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Federal OSHA Report Recognizes NMED's Occupational Health and Safety Bureau for Exceeding Goals and Performing Well

New Mexico's Fatality and Injury Rates Decreased under OHSB

(Santa Fe, NM) – The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration released a recent report that recognizes the state's Occupational Health and Safety Bureau for exceeding its goals in keeping New Mexico's workers safe on the job and reducing the rate of workplace deaths.

"The state's most important achievements are the reductions in fatality and injury/illness rates between 2007 and 2008, the latest years for which data is available," the federal OSHA's Enhanced Federal Annual Monitoring and Evaluation report stated. "The fatality rate per 100,000 workers dropped from 5.2 in 2007 to 3.8 in 2008, and the Total Recordable Case rate per 100 workers in all industries declined from 5.0 in 2007 to 4.4 in 2008.

"I am proud of the diligence our Occupational Health and Safety Bureau for the hard work that keeps New Mexicans safe in the workplace," said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. "OHSB continues to reach out to the oil and gas, construction and other industries to offer services that make work sites safer. We have seen great success with those programs."

The report, which reviewed 27 state-run OSHA programs, mentioned that some states were at risk for federal takeovers of their programs. New Mexico, however, was one of the exemplary states.

New Mexico made progress on all of its FY 2009 annual performance plan goals, the report stated. In addition, "the OHSB continued nine local emphasis programs to address the high hazard industries identified in their strategic plan and industries where fatalities have occurred."

The goal of the federal reports on state plans is to ensure the programs protect workers so serious injuries and fatalities can be prevented. Visit <http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/osp/efame/index.html> to view New Mexico's report.

The mission of the department's Occupational Health and Safety Bureau is to assure every employee safe and healthful working conditions. The bureau adopted Federal OSHA Regulations and promulgated some state specific regulations, including convenience store regulations that have been a model for other states. The

scope of OHSB's jurisdiction includes all private industry and public entities such as city, county, and state government; excluding federal employees

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