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Subject: The DOL Newsletter - January 8, 2015: Shared Prosperity; Possibilities Through STEM; Drop in Coal Mining Deaths

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DOL News Brief

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January 8, 2015

Each week, this space will bring you [the best from our blog](#).

- [Ringing in the New Year With a Raise](#): As we begin 2015, low-wage workers in 20 states will benefit from minimum wage increases.
- [Happy New Year and Happy Birthday, OSHA](#): New Year's revelry may have faded, but the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has a reason to celebrate. OSHA turned 44 this week, writes Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health.
- [Ensuring "Opportunity" Extends to All](#): For America's workers with disabilities, the Advisory Committee on Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities is an important part of expanding opportunities, writes Secretary Perez.

Detroit — Driven to Succeed

Running on fumes just a few years ago, the American auto industry is growing and creating jobs again. On Jan. 7, Secretary Perez traveled with President Obama to celebrate its resurgence at a Ford assembly plant in Wayne, Mich. In his remarks preceding the president's, Perez noted his proud ownership of two Ford vehicles and talked about the industry's progress: "What a difference six years makes. In 2008, the auto industry was on life support. A lot of people were saying that we should cut our losses and let Detroit go under — remember that? You know who didn't say that? President Obama. He knew better than to bet against the American worker. He said, 'We're not going to give up on an industry that has been a pillar of our economic strength — that has driven so much growth and innovation, that has created so much prosperity and sustained so many communities for more than a century.'" Perez credited the auto industry's people for the comeback, which, he said, is "a story about the resilience of our workers and the ingenuity of our businesses. It's a story about you — your tenacity, your refusal to quit."

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

What's New

Maintaining a Sharp Focus on Shared Prosperity

In an impassioned speech at the AFL-CIO's National Summit on Raising Wages, U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez stressed that ensuring prosperity is broad-based and widely shared is among his and the president's top priorities. While lauding a strong economic recovery — including 57 straight months of private-sector job growth, the longest streak on record — Perez noted that flat wages are undermining the middle class. "President Obama stands for the proposition that everybody who works hard and plays by the rules should be able to share in that prosperity," he told the audience gathered at the event at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 7. Perez called shared prosperity the unfinished business of the recovery and said achieving it means raising the minimum wage, promoting paid family and sick leave, updating and streamlining overtime rules, enforcing wage and hour laws and ensuring workers have a voice on the job.

- [Watch the Event](#)
- [Read About Wage Violations and the Economy](#)
- [Learn About Raising the Minimum Wage](#)

Discovering the Possibilities That STEM Offers

While the number of jobs in science, technology, engineering and math — or STEM — outpaces overall job growth, just 16 percent of American high school seniors are proficient in math and interested in a STEM career. The educational community alone cannot overcome this challenge; Secretary Perez said in his keynote remarks on Jan. 8 at Discovery Communications, Inc.'s Silver Spring, Md., headquarters. Perez discussed "a four P" approach to addressing the challenge: partnerships that bring diverse stakeholders to the table, pipelines of skilled talent that help employers grow, practical experience to enhance classroom training, and tangible possibilities that a STEM education can offer. After Perez's remarks, local TV news anchor Aaron Gilchrist moderated a panel discussion on the importance of math and science education. The panel included Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training Portia Wu and actress Danica McKellar who, after her breakout role in TV's "The Wonder Years," majored in math at UCLA and wrote four best-selling books to help young women break down preconceived notions about math. Before the event began, Perez toured Discovery's on-site child care and wellness facilities, two employee services that helped the company earn its "Best Places to Work" status from *Working Mother* magazine and others.

Strategic Enforcement on Wages

The nation's wage and hour laws ensure America's workers are paid the wages they earned, and they significantly bolster the economy and encourage shared prosperity, Wage and Hour Division Administrator Dr. David Weil told the American Economic Association's annual conference in Boston on Jan. 3. Dr. Weil outlined the agency's data-driven strategic approach to enforcement to maximize the impact for workers and the economy. "Over the last few years, we've been focusing our enforcement where evidence shows labor law violations are greatest — in industries where workers are most likely to be mistakenly or deliberately deprived of their wages," he said. "We have focused more of our resources on proactive investigations, impactful outreach and improved targeting, and we have evidence to demonstrate we have been successful in those efforts."

