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### **Wednesday: Not a good day to be at work**

*Survey highlights Kansas workplace accidents; KDOL offers preventive measures for businesses*

It's Wednesday. Be careful while you're at work.

Wednesday is the day most likely for an injury or illness to occur while you're on the job, requiring time off, according to the *2006 Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses*.

This information and other characteristics about workplace injuries and illnesses are found in this survey of employers about workplace accidents, produced by the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) in conjunction with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. It estimates nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses in the private sector for 2006.

"The Kansas Department of Labor has a wealth of data, but more importantly, we have programs in place to make our worksites safer and prevent these numbers from increasing in the future," said KDOL Secretary Jim Garner. "We offer free safety consultations to Kansas employers, and more than 1,000 businesses take us up on our offer every year."

KDOL provides a variety of services for Kansas employers to help them prevent injuries and illnesses in the workplace. Notably, KDOL offers free workplace safety consultations. These confidential consultations include:

- meeting with an employer one-on-one
- a walk-through safety evaluation
- a written report with findings and suggested solutions
- a follow-up visit to ensure any serious hazards were corrected and to give additional suggestions for improvement

Using KDOL's free consultation program, employers can find out about potential hazards at their worksites, improve safety and health management practices, and qualify for exemptions from routine Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) inspections.

Other findings of the survey of 3,500 randomly selected Kansas private employers included:

- An estimated 46,800 nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses occurred among private industry workers in 2006, or just over 128 for each day.
- Approximately 10,110 of the 2006 workplace injuries and illnesses required days away from work, with an average median of seven days off the job.
- Strains and sprains were the number one cause of injuries, representing more than one-third of the injuries involving days away from work. This type of injury led accidents in every industry sector.
- Men accounted for 68 percent of all cases requiring days away from work.

- Workers 35 to 44 years of age accounted for 24.2 percent of injured or ill workers. The 25 to 34 and 45 to 54 year-old groups both accounted for 22.4 percent of injuries and illnesses.
- Injuries resulting in fractures accounted for the longest absences from work, with an average of 22 days.

This data is from a survey of 3,500 of the 80,000 Kansas employers, which differs from the data collected and released by the Division of Workers Compensation. The Division of Workers Compensation releases annually the numbers of all reported workplace injuries and illnesses reported from both public and private employers.

For more information regarding this survey, please visit [www.bls.gov/iif](http://www.bls.gov/iif) or call KDOL Labor Market Information Services at (785) 296-5000. To find out more about the free workplace safety consultation, go to [www.dol.ks.gov](http://www.dol.ks.gov) or call KDOL's Industrial Safety and Health Division at (785) 296-4386.

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