing plant experienced a release of hydrogen fluoride vapor. Proposed penalties total \$119,000. "Honeywell International has a responsibility to properly train its employees, and to strictly adhere to safety procedures and processes in all facilities," said Tom Bielema, OSHA's area director.

- [Read the News Release](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Construction and Supply and Service Contractors

- [June 29 — San Diego, CA](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Supply & Service Contractors

- [June 29 — Nashville, TN](#)
- [June 29 — Portland, OR](#)
- [July 21 — Seattle, WA](#)

OFCCP — DOL Forum - Promoting Good Jobs for Everyone

- [June 30 — Denver, CO](#)

OFCCP — DOL Forum - Informational Outreach & Forum for Civil Rights and Faith-Based Organizations

- [July 26 — Philadelphia, PA](#)

OFCCP — Outreach Assistance for New Federal (Non-Construction) Contractors

- [July 20 — Philadelphia, PA](#)

OFCCP — Outreach to Minority and Women's Community-based Organizations

- [July 28 — Baltimore, MD](#)

OLMS — Compliance Assistance Seminar

- [July 14 — Charlotte, NC](#)

OSHA — Buffalo Community Health Fair

- [June 25 — Buffalo, NY](#)

OSHA — New York Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) Worker Protection Summit

- [July 9 — Flushing, NY](#)

OWCP — Town Hall Meetings to assist Nuclear Weapons Workers

- [July 13 — Amherst, NY](#)

OWCP — Traveling Resource Center to Assist Nuclear Weapons Workers

- [June 28 — Grand Junction, CO](#)

WB — Information & Outreach Forum and Equal Pay Workshop

- [June 29 — Dallas, TX](#)

WB — National Dialogue on Workplace Flexibility: Professional Industries

- [June 30 — New York, NY](#)

Ohio-based Excavating Company Cited After Trench Cave-in

Bontrager Excavating LTD in Uniontown, Ohio, was cited by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for two alleged willful, two serious and one repeat safety violation for failing to protect workers from cave-ins during trenching operations. An inspection was initiated after one worker was killed and another was injured in a sewer line trench collapse in Stark County. The company faces proposed penalties of \$157,710. "Cave-ins are a leading cause of worker fatalities during excavations. Failing to take adequate safety measures to prevent cave-ins had a tragic result in this situation," said Area Director Howard Eberts.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Grant to Train Maine Workers for Jobs of the Future

The department provided a \$657,841 National Emergency Grant to assist about 200 workers affected by layoffs at Katahdin Paper Co. in East Millinocket, Maine. Awarded to the Maine Department of Labor, the grant will provide job assistance, including training for employment, in growing Maine industries such as construction, energy, health care, information technology and transportation.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Mattress Manufacturer Cited for Safety Violations

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Spears Mattress Co. in Rome, Ga., a licensee for Englander brand mattresses, with 14 serious safety violations. OSHA began an inspection as part of its Site-Specific Targeting Program, which focuses enforcement efforts on industries that report higher-than-average injury rates. Penalties total \$45,850.

"Inspectors found violations that could easily result in a serious employee injury or death," said Area Director Andre Richards.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Pizzeria to Pay Back Wages, Liquidated Damages

Eleven employees of Buchhalter Ltd., doing business as The Upper Crust Pizzeria in Salem, Mass., will receive a total of \$80,554 in back wages and liquidated damages, thanks to the work of the Wage and Hour Division. An investigation determined that the company had improperly classified kitchen employees as exempt from Fair Labor Standards Act overtime pay provisions and paid them "straight time," instead of overtime, wages. The company also failed to maintain accurate records of the hours worked by its employees. When informed of these violations, the company agreed to come into full compliance with all FLSA requirements and pay back wages of \$40,277, plus an equal amount in liquidated damages.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Spotlight on States: Massachusetts

Continued Funding to Assist Former Workers of 9 Mass. Companies

The department awarded a \$1,412,754 National Emergency Grant increment to continue training and re-employment services to about 600 workers affected by layoffs at nine companies in Massachusetts representing the information, manufacturing, retail and transportation industries. The companies include ACT Electronics Inc., Altus Pharmaceuticals Inc., Bose Corp., DHL, EMC Corp., Sepracor Inc., Snap-on Inc., Staples Inc. and Taylor Corp. "The Labor Department is committed to helping these workers prepare for and obtain jobs in growing industries," said Secretary Solis.

WHD — Prevailing Wage Conference
2011

- [July 12-14 — Phoenix, AZ](#)
- [July 20-21 — Honolulu, HI](#)

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- New MSHA training tools address miners' rights and responsibilities
<http://1.usa.gov/kRocF9> about 3 hours ago
- DOL provides grant to continue assistance to workers affected by layoffs at 9 companies in Massachusetts [06/...
<http://1.usa.gov/ITbYFm> about 5 hours ago

- [Read the News Release](#)

Grant to Aid Laid-off Workers of Massachusetts Store

A \$4,279,199 National Emergency Grant was provided to the Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development to help approximately 720 workers affected by layoffs throughout the commonwealth of Massachusetts as a result of the closure of AJWright stores. Affected workers will be able to access employment and training services provided by the grant – including English for speakers of other languages instruction, adult basic education, occupational and vocational training, job development and job placement – at any One-Stop Career Center in the commonwealth. Secretary Solis said, "This grant is a step toward helping these Massachusetts workers who have been laid off through no fault of their own."

- [Read the News Release](#)

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