



Resources to Ensure Worker Health and Safety in Colorado

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment may be able to provide direct referrals or additional guidance. If you have questions about the following resources or need more information, contact our Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance Program at (303) 691-4938.

Information for Workers

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) workers website (www.osha.gov/workers.html) provides valuable information on worker rights, employer responsibilities, and how to file a confidential complaint. Workers, or their representatives, may file a complaint and ask OSHA to inspect their workplace if they believe there is a serious hazard or that their employer is not following OSHA standards. A worker can tell OSHA not to let their employer know who filed the complaint.

OSHA Denver Area Office (In general, covers businesses north of I-70)
1391 Speer Boulevard, Suite 210
Denver, Colorado 80204-2552
(303) 844-5285 Phone

OSHA Englewood Area Office (In general, covers businesses south of I-70)
7935 East Prentice Avenue, Suite 209
Englewood, Colorado 80111-2714
(303) 843-4500 Phone

OSHA Whistle Blower Protection Program

If you feel your employer is retaliating against you for reporting a health and safety issue (such as a lay-off, change in work schedule, cut in hours, or being "blacklisted"), you should call OSHA right away. (See office contact information above) There is a 30 day window for OSHA to investigate such allegations. More information about the Whistle Blower Protection Program is available online: www.whistleblowers.gov.

OSHA Coverage in Colorado

Colorado is a Federal-OSHA state. Federal-OSHA jurisdiction covers only private sector and Federal employers and employees. It does not have jurisdiction to enforce health and safety standards in self-employed, family farms or farms with 10 or fewer employees, state and local government workers, and certain workplaces regulated by another Federal agency (e.g., the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)).

NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluations

Any type of worker can submit a request for the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to conduct a Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) at their place of employment. Employees, employee representatives, or employers can ask NIOSH to help learn whether health hazards are present at their place of work. An employee can request an HHE if he or she is currently an employee at the workplace of concern and has the signatures of two other employees. If the workplace has three or fewer employees, the signature of only one employee is enough. Requests can be submitted online, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/>, by phone 303-236-6032 (Denver Field Office), or by e-mail HHERequestHelp@cdc.gov.

Colorado Labor Laws

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) administer employment laws in Colorado.

- For information about the laws and regulations governing wages, minimum wage, youth employment, certain union issues and grievances, and employment-related immigration laws, contact the Division of Labor (303-318-8441).
- For issues relating to workers' compensation claims filing and management, contact the Division of Workers' Compensation (303-318-8700).
- For information about discriminatory termination, contact the Colorado Civil Rights Commission (303-894-2997) or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (303-866-1300)

More information about these resources can be found on the CDLE website:

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDLE-LaborLaws/CDLE/1249479433893>

Information for Employers

If you would like to evaluate the health and safety of your workplace, or just have questions about preventing injury and illness around potential hazards, we recommend that you contact the Colorado State University OSHA Consultation Program or the NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation Program. These programs provide several **confidential and free services** for qualifying businesses, including:

- On-site safety and health audits
- Health and safety program review and assistance
- Assessments of health and safety management practices
- Health and safety training and education
- OSHA compliance assistance
- Workplace air and noise monitoring
- Technical guidance and information
- Printed materials on occupational safety and health

Occupational Health & Safety Consultation

Colorado State University
155 Environmental Health
Fort Collins, CO 80523
Phone: 970-491-6151

www.bernardino.colostate.edu/public/

NOTE: One option through the OSHA Consultation Office might be having your health and safety evaluation needs conducted as part of a student project. The consultation program is associated with the Colorado State University industrial hygiene training program, which sometimes needs practicum sites for students to apply skills in real-life settings.

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

Denver Field Office – Health Hazard Evaluation Program

P.O. Box 25226

Denver, Colorado 80225-0226

Phone: 303-236-6032

Email: HHERequestHelp@cdc.gov

www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/

More information for health and safety consultation

- The CDPHE Small Business Assistance Program provides a basic workplace safety compliance workbook and checklist. These materials focus largely on environmental regulation compliance, but there is a section for general health and safety.
www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-AP/CBON/1251596441985
- The CDPHE provides an Asbestos Services Directory and a Lead Services Directory. These are directories of private contractors and public health agencies in Colorado that can assist in the identification, assessment and abatement of asbestos and lead based paint hazards. Some of the contractors on these lists are likely to offer complete industrial hygiene services as well.
www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-AP/CBON/1251594599673
www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-AP/CBON/1251594781629
- OSHA provides examples of written safety programs and policies on a variety of workplace health and safety topics. www.osha.gov/dcsp/compliance_assistance/sampleprograms.html
- The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) provides several resources and a search tool to find a local consultant by service and specialty. www.aiha.org
- The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) provides several topic-specific guidelines on workplace standards. www.asse.org
- For state employers and workers, the Champion Health and Safety Everyday (CHASE) Program is a forum to advocate for a healthy, injury-free workplaces and provide opportunities to model safe work practices. Meeting information is available online. www.colorado.gov
- WorkSafe Colorado is a new Denver-based organization that holds regular meetings for employers and workers to learn about and discuss health and safety issues and concerns. Meeting information is posted online. www.worksafecolorado.org
- Consider contacting your company workers' compensation insurance provider. They may offer discounted health and safety training or consultation to clients.