



PUBLIC HEARINGS

Six public hearings on the rate proposal have been scheduled. They are set for:

- ▶ **Spokane**
10 a.m., Oct. 28
Labor and Industries Office
Conference Room 4
901 N. Monroe St., Suite 100
- ▶ **Everett**
10 a.m., Oct 29
Labor and Industries Office
729 100th St. SE
- ▶ **Tukwila**
10 a.m., Oct. 30
Labor and Industries Office
12806 Gateway Dr.
- ▶ **Yakima**
10 a.m., Oct. 31
Labor and Industries Office
15 W Yakima Ave., Suite 100
- ▶ **Tumwater**
10 a.m., Nov. 1
Labor and Industries Auditorium
7273 Linderson Way SW
- ▶ **Tacoma**
10 a.m., Nov. 4
Labor and Industries Office
950 Broadway, Suite 503
Vashon Room

Declining financial markets and rising claim costs force proposed 40.5 percent increase in workers' compensation rates

For the past eight years, dividends and rate reductions characterized Washington State's industrial insurance system. In those years, workers and employers realized about \$1.8 billion in savings, in the form of reduced rates, deferred rate increases, and, for employers, \$400 million in dividends on premiums paid.

The Department of Labor and Industries, which administers the system, was able to do that, and still keep rates low, because the contingency reserve had grown significantly – the result of fewer claims, lower-than-expected medical costs and a high return on investments.

At least for now, those days are over. L&I has proposed a 40.5 percent general rate increase in 2003 workers' compensation premiums. The additional \$371 million raised next year would bring premiums more in line with benefits the agency pays to injured workers. It will offset a recent increase in

claim frequency, and keep the contingency reserve at acceptable levels.

If adopted, the Accident Fund rate would rise 30.7 percent – from the

current rate of 19.7-cents an hour to 25.8-cents. The rate for the Medical Aid Fund, which employers and workers both pay into, would increase 92.5 percent, rising from 10-cents an hour to 19.3-cents. The Supplemental Pension Fund would actually decrease by 5 percent – from the current 7.2-cents an hour to 6.8-cents. The overall

average workers' comp premium would rise from 36.9-cents an hour to 51.9-cents. Of that new amount, employers will pay, on average, 38.8-cents. The employees' share is 13.1-cents.

For several years now, L&I has been paying out much more in benefits than it receives in premiums. That fact was masked by the agency's return on investments. Since 1994, L&I has actually lowered the Medical Aid Fund rate – from 18-cents an hour to 10-cents – to intentionally draw down the contingency reserve fund. Since 1995, L&I's only rate increases came in the Supplemental Pension Fund to cover annual cost-of-living increase mandated by the Legislature.

Premium rates held steady for eight years.

"The state handing out dividend checks to employers probably seems like a long time ago," said L&I Director Gary Moore. "But it has been only two years, and a lot has changed since then. The cost of all

types of insurance has gone up because investment income plays a huge role in how much premiums cost. Like other investors, we have lost money in the financial markets. And like other insurers, both public and private, we are having to raise rates."

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Visit L&I's Web site at www.LNI.wa.gov for the most up-to-date information on public hearings.

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As a percentage of payroll, Washington's rates will continue to be far below the national average.

Moore points out that numerous private companies that provide workers' compensation insurance have pulled out of the market altogether. Coverage for acts of terrorism is nearly impossible to find. And in California, those private insurance companies that haven't left the market have raised workers' comp premiums by as much as 50 percent. Even with this increase, Washington's workers' compensation rates will still be in the middle third nationally.

Standard & Poor's workers' compensation outlook anticipates minimum rate increases of 30 percent to 50 percent for 2003. Nationally, premium rates for workers' compensation began increasing in 2000. Insurance losses related to the events of September 11 accelerated the trend. Washington businesses, on the other hand, will experience their first overall rate increase in nearly a decade. Premium rates will be roughly equivalent to those charged in 1995.

"This is not something we wanted to do," said Moore. "But not raising rates would be irresponsible. We knew this day was coming. It just came later than we expected."

Labor and Industries provides workers' compensation coverage for about 163,000 employers and 1.9 million workers. That number represents about 70 percent of the state's labor force. Another 400,000 workers receive their coverage through employers that are self-insured.

A 1998 legislative performance audit of the state's workers' compensation system found that Washington paid higher-than-average benefits to injured workers (above the 75th percentile) at lower-than-average costs for employers (below the 25th percentile).

A nationwide study by the state of Oregon, due out later this year, will rank Washington as having the 14th lowest rates for workers' compensation premiums in 2002. Even with this proposed rate increase, Washington in 2003 will rank in the middle third of states. As a percentage of payroll, Washington's rates will continue to be far below the national average.

This proposal is an average for all industry groups. For most employers, the rate increase will be above or below the average, depending on their industry classification and their own claim history.

Registration/licensing renewal now available online or at any L&I office

Contractors, electricians, plumbers – did you know you can now go online or to any of our field offices to renew your card immediately? L&I now offers an online registration, licensing and certification renewal system called *QuickCards*. You can access it from home at www.LNI.wa.gov/quickcards, or go to one of our 22 field offices where a customer service specialist will provide renewal assistance.



Renewals are available for construction contractors, electrical contractors, electrical administrators, electrical trainees, electricians, plumbers, plumber trainees and medical gas plumbing endorsements. *QuickCards* renewals are effective immediately. If you use the system in one of our field offices, please be sure to bring your renewal notice and any necessary documentation with you.

QuickCards allows you the convenience of round-the-clock access to the department, and gives thousands of customers a new way of interacting with L&I quickly and efficiently.

