



Occupational Safety and Health Protection for Employees

For USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Employees

AUTHORITIES

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, Executive Order 12196 and 29 CFR 1960 require the heads of Federal Agencies to furnish to employees places and conditions of employment that are free from job safety and health hazards.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES

Comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards; NRCS Safety and Health Program Policy, GM-360, Part 420.

Set up procedures for responding to employee reports of unsafe and unhealthful working conditions.

Acquire, maintain and require the use of approved personal protective clothing, equipment and safety devices.

Conduct safety inspections and health surveys of all NRCS controlled workplaces at least annually.

Conduct inspection and surveys by qualified personnel equipped with proper equipment and encourage employee participation.

Establish procedures to assure that no employee is subject to restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal for exercising his/her rights under the NRCS Safety and Health Program.

Post notices of unsafe or unhealthful working conditions found during safety inspections, health surveys, or accident investigations.

Assure prompt abatement of conditions adversely affecting employee safety and health. Employees exposed to conditions shall be informed of the abatement plan. Imminent danger corrections must be made immediately.

Set up management information systems to keep records of occupational accident, injuries, illnesses and their causes; and post annual summaries of injuries and illnesses for a minimum of 30 days at each workplace.

Conduct occupational safety and health training programs for managers, supervisors, safety and health personnel, employees and employee representatives.

EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Comply with occupational safety and health regulations, directives, policies and procedures issued by the USDA and NRCS.

Use personal protective clothing, equipment and safety devices provided or designated by NRCS.

RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES

Participate in the USDA and NRCS Safety and Health Programs. Employees are authorized official time to participate in the activities provided by Executive Order 12196, CFR 1960, and USDA and NRCS Safety and Health Programs.

Access to safety and health standards, regulations, policies and procedures, and work site injury and illness statistics.

Report and request inspections of unsafe and unhealthful workplace conditions and practices to appropriate officials. If conditions are not promptly or effectively corrected, or if it appears that your right to report these conditions is being infringed, you or your representative may seek resolution through:

1. Your Local Safety and Health Manager.
2. Your National Safety and Health Official.
3. Your Designated Agency Safety and Health Official.
4. OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC 20210.

Anonymity is assured.

Freedom from Fear of Reprisal

Employees and their representatives are protected from restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal for exercising any of their rights under the NRCS Safety and Health Program.

SAFETY AND HEALTH CONTACTS

Your Designated Agency Safety and Health Official is the Deputy Chief for Management. Mail your inquiries to:

USDA/NRCS
Room 5110
South Agricultural Building
14th & Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Your National Safety and Health Official is:

Name Christina Turner
Location Somerset, New Jersey
Telephone (732) 246-1171 x166
E-mail cturner@nj.nrcs.usda.gov

Your Local Safety and Health Manger is:

Name Ed Kephart
Location State Office, Stillwater, OK
Telephone (405) 742-1203
E-mail Ed.Kephart@ok.usda.gov