

# What is NIOSH?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) was established by the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. NIOSH is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is the federal Institute responsible for conducting research and making recommendations for the prevention of work-related illnesses and injuries. The Institute's responsibilities include:

- Investigating potentially hazardous working conditions as requested by employers or employees
- Evaluating hazards in the workplace, ranging from chemicals to machinery
- Creating and disseminating methods for preventing disease, injury, and disability
- Conducting research and providing scientifically valid recommendations for protecting workers
- Providing education and training to individuals preparing for or actively working in the field of occupational safety and health

# How Does NIOSH differ from OSHA?

Although NIOSH and OSHA were created by the same Act of Congress, they are two distinct agencies with separate responsibilities. OSHA is in the Department of Labor and is responsible for creating and enforcing workplace safety and health regulations. NIOSH is in the Department of Health and Human Services and is a research agency.

NIOSH identifies the causes of work-related diseases and injuries and the potential hazards of new work technologies and practices. With this information, NIOSH determines new and effective ways to protect workers from chemicals, machinery, and hazardous working conditions. Creating new ways to PREVENT workplace hazards is the job of NIOSH. With today's economic, health care, and worker's compensation crises challenging our country, PREVENTION is an approach whose time has come.

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