



Funding Update Michigan Receives Two New Grants

We are pleased to announce that Michigan was one of the eight states that successfully competed for funds from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) which is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for continuation of a grant to do occupational disease surveillance and intervention. Our three conditions remain work-related asthma, silicosis and work-related noise-induced hearing loss. These federal funds supplement the state's effort to conduct occupational disease tracking and intervention for all occupational diseases.

The state also receives money from NIOSH for tracking of lead toxicity in adults and pesticide related illness.

Michigan also successfully competed for the first time to obtain a Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) grant. See article in newsletter for more details. Michigan will be one of fifteen states that receive funds from NIOSH for a FACE program.

Acute Traumatic Fatalities In Michigan

One hundred and seventy four individuals died in 2001 from an acute traumatic injury at work in Michigan. Table I shows the number of acute work-related traumatic fatalities for the past eight years. The new Michigan Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (MIFACE) program hopes through investigation, increased awareness, education and engineering innovation to reduce the number of deaths.

Table I. Acute Traumatic Fatalities by Year, Michigan, 1994-2001

Year	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Fatalities	180	149	155	174	179	182	156	174

Who is dying at work? Ten case histories follow:

<p>42-year old male handyman was clearing snow from a parking lot using a skid steer loader. The victim was outside the machine under an unsupported raised bucket clearing snow from around the foot pedals on the cab floor. The death occurred at night while the victim was working alone. The bucket came down pinning the victim.</p>	<p>31-year old male construction worker was painting the underside of a bridge while in an unsecured basket elevated by a telescoping rough terrain forklift. When the victim stepped to the side of the basket, the basket fell off the forks. The victim landed on the ground and the basket fell on top of the victim.</p>
<p>29-year old male mold setter was reaching in-between a horizontal injection mold machine's gantry robot mount and the robot. The robot cycled and struck victim's head, crushing it against the robot gantry mount.</p>	<p>36-year old male serviceman for the refrigeration industry was on a building roof performing air conditioning maintenance on a hot day. He died due to exposure to sun and the hot environment.</p>
<p>18-year-old male machine operator was reaching into a rotating barrel to retrieve a part that did not dump out of the barrel at the barrel unloading station. When he reached inside the barrel, his clothing caught on something inside of the barrel. The limit switch to stop barrel rotation did not work. The barrel continued to rotate, and the operator was pinned between the rotating barrel and the barrel support member.</p>	<p>21-year old male logger was part of a logging crew. A coworker driving a cable skidder to move felled logs to the landing area noticed a maple stub (standing dead tree characterized by a broken off top and very few or no remaining branches) that became caught in the cables. The coworker directed him to cut the maple stub so it could be removed from the felled logs. Not wearing any personal protective equipment, he cut the stub with a chainsaw. The chainsaw experienced kick back and cut his throat.</p>
<p>27-year old male construction worker was riding in a container elevated about nine feet on a forklift moving about five miles per hour. The forklift driver was transporting the victim and another coworker to another work location on a paved road. While traveling, the container struck a parked trailer and broke into pieces. The victim was thrown to the pavement, hitting his head.</p>	<p>14-year old male farmhand was scraping manure into a pit using a tractor with a scraper, when he mistakenly put the tractor in reverse, causing him to be pinned between a raised gate and the tractor steering column.</p>
<p>42-year old and 60-year old male farmers were cleaning a driven point well with uninhibited liquid muriatic acid. The farmers died of hydrogen sulfide poisoning.</p>	<p>54-year old female dental assistant was stabbed by an intruder while taking care of patients in their home.</p>

Table II shows the summary information about the people who died in 2001.

Of the 174 acute traumatic work-related injuries, twenty-four were homicides and twelve were suicides. Suicides at work are included as part of all national statistics of work-related fatalities.

Homicides occurred among police, victims of robberies at work, and fellow workers.

Among the remaining 138 deaths, forty-three individuals died in transportation-related incidents; most commonly motor vehicles but

also airplanes, boats and trains.

Forty of the deaths were in construction, twenty were in manufacturing, seventeen in farming, fifteen in service industries and three in forestry.

When performed, medical examiners reports have been obtained. Drug and alcohol screens were performed on 115 and 124 victims, respectively. Illegal drugs were found in nine (7.8%) of the deceased tested and alcohol in three (2.4%) of the deceased tested. For another six individuals (5.2%), medication may have been a factor in their death.

Table II. Summary Demographics of Acute Traumatic Fatalities, Michigan, 2001		
	Number	Percent
Gender		
Male	162	(93)
Female	12	(7)
Race		
Caucasian	143	(82)
African-American	21	(12)
Hispanic	5	(3)
Other	5	(3)
Age	Range 14-85	
Counties with 5 or more Fatalities		
Wayne	41	
Washtenaw	13	
Oakland	11	
Kent	9	
Macomb	9	
Ottawa	7	
Berrien	6	
Ingham	6	
Allegan	5	
Muskegon	5	

time equivalent industrial hygienist.

One of our top priorities will be the self-employed (i.e. farmers). We have been conducting these investigations over the past year, prior to our receipt of NIOSH funds. We find that our investigations complement the MIOSHA investigation. We attempt to determine the root causes of the fatality and make recommendations, while MIOSHA's main focus is on determining whether there are violations of any occupational safety and health standards.

Copies of our individual fatality investigation reports are on our web site at www.chm.msu.edu/oem (MIFACE). Individual plans to disseminate these reports are developed for each report. Reports may be sent to trade organizations, individual employers, unions, educational organizations, and magazines.

We are funded to conduct this program for four years and will be periodically reporting on our efforts. Investigations in the Detroit area will be performed by Patricia Brogan, Ph. D., CIH, of Wayne State University and in the rest of the state by Debra Chester, MS, at Michigan State University. Howard Doss, MS, retired safety specialist for the Cooperative Extension Service, will assist on farm-related deaths. Brian Thompson, Ph.D., Professor of Engineering at Michigan State University, will review the deaths for possible interventions involving engineering redesign.

The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) performs an onsite inspection for all "program related" fatalities that are under their jurisdiction. Because OSHA does not cover the self-employed, federal employees, maritime or railroad workers and does not investigate homicides or suicides at work nor transportation related fatalities, MIOSHA only investigated fifty-eight of the 174 (33%) of the acute traumatic fatalities. The MIFACE program will also need to prioritize our investigations of fatalities since we will be unable to conduct an on-site investigation for all deaths with our one full-

If you are aware of a work-related traumatic death, please contact MIFACE toll-free at 1-800-446-7805.



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Address service requested.

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Acute Traumatic Fatalities in Michigan

***PS** Remember to report all cases of occupational disease!

Printed on recycled paper.

**Michigan Law Requires
the Reporting of
Known or Suspected
Occupational Diseases**
Reporting can be done by:
FAX (517) 432-3606
Telephone 1-800-446-7805
E-Mail ODRREPORT@ht.msu.edu
Web www.chm.msu.edu/oem
Mail Michigan Department of
Consumer and Industry Services
Division of Occupational Health
P.O. Box 30649
Lansing, MI 48909-8149
Reporting forms can be obtained by
calling (517) 322-5208
Or
1-800-446-7805

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