



Frequently Asked Questions Public Sector Safety

Updated 03/03/16

1. What agency is responsible for ensuring that public employees have the same rights and protections relating to occupational safety and health equivalent to those granted to employees in the private sector under the Occupational Safety and Health Act?

Wis Statute 101.055 requires that Public Employees receive the same protections that are afforded Private Sector Employee. SPS 332 establishes minimum occupational safety and health standards for public employees and delegates the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DPS) as the enforcing agency.

2. What occupational safety and health codes apply to public employees?

SPS 332.15, SPS 332.16 and SPS 332.50 reference the codes that are applicable to public sector employers and employees. These codes were recently updated to incorporate the 2010 version of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations.

3. How can I get a copy of the standards and codes that apply to public sector safety and health?

SPS 332 can be found at:

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/sps/safety_and_buildings_and_environment/326_360/332.pdf

The OSHA regulations referenced in SPS 332 can be found at:

<https://www.osha.gov>

4. Who do I contact if I have Public Section safety and health questions?

A map listing the Public Section Safety inspectors and their assigned areas can be found at:

<http://dsps.wi.gov/Documents/Industry%20Services/Maps/Public%20Sector%20Map.pdf>

5. How do I file a complaint concerning a public employee safety and health issue?

The DPCS online complaint Form can be found at:

<http://6.selectsurvey.net/doa/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=7440916>

6. Do I need to report a public sector employee work related fatality or an incident resulting in hospitalization of 3 or more employees?

Yes, these occurrences must be reported within 8 hours of their occurrence. During normal business hours call 608-266-1816 or 1-800-943-003 after business hours.

7. Where can I find examples of written safety and health programs?

Example written safety and health programs can be found at:

<http://dsps.wi.gov/Programs/Industry-Services/Industry-Services-Programs/Public-Sector-Employee-Safety/Public-Sector-Employee-Safety-Publications/>

You can also find example programs on the OSHA web site: <https://www.osha.gov>

8. Can an employer or employee request an inspection or consultation visit?

Yes. Under SPS 332.05 an employer, employee or employee representative may ask for an inspection by calling 608-266-1816. Consultation visits may result in Orders being issued.

9. Does DSPS issue fines for failing to correct orders?

If the employer refuses to comply, penalties maybe assessed according to SPS 332.09.

If orders are issued after the inspection process, the employer is typically given 60 days to correct violations. After 60 days an extension may be granted.

10. Does DSPS staff provide awareness training or other presentation?

Yes. A request may be made by contacting your local inspector or contacting the Madison office at 608-266-1816.