2003

Washington State Fund RATES

Find your proposed rate by risk class

RISK CLASS	FY01 FTE's	COMPOSITE RATES		% Rate Change	COST or (SAVINGS) Employee Employer		RISK CLASS	FY01 FTE's	COMPOSITE RATES		% Rate Change	COST or (SAVINGS) Employee Employer	
		Current	2003						Current	2003			
ALL CLASSIFICATIONS	1,537,894	0.3693	0.5191	40.5%	85	198	BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND TRADES	89,934	1.4468	2.0589	42%	324	851
AGRICULTURE	48,281	0.4011	0.5834	45%	113	237	0301 Landscape Construction and Renovation	3,238	0.7400	1.0517	42%	190	408
4802 Vegetable Farms-Machine Harvest	4,290	0.3335	0.4792	44%	87	193	0302 Masonry Construction	1,677	2.4824	3.5085	41%	444	1,526
4803 Orchards	21,654	0.3358	0.4955	48%	99	208	0303 Plastering, Stuccoing and Lathing: Buildings	578	2.4727	3.3460	35%	459	1,218
4804 Poultry Farms	501	0.8028	1.0898	36%	196	355	0304 Plumbing	6,555	1.3652	1.8577	36%	262	683
4805 Nurseries	3,020	0.3915	0.5657	44%	113	222	0307 HVAC Systems - Installation, Service & Repair	5,759	1.0932	1.5821	45%	259	679
4806 Berry Picking	908	0.1336	0.1630	22%	18	38	0308 Lawn Care Maintenance	4,790	0.7003	0.9979	42%	188	384
4808 Diversified Field Crops	4,493	0.6006	0.8741	46%	167	358	0502 Floor Covering Installation	1,532	1.8619	2.7047	45%	391	1,227
4809 Greenhouses	2,146	0.4394	0.6660	52%	139	296	0504 Painting: Building and Structures - Exterior Work	3,448	1.6927	2.3484	39%	361	898
4810 Vegetable Farms-Hand Harvest	2,558	0.2367	0.3296	39%	58	121	0506 Building Raising, Moving and Demolition	72	5.4246	8.1869	51%	1,411	3,893
4811 Hop and Mint Farms	1,790	0.3548	0.4995	41%	93	185	0507 Roof Work - Construction and Repair	2,194	4.0067	5.5652	39%	891	2,101
4812 Fish Hatcheries	177	0.4877	0.7219	48%	138	311	0510 Wood Frame Building Construction	11,729	1.9764	2.8461	44%	469	1,201
4813 Vineyards	2,263	0.2729	0.3734	37%	61	132	0511 Glass Installation: Buildings	1,346	1.9285	2.9369	52%	467	1,469
7301 Dairy Farms	3,279	0.6842	0.9705	42%	182	367	0512 Insulation Installation and Asbestos Abatement Work	1,685	1.5621	2.2051	41%	347	888
7302 Livestock Farms	1,032	0.9720	1.5059	55%	308	718	0513 Interior Finish Carpentry	5,074	1.0227	1.5452	51%	254	749
7307 Christmas Tree Farms	171	0.7263	1.0523	45%	200	426	0514 Garage Door Installation	421	1.7639	2.7715	57%	488	1,446
FOREST PRODUCTS	22,340	1.2376	1.8003	45%	311	770	0516 Carpentry, NOC	4,981	1.9764	2.8461	44%	469	1,201
1002 Sawmills and Automated Shake and Shingle Mills	2,614	1.2683	1.8787	48%	338	834	0517 Factory Built Home Set-up by Contractor/Manufacture	181	2.1038	2.9375	40%	485	1,116
1003 Pole Yards	275	1.1363	1.6090	42%	268	639	0518 Non Wood Frame Building Construction	5,946	2.1865	2.9427	35%	422	1,030
1004 Log Storage or Sorting Yards	152	0.6960	0.9695	39%	151	375	0519 Sheet Metal Siding, Gutter and Downspout Installation	653	2.1394	3.0025	40%	473	1,184
1005 Shake and Shingle Mills - Non-automated	12	8.0301	11.8867	48%	1,984	5,421	0521 Painting: Buildings - Interior Work	1,753	1.1581	1.3932	20%	189	262
2401 Pulp and Paper Goods Manufacturing, NOC	2,313	0.5685	0.8700	53%	162	417	0521 Electrical Wiring: Buildings and Structures	11,913	0.7663	1.0869	42%	176	440
2903 Wood Products Manufacturing, NOC	6,848	0.8147	1.2681	56%	272	599	0602 Elevator Installation, Service and Repair	633	0.7464	1.1351	52%	193	554
2904 Plywood and Veneer Manufacturing	761	0.9574	1.3078	37%	235	438	0603 Machinery Installation, Service and Repair	2,760	1.2653	1.9211	52%	284	975
2905 Furniture and Casket Manufacturing - Wood	1,167	0.7056	1.0753	52%	235	474	0606 Vending Machine Installation, Service and Repair	1,061	0.5381	0.8351	55%	165	405
2907 Cabinet and Countertop Manufacturing - Wood	3,882	0.6979	0.9957	43%	194	377	0607 Household Appliance Installation, Service and Repair	2,879	0.5495	0.7928	44%	150	317
2909 Woodenware Products Manufacturing	332	0.5249	0.7909	51%	154	357	0608 Telephone and Electrical Alarm System Installation	4,171	0.4276	0.6332	48%	115	280
5001 Logging Operations, NOC	1,351	6.2261	8.5810	38%	1,170	3,351	Wallboard premium rates per square foot of wallboard installed.						
5002 Log Booming and Rafting	2	0.7362	1.0980	49%	199	496	0540 Wallboard Installation - Discounted Rate	1,051	0.0254	0.0370	46%	696	2,088
5003 Log Hauling	1,051	1.9890	3.0083	51%	431	1,526	0541 Wallboard Taping - Discounted Rate	1,104	0.0128	0.0200	56%	372	1,356
5004 Forestry and Timberland Services - Manual Labor	450	1.5215	2.0690	36%	352	700	0550 Wallboard Installation - Undiscounted Rate	409	0.0356	0.0523	47%	864	3,144
5005 Mechanized Logging	499	1.0141	1.3263	31%	186	414	0551 Wallboard Taping - Undiscounted Rate	343	0.0167	0.0255	53%	432	1,680
5006 Forestry/Timberland Services - Machine Operations	61	2.2083	3.1003	40%	457	1,255	FOOD PROCESSING AND MANUFACTURING	29,603	0.5956	0.8781	47%	175	367
6902 Log Road Construction	571	1.1548	1.6836	46%	228	787	2101 Grain, Feed and Flour Mills	1,480	0.8812	1.3425	52%	267	619
MISCELLANEOUS CONSTRUCTION	28,871	1.3750	1.9273	40%	290	771	2104 Fruit and Vegetable Packing-Fresh	12,082	0.4075	0.6198	52%	133	274
0101 Excavation and Grading, NOC	6,013	1.8658	2.6018	39%	371	1,042	3304 Meat, Fish and Poultry Dealers - Wholesale	4,615	0.7664	1.0330	35%	183	329
0103 Drilling and Geophysical Exploration, NOC	471	2.1772	2.9467	35%	476	1,002	3702 Breweries, Wineries and Beverage Bottling	1,146	0.5458	0.8260	51%	170	368
0104 Dredging, NOC	2	1.3515	1.8407	36%	277	662	3902 Fruit/Vegetable Canners/Food Product Mfg, NOC	5,030	0.5480	0.8356	52%	177	375
0105 Fence Erection, NOC	628	1.6634	2.4068	45%	422	1,005	3903 Sugar Refining	144	1.4507	2.1757	50%	466	926
0107 Underground Utility Line Const. & Pipelaying, NOC	3,399	1.5419	2.1350	38%	324	815	3906 Bakeries - Wholesale, NOC	2,889	0.6501	0.9796	51%	194	438
0108 Sewer and Septic System Construction	2,465	1.3515	1.8407	36%	277	662	4002 Dairy Products Manufacturing, NOC	479	1.4180	2.1998	55%	377	1,125
0112 Sand and Gravel Production including Dealers	1,472	0.8945	1.2705	42%	193	529	4301 Meat Products Mfg./ Slaughter and Packing Houses	1,261	0.9733	1.3393	38%	247	455
0201 Bridge, Bulkhead and Tunnel Construction	284	3.1363	4.2735	36%	629	1,555	4302 Custom Meat Cutting	88	0.7502	1.0801	44%	203	430
0202 Pile Driving with Water Hazard	68	4.1022	6.0079	46%	956	2,703	4304 Feed Lots and Stock Yards	389	1.0939	1.5975	46%	306	660
0210 Asphalt Paving - Streets and Roads	636	1.5521	2.2318	44%	320	985	METAL AND MACHINERY MANUFACTURING	37,234	0.6929	1.0298	49%	196	451
0212 Asphalt Paving, NOC	380	1.2426	1.8947	52%	308	944	1701 Ore Reduction	1	1.0683	1.6776	57%	283	887
0214 Concrete Work - Streets and Roads	731	1.5957	2.2731	42%	346	955	1801 Lead Smelting, Rolling Mills and Metal Recovery	143	0.8859	1.1632	31%	178	354
0217 Concrete Work - Foundations and Sidewalks	3,614	1.4351	2.0471	43%	318	857	1802 Aluminum Smelting	126	0.7778	1.1628	49%	202	537
0219 Guardrails, Street Signs and Traffic Lights Installation	367	1.4563	2.0830	43%	388	815	3402 Machine Shops and Machinery Mfg., NOC	13,740	0.6176	0.9370	52%	180	434
0403 Sign Erection	188	1.9386	2.9655	53%	604	1,368	3403 Aircraft Manufacturing	244	0.3066	0.4212	37%	65	155
0508 Structural Steel Erection - Towers, Tanks, and Cranes	323	2.9955	3.6561	22%	388	881	3404 Metal Goods Manufacturing, NOC - Under 9 Gauge	9,082	0.6637	0.9796	48%	193	414
0509 Overhead Power and Transmission Line Construction	411	2.1544	3.1017	44%	405	1,414	3405 Aircraft Parts Manufacturing, NOC	3,705	0.3865	0.5710	48%	106	249
0701 Dam Construction	4	2.5649	3.4910	36%	379	1,400	3603 Electroplating and Detinning, NOC	1,327	0.6938	0.9576	38%	169	338
1702 Underground Mines	10	2.3703	3.3442	41%	476	1,394	3604 Galvanizing or Tinning, NOC	96	1.2828	1.7501	36%	323	574
1703 Surface Mines	571	0.8720	1.3360	53%	166	725	3605 Truck Manufacturing	0	0.6623	0.9580	45%	165	403
1704 Quarries	564	1.0683	1.6776	57%	283	887	5101 Pipe Manufacturing - Iron or Steel	230	1.2240	1.7966	47%	322	778
3506 Mobile Crane and Hoisting Services	432	1.3480	1.8773	39%	261	755	5103 Foundries, NOC	1,416	0.9789	1.4777	51%	321	637
4900 Construction Project or Site Superintendent/Manager	2,099	0.5251	0.7306	39%	118	276	5106 Blacksmithing and Forging Works	58	0.9789	1.4777	51%	321	637
5206 Construction or Logging Contractors - Permanent Yar	3,740	0.5251	0.7306	39%	118	276	5108 Cable or Wire Rope Manufacturing	162	1.0932	1.6858	54%	355	783
							5109 Heavy Machinery Manufacturing	1,931	0.8411	1.2560	49%	219	577

