

SAFETY VIOLATIONS HOTLINE – *Information for Texas Employees*

What is the Safety Violations Hotline?

Every year, workplace hazards result in an extensive number of injuries, illnesses and fatalities involving Texas employees. One of the goals of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation is to promote safe and healthy work environments.

By law, your employer is responsible for providing a safe work environment for you. While working you may recognize safety and health hazards that could cause injury, illness or death. You can report such workplace hazards to the Safety Violations Hotline by calling 1-800-452-9595 or completing the form online at www.tdi.state.tx.us/wc/indexwc.html under "online services".

The Safety Violations Hotline is a bilingual, 24-hour, toll-free telephone line that allows Texas employees to report unsafe working conditions to the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC).

You can report hazards without fear of retribution from your employer. The Hotline allows you, the employee, to take an active role in preventing workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities. After a report is received, TDI-DWC safety inspectors work with the employers and insurance carriers to help eliminate workplace safety and health hazards.

The hazard investigation process begins with a report from you. When calling, e-mailing or submitting your report online, you will need to provide the following information:

- your employer's name, address, city, zipcode, telephone number and owner or responsible head of the organization; and
- detailed description of hazard
- (optional) your name and contact information, such as telephone number or address.

How does the Safety Violations Hotline work?

After a report of safety and health hazards is received, there are several steps taken to address the report.

- Contact is made by TDI-DWC to the insurance carrier and/or employer.
- The hazardous situation is investigated by the insurance carrier and/or the employer.
- The hazard is corrected by the employer.
- The employer or insurance carrier notifies TDI-DWC that the hazard has been corrected.
- If your contact information is provided, TDI-DWC notifies you of the hazard correction.
- The case is closed.

There are several important facts you should know about the Safety Violations Hotline.

- Each report is investigated as fully as possible based on the information provided by the employee.
- It is against the law for your employer to engage in any form of disciplinary action against you, such as demotion, harassment or termination, as a result of your report of an occupational hazard to the Hotline.
- Reports of safety and health hazards calls are taken in English or Spanish.
- If you provide your name and address with your hazard report, you will be notified by TDI-DWC with the outcome of the investigation that resulted from your report.
- You do not have to provide your name to report a hazard.
- If you wish to remain anonymous, you may do so. However, under the Texas Public Information Act, parties may request Hotline case file information, including names.