• [Read About Strategic Enforcement](#)

New Changes for the New Year

Did you know that 20 U.S. states raised their hourly minimum wage on Jan. 1? And did you know that 29 states and the District of Columbia now have a minimum wage above the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour? The Wage and Hour Division has an interactive online map that allows you to track the minimum wage requirements in all 50 states. A summary of new state labor laws also is available.

• [Learn Minimum Wage Rates by State](#)
• [See a Summary of New State Labor Laws](#)

Improving Disability Employment

Chosen from nearly 300 nominations submitted, Secretary Perez named 17 new members of the Advisory Committee on Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities on Jan. 6. The new members bring expertise in the needs of people with disabilities in employment, academics and advocacy. "Employing people with disabilities is a win-win for workers, employers and the entire community," he said. "This is sound public policy, and the advisory committee will help us expand opportunities for more people with disabilities." The committee's first meeting takes place on Jan. 22-23 in Washington.

• [Learn More About the Advisory Committee](#)
• [Read the News Release](#)
• [Read the Blog Post](#)

Pilot Prevails on Safety

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has ordered Colorado-based Air Methods Corp., the largest U.S. provider of air medical transportation services, to reinstate a pilot who was fired after he refused to fly a helicopter with a faulty emergency locator transmitter. The company was also ordered to pay \$158,000 in back wages and \$8,500 in damages, after an investigation found Air Methods violated the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform

National News

Coal Mining Deaths Drop to Record Low

The fewest number of coal miners died last year in the U.S., the Mine Safety and Health Administration's preliminary data (released on Jan. 5) shows. Sixteen deaths occurred in coal mines in 2014, down from 20 in 2013. However, 24 deaths occurred in metal and nonmetal mines last year, an increase from 22 in 2013. "Mining deaths are preventable, and those that occurred in 2014 are no exception," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health Joseph Main. "While MSHA and the mining industry have made a number of improvements and have been moving mine safety in the right direction, these deaths, particularly those in the metal and nonmetal industry, make clear the need to do more to protect our nation's miners."

• [Read the News Release](#)

DOL Working for You

Job Corps Graduate-Turned-Carpenter Fulfills Childhood Dream

In just eight months, 20-year-old Kentucky native Bobby Daniel went from being an unemployed gas station attendant unable to afford his daily commute to college to becoming a carpenter, a job he's coveted since childhood. Daniel credits this amazing turn of events to time spent at Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center in Prestonsburg, Ky. When he lost his job pumping gas in February 2014, Daniel was without income he needed to attend college. A few friends who were Job Corps students encouraged him to consider joining the program. Daniel was accepted and found the carpentry program to be the perfect fit because of his "great patience and love for creativity." In August, he completed the program requirements and graduated. Daniel says Job Corps taught him a strong work ethic and trade skills and led him to his first carpentry job with Coleman Custom Carpentry. "My trade instructor thought I would do well in this position as my instructor had worked there," he explained. Daniel already had his sights set on the future and plans on working his way to the top as a contractor. He's well on his way, having received two raises in his first month on the new job.

DOL in Action

Liquid Feed Manufacturer Cited in Double Fatality

After lethal hydrogen sulfide fumes in a rail tanker car killed two workers in June in Pekin, Ill., Occupational Safety and Health Administration investigators cited their employer, Agridyne, for three willful and eight serious violations. The workers were overcome while trying to empty the tanker of corn steep residue. Many of the violations involved confined space safety regulations. OSHA determined the victims were not equipped with emergency retrieval devices before entering the tanker. "Permit-required confined spaces put workers in real and immediate danger. Atmospheric conditions must be tested and monitored before workers enter," said Thomas Bielema, OSHA's area director in Peoria.

• [Read the News Release](#)

Ohio Scrapyard 'Failed its Workers,' Fined \$378,000

CS Metals Inc., did not provide required personal protective equipment or health monitoring for three Ohio scrapyard workers exposed to dangerous levels of lead, arsenic, iron oxide and copper particles and fumes while torch-cutting steel. A June 2014 investigation by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration found five willful, nine serious and two repeat safety violations. OSHA has proposed penalties of \$378,070 and placed the company in its Severe Violator Enforcement Program. "CS Metals failed its workers by not providing personal protective equipment and monitoring exposure levels to metal dust, which can cause severe, long-term health effects to the central nervous system and vital organs," said Kim Nelson, OSHA's area director in Toledo.