RISK CLASS	FY01	COMPOSITE RATES		% Rate	COST or (SAVINGS)	
	FTE's	Current	2003	Change	Employee	Employer

METAL AND MACHINERY MANUFACTURING ▶ continued from page 3

5201 Electric Equipment Manufacturing	604	0.5131	0.7922	54%	153	383
5204 Railroad Car Manufacturing	289	1.1418	1.7412	52%	343	808
5208 Iron Works - Shop	1,990	1.1067	1.6253	47%	302	694
5209 Metal Goods Manufacturing, NOC - 9 Gauge or More	2,090	1.0258	1.4814	44%	260	615

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING

	51,595	0.4099	0.5841	42%	104	230
0901 Shipbuilding or Repair, NOC	24	2.1865	2.9427	35%	422	1,030
2906 Pattern or Model Manufacturing; Wood Instrument Mf	391	0.5059	0.6973	38%	118	249
2908 Factory Built Housing Manufacturing	309	1.2153	1.8440	52%	347	860
3102 Rock Wool Insulation Manufacturing	35	0.3777	0.5595	48%	104	245
3103 Cement Manufacturing	271	0.7731	1.0519	36%	177	358
3104 Stone Cutting and Monument Dealers	668	0.8061	1.1136	38%	180	410
3105 Concrete Products Manufacturing	1,228	1.0203	1.4451	42%	281	534
3501 Brick or Clay Product Manufacturing, NOC	13	1.1835	1.7837	51%	340	812
3503 Pottery and Glass Products Manufacturing, NOC	1,149	0.4106	0.6272	53%	138	278
3509 Statuary and Ornament Manufacturing	70	0.5538	0.8133	47%	165	333
3510 Plastic Products Manufacturing	7,322	0.5122	0.7403	45%	136	302
3511 Fiberglass Products Manufacturing, NOC	1,584	0.8544	1.2783	50%	250	564
3512 Plastic - Cutting, Bending and Milling	2,071	0.5177	0.7041	36%	125	232
3513 Rubber Goods Manufacturing, NOC	137	0.6341	0.9438	49%	194	400
3602 Electronic Products and Jewelry Mfg/ Dental Labs	16,156	0.2096	0.2806	34%	43	93
3701 Chemical Mixing and Manufacturing	3,466	0.3777	0.5595	48%	104	245
3708 Textile Goods Manufacturing, NOC	2,057	0.7038	1.0996	56%	210	550
3802 Garments and Handbag Manufacturing	5,446	0.2758	0.3832	39%	66	140
3808 Upholstery Work, NOC	717	0.6141	0.8754	43%	153	349
4101 Printing Services	6,033	0.4077	0.5746	41%	98	223
4601 Explosives Manufacturing	26	0.8661	1.2879	49%	252	557
6604 Optical Goods Manufacturing	1,025	0.1474	0.1886	28%	25	54
6908 Paper Products Manufacturing	1,399	0.7180	1.0205	42%	189	392

UTILITIES AND COMMUNICATIONS

	16,825	0.2666	0.3769	41%	62	150
1301 Electric Power Plants	1,521	0.7547	1.1173	48%	178	518
1303 Telephone Companies - All Other Employees, NOC	1,028	0.3059	0.4518	48%	80	201
1304 Telephone Companies - Office and Admin. Staff	5,951	0.1018	0.1118	10%	5	14
1305 TV Cable Companies - All Other Employees, NOC	381	0.4529	0.6812	50%	130	308
1507 Waterworks Operations, Repair and Maintenance	1,216	0.6790	1.0010	47%	177	441
3408 Natural Gas Companies	532	0.2524	0.3600	43%	59	148
4103 Newspaper Publishing	1,244	0.4918	0.8366	70%	215	447
4501 Radio or Television - Field Employees	267	0.2787	0.4087	47%	75	175
4502 Radio or Television - All Other Employees	4,686	0.1277	0.1481	16%	14	25

TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING

	42,211	0.9878	1.4344	45%	254	604
1101 Parcel and Package Delivery Service	9,677	0.8262	1.1661	41%	209	444
1102 Trucking	9,099	1.5965	2.2877	43%	364	963
1105 Septic Tank Pumping and Street Sweeping Services	756	1.2640	1.8673	48%	343	816
1109 Auto Towing Services	722	1.3910	2.1641	56%	437	1,047
1401 Taxi Cab Companies	154	0.7815	1.0738	37%	189	372
1404 Cabulance and Paratransit Companies	660	0.7304	1.1545	58%	240	574
1405 Ambulance Services	442	0.5423	0.7875	45%	150	321
1407 Bus Companies	1,472	0.7304	1.1545	58%	240	574
2002 Freight Handling Services	1,784	0.9246	1.3454	46%	263	545
2007 Grain, Bean and Pea Elevators or Warehouses	513	0.6306	0.8695	38%	150	309
2008 Field Bonded Warehouses	40	0.4396	0.6317	44%	111	258
2102 Warehouses, Grocery Dist. & Recycle Centers	3,776	0.6436	0.9884	54%	207	455
2105 Beer, Wine, and Soft Drink Distributors	2,681	0.8850	1.2188	38%	216	425
4305 Solid Waste Collection Services/Landfill Operations	2,057	1.3731	2.0026	46%	309	899
4404 Cold Storage Warehouse	803	0.5275	0.8494	61%	192	427
6801 Scheduled Airlines - Flight Crew	511	0.5516	0.8657	57%	169	434
6802 Scheduled Airlines - Ground Crew	2,072	0.5865	0.8546	46%	173	342
6803 Non Scheduled Airlines - Flight Crew	322	0.9997	1.4877	49%	248	689
6804 Non Scheduled Airlines - Ground Crew	2,935	0.3649	0.5173	42%	92	201
6903 Aerial Spraying, Seeding and Crop Dusting	8	8.7879	13.6308	55%	2,215	7,084
6907 Moving and Storage Companies	1,727	1.3287	2.0310	53%	396	953

DEALERS AND WHOLESALEERS

	38,491	0.5956	0.9075	52%	178	421
0604 Scrap Metal Dealers and Processors	323	1.1945	1.7177	44%	325	680
1103 Solid Fuel, Topsoil, Firewood and Pallet Dealers	785	1.2580	1.9651	56%	393	965
1104 Auto Wrecking	967	0.6125	0.9642	57%	211	464

▶ continued next column

RISK CLASS	FY01	COMPOSITE RATES		% Rate	COST or (SAVINGS)	
	FTE's	Current	2003	Change	Employee	Employer

1106 Rental Stores NOC	1,083	0.5005	0.7167	43%	139	276
1108 Glass Merchants	1,608	0.7081	1.0786	52%	212	499
2004 Iron and Steel Merchants	1,045	0.9161	1.4344	57%	289	706
2009 Lumber Yards and Building Material Dealers	8,833	0.4596	0.6943	51%	155	296
2106 Fertilizer Dealers	1,094	0.5124	0.7944	55%	159	382
3101 Redi-mix Concrete Dealers	1,253	1.0291	1.6957	65%	313	967
3309 Motorcycle Dealers	692	0.5648	0.7935	40%	138	301
3407 Gas or Oil Dealers	2,513	0.7425	1.1252	52%	198	537
4401 Cold Storage Lockers	192	0.5542	0.7824	41%	145	293
4402 Ice Dealers	65	0.8969	1.3397	49%	272	578
6405 Tire Sales & Service Centers	2,744	0.7534	1.0972	46%	198	462
6407 Wholesale Stores, NOC	8,389	0.3679	0.5331	45%	104	213
6408 Farm Machinery Dealers	797	0.4679	0.7377	58%	148	370
6409 Machinery Dealers, NOC Service/repair	4,875	0.8007	1.2847	60%	247	682
6410 Janitorial Supply Dealers	333	0.3552	0.5102	44%	92	205
6603 Auction Sales	899	0.4886	0.7177	47%	125	315

STORES

	118,632	0.2552	0.3642	43%	67	142
3303 Meat, Fish and Poultry Dealers - Retail	396	0.4725	0.7868	67%	167	436
3410 Convenience Grocery Store - with Self Service Gas	8,978	0.3485	0.5011	44%	97	196
3901 Bakeries - Retail	2,229	0.2583	0.3525	36%	65	116
6304 Department Stores	2,207	0.3844	0.6105	59%	139	295
6305 Clothing and Shoe Stores	11,420	0.1806	0.2394	33%	39	74
6306 Furniture Stores	8,848	0.3809	0.5673	49%	110	247
6308 Jewelry Stores	3,581	0.1369	0.1684	23%	18	42
6309 Hardware, Auto Parts and Sporting Good Stores	22,089	0.2640	0.3775	43%	70	148
6402 Supermarkets	10,858	0.4011	0.5976	49%	120	258
6403 Convenience Grocery Stores - No Gas	6,812	0.2518	0.3506	39%	62	128
6404 Florists	2,663	0.2890	0.4100	42%	76	156
6406 Retail Stores, NOC	34,001	0.1697	0.2339	38%	39	84
6504 Charitable and Welfare Stores	1,226	0.4766	0.7027	47%	153	281
6506 Photography Studios and Film Print Shops	3,324	0.1770	0.2373	34%	38	78