• [Read the News Release](#)

Roofing Company Has History of Ignoring Fall Standards

Diaz Roofing LLC allowed four employees to re-shingle a residential rooftop without required fall protection, the Occupational Safety and Health

Act for the 21st Century. The pilot was assigned to the company's Lucasville, Ohio, station. "Pilots should never have to choose between the safety of themselves and their passengers, and their job," said Nick Walters, OSHA's regional administrator in Chicago.

• [Read the News Release](#)

Networking Partnership in Texas

Educating employers who perform covered work under the Service Contract Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act was the focus of the Wage and Hour Division's Southwest region meeting on Dec. 18 in Arlington, Texas. The division collaborated with Source America, a national nonprofit agency which provides employment opportunities for people with significant disabilities. It also provides education and compliance assistance to its community nonprofit agency partners who employ more than 500,000 persons with disabilities nationwide. On Jan. 1, the hourly minimum wage for a covered federal contract worker rose to \$10.10. Establishing a good working relationship with agencies such as Source America is critical in the division's efforts to provide up-to-date compliance assistance to employers.

Aid For Lummi Nation Fishermen

An \$882,032 National Emergency Grant was awarded to the Lummi Nation in Washington State for continued re-employment services for fishermen laid off in a sagging industry. The funding adds to an initial \$3,390,568 grant, approved in Oct. 2010, bringing total funding to \$4,272,600. The grant will help workers access employment services, such as literacy education, basic skills training, on-the-job training, and training toward professional certifications. "The loss of work for Lummi Nation fishermen, an occupation practiced there for thousands of years, is a stark reminder of the importance of training and education to help equip displaced workers with new skills for opportunities in today's economy," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training Portia Wu.

• [Read the News Release](#)

Contractor Sued on Wages

The department has filed suit with the Office of Administrative Law Judges against LRE Royal Electrical Contractors Inc. and its owner, George E. Smith, to recover \$345,077 in back wages for 61 workers. The filing alleges Smith and his company, doing business as both LRE Electrical Contractors and LRE Electrical, paid electrical workers less than the applicable prevailing wage rates and corresponding overtime wages for work performed as part of four government contracts in violation of the Davis-Bacon and Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Acts. The Wage and Hour Division's Little Rock, Ark., district office found LRE Electrical and Smith classified and paid workers as apprentices but did not register them in approved apprenticeship programs. The company and Smith also failed to pay these workers wage rates included in the contracts, which are based on work an employee actually performs.

• [Read the News Release](#)

Administration has found. As a result, the agency cited the Edgerton, Wis.-based roofing company with one willful and one serious safety violation and proposed penalties of \$73,080. The company had 11 previous citations for lacking fall protection. "Diaz Roofing has a history of breaking OSHA fall standards — the leading cause of industry deaths," said Kim Stille, OSHA's area director in Madison. "Last year, hundreds of workers failed to return home as a result of dangerous falls."

• [Read the News Release](#)

No Fun for Heat-Exposed Amusement Park Workers

An investigation by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration found that summer workers at a popular Pennsylvania amusement park were exposed to heat hazards. Primarily teenagers, the employees were outdoor and food stand staff. The review occurred after a worker collapsed near a deep fryer. OSHA cited Cedar Fair LP, operators of Dorney Park and Wildwater Kingdom in Allentown, with one serious violation of the agency's general duty clause and a \$7,000 penalty, the maximum permitted. Cedar Fair lacked procedures for protecting employees who worked outdoors in direct sunlight and in small, hot food stands.

• [Read the News Release](#)

Fines Come Back Around for Chronic Violator, Boomerang Tube

Boomerang Tube LLC, a Texas-based tubing and pipe manufacturer faces \$283,600 in penalties for again ignoring serious hazards that are placing their employees in danger. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has added the Liberty, Texas, company, in its Severe Violator Enforcement Program. OSHA cited Boomerang for four repeat violations for not using procedures to lockout and power down machines during repair or maintenance; operating machines without proper guards to protect users and unguarded electrical panels. The company was also cited for willfully failing to protect workers from falls at up to 15 feet off the ground and lacking walls around an open-sided floor that exposed workers to falls. The violations were found during a follow-up inspection that began last July.