TEMPORARY HELP

	34,889	0.3195	0.4443	39%	78	161
7104 Temporary Help - Administrative Staff	4,382	0.1048	0.1204	15%	8	22
7105 Temporary Help - Office Services	15,268	0.1025	0.1177	15%	9	21
7106 Temporary Help - Retail Store Services	668	0.2634	0.3820	45%	68	160
7107 Temporary Help - Food Services	264	0.3868	0.5428	40%	104	195
7108 Temporary Help - Warehousing Services	2,588	0.3337	0.4768	43%	100	175
7109 Temporary Help - Light Assembly Work	2,497	0.2474	0.3351	35%	55	114
7110 Temporary Help - Field Technical Services	1,098	0.5609	0.8031	43%	125	340
7111 Temporary Help - Health Care Services	2,357	0.5564	0.7736	39%	122	295
7112 Temporary Help - Agricultural Services	154	0.8191	1.1646	42%	224	439
7113 Temporary Help - Maintenance Services	1,100	0.6554	0.8495	30%	157	216
7114 Temporary Help - Assembly Work, NOC	2,190	0.8339	1.2482	50%	275	521
7115 Temporary Help - Food Processing Services	408	0.7203	1.0815	50%	234	460
7116 Temporary Help - Flaggging Services	346	0.7074	1.0952	55%	232	512
7117 Temporary Help - Machine Operators	797	1.3530	2.1334	58%	461	1,037
7118 Temporary Help - Construction Services	572	1.2610	1.8675	48%	404	760
7119 Temporary Help - Vehicle & Sawmill Operations	195	2.0411	2.7025	32%	441	829
7120 Temporary Help - Hazardous Waste Services	3	6.8402	10.5550	54%	2,190	4,942
7121 Temporary Help - Logging Services	1	6.4293	9.9865	55%	2,087	4,743

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

	223,745	0.3705	0.5293	43%	99	205
2201 Laundry and Dry Cleaning Services	1,626	0.3825	0.5305	39%	91	193
2202 Carpet Cleaning	643	0.8045	1.2562	56%	241	626
2203 Laundries - Commercial	1,388	0.5721	0.9035	58%	202	434
2204 Laundries - Coin Operated	225	0.3825	0.5305	39%	91	193
3406 Gas Stations-Full Service, Car Washes and Detailers	4,444	0.3425	0.4516	32%	77	132
3409 Gas Stations-Self Service - No Groceries	207	0.2165	0.3093	43%	55	123
3411 Automobile Dealers, Rentals and Service Shops	18,855	0.5887	0.8584	46%	150	368
3412 Automobile Body Repair Centers	4,177	0.6633	0.9800	48%	158	450
3414 Boat Dealers, Marinas and Boat Houses	1,100	0.7017				

RISK CLASS	FY01	COMPOSITE RATES		% Rate	COST or (SAVINGS)	
	FTE's	Current	2003	Change	Employee	Employer

RISK CLASS	FY01	COMPOSITE RATES		% Rate	COST or (SAVINGS)	
	FTE's	Current	2003	Change	Employee	Employer

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES ▶ continued from page 4

6203	YMCA, YWCA, Boys and Girls Clubs	2,453	0.1715	0.2280	33%	39	70
6204	Health Clubs and Exercise Facilities	2,722	0.2565	0.3371	31%	51	104
6205	Clubs, NOC	4,459	0.3483	0.5102	46%	94	217
6206	Golf Courses	2,123	0.3207	0.4710	47%	86	203
6207	Carnivals-Traveling	88	1.6269	2.3402	44%	518	852
6208	Amusement Parks	1,390	0.3508	0.4970	42%	101	180
6209	Campgrounds	2,120	0.3734	0.5786	55%	129	265
6509	Boarding Homes and Retirement Centers	17,039	0.4470	0.7002	57%	154	332
6510	Domestic Services	1,212	0.5425	0.8481	56%	147	440
6511	Chore Services	3,048	0.4466	0.6322	42%	128	229
6602	Janitorial Services	8,025	0.5840	0.8293	42%	154	317
6607	Card Rooms, Bingo Parlors and Recreational Centers	3,230	0.3016	0.4191	39%	71	155
6704	Parking Lot Operations	1,066	0.2232	0.3193	43%	57	127
6705	Ski Facilities	509	1.0282	1.6538	61%	413	788
6706	Sports Facilities-Operations	86	0.5258	0.7410	41%	145	268
6707	Contact Sports, NOC	17	2.2847	4.0125	76%	999	2,319
6708	Auto & Boat Racing- per Race	0	8.8428	14.6112	65%	3,922	7,153
6709	Sheltered Workshops	3,469	0.3807	0.5706	50%	122	242
6809	Baseball, Basketball & Soccer Teams	23	6.8161	9.6436	41%	1,817	3,612
7102	Football Teams - NFL	0	4.6071	7.5786	64%	2,139	3,566
7203	Community Service Workers	449	0.2198	0.2999	36%	56	98
7204	Preferred Workers	929	0.0720	0.0684	-5%	(3)	(3)
7308	Pet Grooming/Boarding Services/Animal Shelters	1,379	0.3794	0.5485	45%	121	204
7309	Work Activity Centers	535	0.3807	0.5706	50%	122	242

HEALTH CARE

6105	Hospitals	1,245	0.3661	0.5558	52%	99	266
6108	Nursing Homes	17,424	0.5462	0.8282	52%	178	364
6109	Physicians & Medical Clinics	53,469	0.1667	0.2202	32%	29	73
6110	Home Health Services and Nursing Care, NOC	2,703	0.5616	0.8780	56%	181	426

MISC. PROFESSIONAL AND CLERICAL

1007	Grading, Inspection Bureaus/Forestry Services, NOC	1,360	0.4714	0.6522	38%	101	246
4107	Business Machines- Installation, Service and Repair	6,408	0.2325	0.3230	39%	53	121
4108	Mailing Services	878	0.2618	0.3472	33%	54	110
4109	Sign Painting - In Shop and Buildings	374	0.3539	0.4856	37%	82	170
4901	Consulting Engineers and Architectural Services	14,858	0.1572	0.1987	26%	23	57

▶ continued next column

4903	Insurance Inspection Services	345	0.1665	0.2322	39%	32	94
4904	Clerical Office, NOC	240,629	0.1061	0.1220	15%	9	22
5301	Accounting, Law and Service Companies	50,825	0.1108	0.1261	14%	9	20
6107	Veterinary Services	3,793	0.2112	0.3016	43%	59	114
6301	Sales Personnel - Vehicles and Boats	9,613	0.2459	0.3097	26%	35	87
6302	Door to Door Sales	90	0.2712	0.3752	38%	66	134
6303	Sales Personnel - Outside, NOC	70,646	0.1540	0.1901	23%	22	47
6501	Barbers, Beauty Salons and Tanning Parlors	7,113	0.2309	0.3444	49%	63	155
6502	Banks and Financial Institutions	37,958	0.1039	0.1258	21%	12	31
6503	Labor Unions	1,331	0.1595	0.1976	24%	19	54
6601	Detective Agencies	5,066	0.2869	0.3998	39%	67	150
6605	Actors, Entertainers and Musicians, NOC	499	0.4164	0.6088	46%	139	231
6608	Motion Picture Production	532	0.7145	1.0876	52%	158	558
6620	Entertainers & Dancers	34	4.0464	7.1065	76%	1,622	4,253
6909	Medical and Testing Labs/Blood Banks	8,577	0.1959	0.2693	37%	42	99
7100	Exempt limited liability members NOC	134	0.1086	0.1249	15%	9	23
7101	Executive Officers, NOC	3,568	0.1082	0.1200	11%	7	16
7202	Real Estate Agencies	16,735	0.1153	0.1359	18%	9	30

GOVERNMENT AND SCHOOLS

0803	Cities & Towns All Other Employees, NOC	4,379	0.5991	0.9046	51%	175	412
1501	County and Tribal Councils-All Other Employees,NOC	5,346	0.7243	1.0205	41%	166	402
4201	Port Districts	609	0.7572	1.1025	46%	158	505
4902	State Government - Office and Admin. Employees	35,431	0.1787	0.2374	33%	32	81
4906	Colleges & Universities	56,368	0.1842	0.2369	29%	31	70
4907	Inmates - Prison Industries	1,302	0.1362	0.1606	18%	15	32
4908	Inmates - Adult Honor Camps	375	0.2265	0.3207	42%	72	109
4909	Inmates - Juvenile Forest Camps	60	0.1379	0.1780	29%	29	48
5305	Cities - Office and Admin. Employees	4,463	0.1389	0.1711	23%	20	42
5306	Counties - Office and Admin. Employees	10,001	0.1334	0.1705	28%	21	50
5307	State Government - All Other Employees, NOC	11,563	0.5622	0.8447	50%	151	391
6103	Schools, Churches and Day Care - Prof./Clerical Staff	41,671	0.1626	0.2182	34%	35	72
6104	Schools, Churches and Day Care - All Other Staff	6,522	0.4771	0.7003	47%	143	285
6505	Welfare Special Works Programs	1,671	0.1924	0.2608	36%	46	85
6901	Volunteers	2,554	0.0451	0.0792	76%	33	33
6904	County and City Fire fighters - Salaried	3,311	0.4736	0.8318	76%	169	519
6905	County and City Law Enforcement Officers	3,355	0.5031	0.7587	51%	129	361
6906	Volunteer Law Enforcement Officers	52	0.1394	0.2448	76%	101	101
7103	State Government - Law Enforcement Officers	5,543	0.5681	0.9108	60%	167	491
7201	State Health Care Facilities	4,459	1.5001	2.2812	52%	409	1,091

Do business with Labor and Industries...

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www.LNI.wa.gov



Leveling the playing field: A crackdown on fraud

One of the top priorities at the Department of Labor and Industries is to run the Insurance Services Division as efficiently as possible, spreading the cost fairly among the 163,000 employers who contribute to the State Fund. To do that, L&I must reduce fraud in three major areas:

- Among employers, who don't register or register and then fail to accurately report hours worked.
- Among health care providers, who bill the department for work they don't perform.
- Among workers, who fraudulently collect workers' compensation benefits they're not entitled to receive.

Labor and Industries began focusing heavily on fraud two years ago. For the period July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001, L&I spent \$4 million to detect fraud. That expenditure translated into \$24.5 million in administrative fraud orders, assessments and avoided costs. As a result of the agency's stepped-up efforts, the Puget Sound Special Investigators and the Washington Insurance Council named L&I's fraud unit "Insurance Fraud Investigators of the Year" in 2001. L&I also is working with prosecutors in an attempt to file more criminal cases against workers, employers and providers who defraud the workers' compensation system.

Highlights over the past year include:

- July 2002 represents the one-year anniversary of L&I's focus on unregistered contractors who weren't paying workers' compensation premiums. In that year, L&I brought over 1,350 unregistered employers into compliance. Our goal in the coming year is to collect from them \$2.5 million in back premiums.
- In December 2001, a Minnesota woman was ordered to repay L&I nearly \$435,000 after she remarried and illegally collected survivor benefits for 30 years.
- In September 2001, a Seattle man was ordered to repay \$353,998 after he collected partial wage benefits while traveling the country as a hypnotist. He was caught in Spokane after L&I fraud investigators videotaped him working a state fair.
- In January 2002, a former Yakima man now living in Mexico was ordered to repay \$209,000 in workers' comp benefits and penalties after an investigation found that he worked under another name while collecting time-loss benefits.
- In March 2002, the owners of Bandits Express, a Clark County trucking company, were convicted of under-reporting employee hours to avoid paying worker benefits.

L&I's efforts in minimizing fraud rely, in large part, on the public. If you know of an employee or provider who is collecting benefits they aren't entitled to, or an employer who isn't registered and reporting hours, please report it. There are two ways you can do that – both anonymous. Either call L&I's fraud hotline at **1-888-811-5974**, or go online at **www.LNI.wa.gov/fraud**

**L&I's fraud hotline
1-888-811-5974**

**Online:
www.LNI.wa.gov/fraud**



Using the Internet to do business with L&I

Convenience, speed, information, and confidentiality – those are just a few of the very good reasons for employers to do business with the Department of Labor and Industries using our Internet services.

“The Internet and electronic commerce are very important parts of our array of customer services,” said Eva Santos, deputy director for operations. “We are eager to use technology and the Internet as long as our customers want the service and are willing to use it.”

“We try to be as practical as possible,” she said. “First, can we see that a new service will provide a substantial return on investment? Second, do our customers want this and will they be willing to use it? Third, can it be managed in chunks that are reasonable? And fourth, will it meet our very substantial security requirements?”

Santos said the agency does customer surveys to determine initial needs. “Once a new electronic commerce proposal is under way, we spend a lot of time with stakeholder representatives to fine-tune an application,” she said. “Then we set up pilot projects with volunteer customers who try out an application.”

For example, a survey of employers indicated considerable interest in being able to pay workers’ compensation premiums and file quarterly reports using the Internet. L&I set up a pilot project. “Employers in the pilot project found it was much easier to prepare and update their reports online,” said Kathy Kimbel, manager of L&I’s employer services program. “The electronic forms and automatic calculations also improve accuracy of the data.”