• [Read the News Release](#)

Fatality at Construction Project Leads to Citations, Fines

Four Tallahassee, Fla.-based construction companies have been cited by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration with safety violations after a 25-year-old worker was struck and killed by a material/personnel elevator carriage at a residential project at Florida State University last July. OSHA inspectors found the employer allowed a window-frame opening in a building under construction to be uncovered, which exposed workers to the elevator carriage as it passed within inches of the opening. General contractor Culpepper Construction Co. and Miller's Plumbing and Mechanical Inc. were cited for willfully exposing workers to crushing hazards. The other subcontractors, Benchmark Erectors and Fleck Exterior Systems, each received one serious violation for the same hazard. The worker was employed by Miller's Plumbing.

• [Read the News Release](#)

Locked Exit Door Continues to Plague Dollar General

Dollar General employees in Wolcott, N.Y., faced dangerous risk in a fire or emergency due to a locked backroom emergency door and inadequate emergency lighting, an Occupational Safety and Health Administration inspection found. The inspection also discovered fire extinguishers were overdue for annual maintenance checks. "This is not the first time that Dollar General has been cited for this type of hazard, but it must make every effort to make sure it is the last," said Christopher Adams, OSHA's area director in Syracuse. In 2010, the retail chain was cited by OSHA for the same hazard at a Buffalo, N.Y., store.

• [Read the News Release](#)

Water Bottling Company Cited After Accident Disables Worker

A temporary worker was permanently disabled after a machine that packaged cases of bottled water onto a pallet inadvertently started at the Ice River Springs plant in High Springs, Fla. A July 2014 inspection by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration found Ice River allowed workers to enter the palletizer's safety cage area and bypass two safety sensors that safeguarded workers. OSHA cited the water bottle company with one willful and two serious safety violations for not protecting workers from moving machine parts, failing to conduct an annual inspection of lockout/tagout procedures, and not training workers to recognize hazardous

Mine Impact Inspections

In all, federal inspectors issued 199 citations and 19 orders in November during special impact inspections conducted at 10 coal mines and six metal and nonmetal mines. Among the inspections was a Nov. 6 visit by the Mine Safety and Health Administration to Wise County, Va., where accumulations of combustible coal, and its particles and dust were found at Regent Allied Carbon Energy, Inc.'s No. 2 Mine. Such accumulations are fire and explosion hazards. MSHA ordered that the mine's belt lines be shut down because the mine operator did not comply with its approved ventilation plan. These plans control methane liberation, protect miners from black lung and prevent the risk of frictional ignitions.

• [Read the News Release](#)

American Samoa Faulted on Pay

The American Samoa government's Department of Education has agreed to pay \$17,430 in overtime wages to 20 workers and 6,675 hours of paid leave to an additional 44 workers who can use them as compensation for unpaid overtime hours of work in the future. The Wage and Hour Division found the territory's DOE paid bus drivers and technology department employees only for their scheduled weekly hours regardless of hours actually worked. By doing so, overtime hours worked were underreported. "Certain post shift activities, such as transporting school children to extra-curricular events, also were paid separately without contemplation of an overtime premium, as required by the Fair Labor Standards Act," said Terence Trotter, the division's district director in Hawaii. "We appreciate the American Samoa Government's full cooperation in resolving this matter."

Farm Fined on Hiring

Cassaday Farms LLC, in Monroeville, N.J., has agreed to pay \$117,130 in back wages and \$57,870 in civil money penalties after a Wage and Hour Division investigation found violations of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Investigators determined that, from March through December 2012, Cassaday failed to comply with INA recruitment requirements by unlawfully rejecting 13 U.S. workers from Puerto Rico, who were qualified and available for work. The agency also found that Cassaday offered terms and working conditions to U.S. workers that were less favorable than those offered to H-2A workers.

• [Read the News Release](#)

Labor Certification Session

A stakeholder listening session on the Permanent Labor Certification Program will be available by conference call on Jan. 22, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. EST. The Employment and Training Administration is seeking feedback on the PERM program's role in employment-based immigration, its current regulatory framework and any general concerns of the stakeholder community. The session will be led by Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training Portia Wu and

machinery or implement proper controls.