So last fall, ExpressFiling was launched. Now more than 7,000 employers use the new service to prepare and update workers’ compensation quarterly reports. They also have the option to pay with electronic funds transfer or paper check. ExpressFiling customers also can access rating information and past reports filed online and obtain experience factors for specific accounts. They also can read laws and regulations and other information to help file their reports. Here’s the Internet address for more information: www.LNI.wa.gov/expressfiling

L&I offers a variety of other Internet services for employers and the public, including:

Workers’ Compensation File Information

– Provides secured access to claim file information for legal representatives, employers, retrospective rating members, third party representatives and attending doctors. www.LNI.wa.gov/accessworkcomp

Contractor Database – Provides information on whether contractors are registered and bonded in Washington State.

www.LNI.wa.gov/contractors/contractor.asp

Electrical Permit Purchasing System

– Allows online purchase of residential and telecommunication electrical work permits.

www.LNI.wa.gov/scs/electrical/ipep.htm

Electrical Inspection Request System

– Allows online request of inspections on existing electrical work permits.

www.LNI.wa.gov/scs/electrical/eirs.htm

Prevailing Wage Database

– Allows contractors and others to find out the required hourly pay wage rate, by trade and county, for public works construction projects. www.LNI.wa.gov/prevailingwage/prev_wage_rates.htm

Prevailing Wage Intent and Affidavits

– Allows contractors to file intent and affidavit forms for public works projects using a credit card payment option.

www.LNI.wa.gov/prevailingwage/pwia

QuickCards

– Allows contractors, electricians and plumbers to renew contractor registrations, electrical licenses and plumber certifications online.

www.LNI.wa.gov/quickcards



Safety and health consultations

Employers guard against workplace hazards

The owner of a machine shop thought he'd save a few bucks by having a "handyman" buddy do some wiring instead of hiring an electrician.

When a safety consultant from the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) checked the shop's presses with an electrical tracer, it glowed. That indicated a problem with the wiring. Further investigation determined that the presses weren't grounded, posing a serious hazard to workers. The employer fixed the problem and no one was hurt.

Do you know the potential hazards in your workplace? Are you doing all you can to provide a safe and healthy workplace for your employees?

Learning as much as you can about potential hazards in your workplace and ways to eliminate them will help you meet the requirements of the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA). WISHA requirements protect your employees from work-related injury or occupational disease. Certain requirements apply to all businesses, while others cover certain industries or types of work.

For example, the WISHA requirements for a warehouse where employees use forklifts are more extensive than those for a law office or a florist shop. In agriculture, requirements include eye protection for workers in fruit-tree orchards where branches pose a hazard.

Sometimes the hazards are less obvious. For example, funeral homes must protect their employees against bloodborne pathogens and bridge painters have to be protected against lead exposure.

Do you know the WISHA requirements that apply to your business? If you're not sure, you may want to request a safety and health consultation from L&I. The following questions/answers will help acquaint you with the benefits of L&I's no-fee consultations and how the process works.

What happens during a consultation?

Here is an overview of what the consultant does.

Step 1. Meet with you (or your management representative) to explain the steps involved in the consultation. You must agree to all the steps in the process or you may end the consultation, no questions asked.

In unionized work areas, an employee representative must have the opportunity to participate in the discussions at the start and end of the consultation. In all work areas, the consultant will want to talk to employees and get their perspective on the workplace.

Step 2. Conduct a walkthrough survey to evaluate the mechanical, physical and environmental hazards of the workplace and work practices, and review your accident prevention program. In a limited consultation, only the areas specified will be surveyed.

In unionized work areas, an employee representative must have the opportunity to accompany you and the consultant during the physical evaluation.

The consultant may increase the number of employee participants in the physical evaluation if additional representatives will improve the quality of the visit.

Step 3. Confer with individual employees during the visit to identify and judge the extent of particular hazards and to evaluate your accident prevention program. This step occurs in all workplaces.



Step 4. After the walkthrough, meet with you and, in unionized workplaces, the employee representative to discuss the conditions noted during the survey and to make recommendations.

Step 5. Prepare a written report outlining the conditions found and any recommendations or agreements made.

Step 6. If appropriate, conduct a follow-up visit to verify that you have made needed corrections.

What are the benefits of a consultation?

There's no charge for this service. Small businesses in higher-risk industries receive top priority for consultations. Some examples include construction contractors, machine shops, manufacturing companies and public works operations in small cities and counties.

A safety or health consultant cannot fine you. You must correct in a timely manner any serious job safety and health hazards found during the consultation, but the consultant will not issue a citation or fine you.

Consultations are confidential. As long as you address the serious hazards found during the consultation, L&I compliance inspectors **will not** see a copy of the consultant's report, if you're inspected in the future, unless you volunteer it. However, you may want to use this report as evidence of your good faith in attempting to provide a safe workplace.

There's no hassle. If you don't like what you're hearing, you may end the consultant's visit at any time by saying, "Thanks and good-bye." If you do, the consultant will leave with no strings attached (however, if the consultant noted any serious hazards, you must correct them).

Consultations help prevent injuries and occupational disease. One serious injury can have a devastating impact on a business, especially a small company. First, you deal with the emotional effects of the injury.

Then, there is the workers' compensation claim. Because someone has to handle the injured worker's responsibilities, you may have to hire and train someone else while your employee recovers. **Injuries are costly in human terms and financially.**



Can I request a consultation to look at one particular problem?

Yes. You may request assistance with a specific problem. For example, a sawmill, cabinet shop or lumber supply company might want a consultant to make certain that the guarding on their saws conforms to standards. A manufacturing company might want assistance monitoring noise levels to determine what elements of the hearing conservation standard apply.

A comprehensive consultation is a complete review of your company's safety and health conditions. This includes a review of all applicable standards – for example, accident prevention program, chemical hazard communication program and ergonomics. Because comprehensive consultations do more to protect workers throughout your operation, L&I places a higher priority on such requests.

How do I request a consultation?

Safety and health consultants in L&I's local offices across the state conduct the consultations. You can request one by looking at the table on page 10 to find the county where your business is located. Then, call the telephone number listed or send an e-mail requesting your consultation.

A consultant in the L&I office closest to you will contact you, usually by telephone, to hear what your needs are and to set up a time and date for the on-site consultation. Smaller businesses in higher-risk industries have first priority for consultations.

► *continued on page 10*

Counties	L&I Phone Number	L&I E-mail
Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom (L&I Region 1)	425-290-1431	LIEL235@LNI.wa.gov
King (L&I Region 2)	206-515-2837 or 425-990-1462	SOLT235@LNI.wa.gov PARS235@LNI.wa.gov
Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, Pierce (L&I Region 3)	253-596-3917	MAHA235@LNI.wa.gov
Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum (L&I Region 4)	360-902-5472	HOLT235@LNI.wa.gov
Adams (west county), Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Kittitas, Okanogan, Walla Walla, Yakima (L&I Region 5)	509-886-6570	MCFJ235@LNI.wa.gov
Adams (east county), Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Orielle, Spokane, Stevens, Whitman (L&I Region 6)	509-324-2543	POAG235@LNI.wa.gov

Why does L&I offer consultations?