• [Read the News Release](#)

Auto Parts Supplier Faces \$102,000 in Fines for Safety Violations

Saehaesung Alabama Inc. was cited for exposing workers to amputation, electrical and struck-by hazards after two separate inspections at the auto parts supplier's Andalusia and LaFayette facilities in Alabama. Occupational Safety and Health Administration inspectors found 10 safety violations last June and July as part of the agency's Regional Emphasis Program for Safety Hazards in the Auto Parts Industry. Three repeat citations were given for failing to have specific procedures to protect workers from moving machine parts during service or maintenance work, and for not providing required safety guards on welding machines. The company, which manufactures automotive chassis and body parts for Hyundai and Kia and employ 365 workers in Alabama, was also cited for storing materials on steel racks with damaged support columns and exposing workers on a press welding machine to electric shock hazards. Proposed penalties total \$102,000.

• [Read the News Release](#)

California Transit Union to Rerun Leadership Election

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1225, which represents bus, rail and light rail workers in Marina, Calif., recently agreed to conduct a new election for president and an executive board seat under supervision of the Office of Labor-Management Standards. The OLMS reviewed the union's May 2014 election and found that six ballots were submitted by members deemed ineligible because of unpaid dues. The six ballots may have affected the candidates for president and executive board, both of whom advanced to a runoff election. The new election will take place on or before Feb. 13.

Deadly Fall Blamed on Absence of Safety Protection

A 33-year-old worker died needlessly because his employer, Mid-State Construction & Roofing Inc., failed to provide fall protection. While working on a roof at Southwest High School in Piasa, Ill., in August 2014, the employee fell from a height of 27 feet and suffered blunt force trauma on impact. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited the Beecher City-based roofing company for one willful and four serious safety violations. "This tragedy illustrates how quickly a worker can lose his life when fall protection is not provided, and why OSHA requires it each time an employee works at heights greater than 6 feet," said Aaron Pride, OSHA's area director in Fairview Heights.

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Chicago Companies Expose Workers to Asbestos

Six Chicago area companies exposed workers renovating a school cafeteria in Evanston, Ill., to asbestos, lead and electrical hazards. These findings were discovered when the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Illinois Department of Public Health did an inspection in June 2014, prompted by a complaint. The companies face \$132,040 in penalties. "Exposure to asbestos is a dangerous workplace issue that can cause loss of lung function and cancer, among other serious health effects, and workers must be trained in procedures that minimize exposure," said Angeline Loftus, OSHA's area director at the Chicago North Area Office in Des Plaines.

• [Read the News Release](#)

Pennsylvania Iron Foundry Repeatedly Fails to Protect Workers

For the eighth time since 2011, Domestic Casting Co. LLC's iron foundry has been investigated, cited and fined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for not protecting its employees from safety and health hazards. OSHA's three most recent inspections in June and July 2014 at its Shippensburg, Pa., facility found two willful, 12 repeat, eight serious and five other violations. The company faces \$152,912 in fines for numerous dangers previously found by OSHA inspectors, including fall, machine guarding and sling hazards. In August 2013, Domestic Casting was placed in OSHA's Severe Violator Enforcement Program after an inspection discovered it again failed to protect workers from electrical hazards and properly guard pits.

• [Read the News Release](#)

New Hampshire Concrete Manufacturer Fined \$230,000

Responding to a worker complaint, inspectors from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration found employees of Concrete Systems Inc. were exposed to fall and crushing hazards and potential hearing loss at the company's Hudson, N.H., facility. Twenty six violations resulted in \$230,400

Deputy Chief of Staff Seema Nanda. To participate, please RSVP no later than Jan. 19.

- [RSVP for the Listening Session](#)
- [Read the Fact Sheet](#)

Weekly UI Claims

Seasonally adjusted initial Unemployment Insurance claims dropped to 294,000 for the week ended Jan. 3, the department reported. The advance figure was down 4,000 from the previous week's unrevised level. The four-week moving average was 290,500, a decrease of 250 from the previous week's unrevised average.