Through the consultation program, L&I educates employers and employee representatives on safety and health requirements. The goal is to help you self-monitor your work environment so you can recognize hazards in your workplace and fix them before accidents occur. If you comply with safety and health standards, your employees will be better protected than if you simply tell them, “Be careful!



Does L&I offer other resources besides consultations?

Yes. The WISHA Services Division of L&I operates an extensive Web site. Visit www.LNI.wa.gov/wisha where you will find online:

- Courses
- Training presentations
- Publications
- Accident Prevention Program Guide (including sample programs you can fill in and customize for your business)
- Links to all workplace safety and health standards
- Schedule of ergonomics workshops at www.LNI.wa.gov/wisha/ergo

In addition, L&I offers workshops on other safety and health topics on request, for groups of 15 or more people and offers most publications in printed form. Call 1-800-4BE-SAFE for more information.

10 Serious Hazards Most Frequently Identified During a Consultation		
	WAC Citation	Standard
1	WAC 24-18005-9	Guarding of abrasive wheel machinery
2	WAC 800-17005	Develop, implement, maintain and make available a written Chemical Hazard Communication Program
3	WAC 24-65003	Compressed air used for cleaning
4	WAC 800-14005	Develop a formal, written accident prevention program
5	WAC 24-18003-4	Abrasive wheel machinery – general requirements
6	WAC 24-15001-1	Machine guarding
7	WAC 800-17025	Labeling of containers holding hazardous chemicals
8	WAC 24-95609-1(B)	Wiring methods, components, and equipment for general use
9	WAC 24-20501-1	Safeguarding power transmission parts
10	WAC 800-28025-1	Maintain electrical fittings, boxes, cabinets and outlets in good condition

Ergonomics rule in effect, enforcement delayed

The Department of Labor and Industries is providing a variety of services to help employers meet requirements of the state's new ergonomics rule.

The rule phases in over five years, beginning July 1, 2002. The amount of time employers have to comply depends on the size of the business and type of industry. While the phase-in dates remain in effect, Governor Locke in March decided to delay enforcement by two years.

The rule took effect July 1, 2002, for about 600 large companies in industries with the highest risk of musculoskeletal injuries. By this date, these employers with caution zone jobs had to provide basic ergonomics awareness education to employees in caution zone jobs and their supervisors. (Caution zone jobs are jobs with risk factors such as heavy lifting or highly repetitive motion. They are spelled out in the rule.) If hazards exist, these employers must reduce them by July 1, 2003.

L&I will delay enforcement until July 1, 2004. The first 600 employers would not be cited for non-compliance until after that date. As the phase-in period continues, other employers will need to determine whether they have caution zone jobs.

"Ergonomics works. It prevents disabling injuries to employees, and it saves employers money," said Michael Silverstein, L&I's assistant director for workplace safety and health. "Unfortunately, not every employer has recognized the value of these simple techniques, and the rule will require some employers to take additional steps to make sure employees are safe."

L&I has developed a variety of tools to help employers determine whether the rule applies to their business and how to comply. They include free consultations, workshops, an extensive Web site and online training materials.

"Many smaller companies in low-risk industries will find that the ergonomics rule really doesn't impact them much. Because it only

applies to businesses with certain types of jobs that might cause injuries, the rule does not affect every business in the state," said Silverstein.

Since the rule's adoption in May 2000, a number of significant developments have occurred:

- L&I, industry groups and volunteer employers conducted 26 demonstration projects in 2001 to develop and demonstrate tools and skills helpful for complying with the ergonomics rule. More than a dozen new projects are currently under way.
- In March 2002, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Ergonomics, convened at the direction of Governor Locke, issues its report. The panel determined that requirements of the ergonomics rule were understandable, proposed enforcement policies were fair and consistent, effective educational materials were widely available and demonstration projects were successful. The panel also recommended that L&I continue demonstration projects and further develop education programs.
- On March 5, 2002, Governor Locke directed L&I to implement the state's ergonomics rule, but to delay the start of enforcement actions until July 2004.
- On July 12, 2002, Thurston County Superior Court Judge Paul Casey upheld the state's ergonomics rule. The rule had been challenged in a lawsuit brought by a coalition of business interests. The coalition filed an appeal to Casey's ruling on September 16.

To obtain a copy of the rule, learn about workshops or obtain training materials, visit L&I's ergonomics Web site – www.LNI.wa.gov/wisha/ergo – or call 1-800-4BE-SAFE.

Write your accident prevention program with an online guide

You might call your written accident prevention program (APP) a safety plan or an injury prevention program. Whatever the name, it's an important and required tool for keeping your workplace safe and healthy for the people who work there.

Every workplace has its own special hazards and work environment. For that reason, your APP must be tailored to your business.

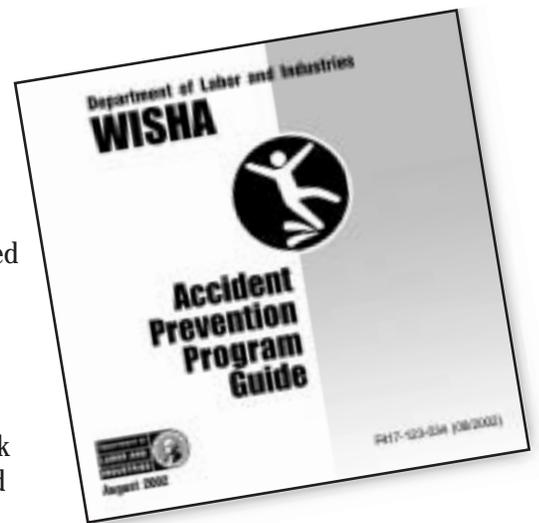
Does writing this plan seem daunting? It doesn't need to be. Put away your blank sheet of paper and use the online Accident Prevention Program Guide developed by the Department of Labor and Industries.

This guide simplifies preparation of your APP. It includes:

- Information for developing a basic plan that complies with the law.
- Information for developing a comprehensive plan that goes beyond compliance and increases safety awareness among your employees.
- Ready-to-modify accident prevention programs. These include a basic plan, a comprehensive-plan and several industry-specific plans.
- Ready-to-use forms you may need for your program.
- Information about injury costs to help you decide what issues need attention first.
- Links to other useful information including the text of safety and health regulations.

Visit www.LNI.wa.gov/wisha/publications/App/default.htm to use the online Accident Prevention Program Guide. If you don't have Internet access, you can request the guide on CD (compact disk).

Writing an APP doesn't need to be difficult. With a little time and effort you will have a written program that will save you money, prevent injuries and illnesses, and put you in compliance with regulations.



With Internet access, the online guide is at your fingertips. If you don't have Internet access, remember that your public library does, or request a CD copy of the guide from your local L&I office.

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