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Upcoming Deadlines & Events

Open Funding Opportunities

ETA — Permanent Labor Certification Program Listening Session

- [January 22 — Washington, DC](#)

OASAM — Vendor Outreach Session

- [January 21 — Washington, DC](#)

OFCCP — Best Practices for Corporate Management Compliance Evaluations (CMCE)

- [January 28 — Chicago, IL](#)

OFCCP — Everything You Want to Know About Adverse Impact

- [January 23 — Chicago, IL](#)

OFCCP — Section 503 and VEVRAA Regulations

- [January 29 — Houston, TX](#)

OWCP — Town Hall Meetings to assist nuclear weapons workers

- [February 25 — Carlsbad, NM](#)

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in proposed fines for the manufacturer of large concrete formwork. OSHA found CSI employees were at risk of dangerous falls, being crushed or injured by a custom-made lifting device and damaged slings being used to move a 24,000-pound load. Workers also did not receive baseline audiograms to guard against sustained hearing loss. Marathon Staffing Services Inc., of Tyngsboro, Mass., which supplies CSI with temporary workers, was also fined \$7,000 for not providing audiograms to employees exposed to excessive noise levels at CSI.

- [Read the News Release](#)

No Protection, Training Provided for Fatal Trench Collapse Victim

A construction company in Fort Bragg, N.C., let its employees work in unprotected trenches, which led to the death of a 22-year-old man in July 2014. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration found Tekton Construction Co. ignored numerous dangerous hazards. The company was cited for two willful and two serious safety violations for not providing cave-in protection or a safe means to enter or exit the trench. Tekton employees also lacked protective hard hats and were not trained to identify and avoid hazardous working conditions. The tragic collapse occurred while workers were digging trenches and installing drainpipes at an ammunition supply point at the U.S. Army installation.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Manufacturer Twice Cited for Electrocution Hazards in 18 Months

C & H Die Casting Inc. repeatedly exposed workers to electrocution hazards in the past 18 months. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration identified 15 violations with total penalties of \$66,400. In 2013, C & H was fined \$112,500 for violating 30 OSHA standards, including using spliced electrical cords. In September, OSHA inspectors discovered workers were still exposed to electrical shock hazards. The company was also cited for not repairing damaged and uneven concrete floors; not having safety devices on machinery; and for numerous electrical violations.

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Texas Fabricator Put Workers in Harm's Way

An employer who ignores serious hazards and puts workers in harm's way threatens everyone's well-being, a point not lost on Occupational Safety and Health Administration investigators who identified 25 serious safety and health violations after a July 2014 inspection at Transition of Superior Systems in Merkel, Texas. OSHA found that the metal fuel-tank fabricator failed to provide safeguards for air compressor pulleys and belts, grinders and plate rollers. Several fall hazards also existed, including an open loft area without a gate or chain and a missing stair rail leading to a cement mixer. Fines totaled \$51,600.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Faulty Alarm System Contributed to Worker Death

MFG Chemical Inc. was cited by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for 17 safety and health violations following a July 2014 inspection at the chemical manufacturer's Dalton, Ga., facility. An MFG worker died four months after hazardous chemical vapors released from an over-pressurized reactor burned his respiratory system. A second employee was treated at a hospital and released. OSHA issued citations for MFG's failure to ensure that the reactor system's alarm provided early warning for worker evacuation, train workers on the hazards of permit-required confined spaces, and establish and implement written changes to the chemical manufacturing process. OSHA initiated the inspection after a media referral alleged that a chemical release at the manufacturing facility had occurred.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Workers Face Hazards Without Safety Equipment

For the third time in two years, Dedicated TCS LLC has exposed workers cleaning portable tank wagons to dangerous confined space hazards. Spurred by a complaint, Occupational Safety and Health Administration inspectors recorded seven repeat and two serious violations and issued \$79,464 in fines to operators of the chemical tank cleaning service in Channahon, Ill. "Once again, Dedicated TCS has failed to protect its workers and expects them to work with hazardous materials such as hydroxide and nitrogen chemical residue in dangerous spaces without safety equipment," said Kathy Webb, OSHA's area director in Calumet City.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Illinois Company Fined \$171,000 for Willfully Putting Employees at Risk

Hagerty Brothers Co. exposed its workers to dangerous levels of lead and copper dust during brass finishing and grinding work at its Peoria, Ill., facility, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration determined. OSHA cited the company for four willful and 26 serious safety violations for not implementing engineering controls, failing to maintain areas free of lead dust and accumulation, and not monitoring worker exposure. The company has been placed in the Severe Violator Enforcement Program and faces proposed penalties of \$171,600. "Lead exposure can cause long-term damage to the central nervous, urinary, blood and reproductive systems and is a leading cause of workplace illness," said Thomas Bielema, OSHA's area director in Peoria.

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