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Labor Department Introduces New Workplace Safety Program

TOPEKA — The Kansas State Safety Award Program (KSafe) is a new workplace safety program offered by the Kansas Department of Labor to recognize businesses that are committed to safe workplaces.

"It is our goal to encourage Kansas employers to develop and maintain safe work environments, reducing the number and severity of employee injuries," said Secretary of Labor Jim Garner. "KSafe is a way for KDOL to recognize those businesses who have demonstrated a commitment to workplace safety."

Kansas businesses reported more than 64,000 illnesses and injuries in the workplace in 2005, including 57 fatalities. From another perspective, every day 177 employees were involved in workplace accidents during the 2005. KSafe will recognize private Kansas employers with exemplary safety records in the past year. The program, open to all Kansas businesses, will offer recognition to work sites that have achieved 100,000 work hours, 500,000 work hours or one million work hours of operation without lost-time injuries.

Employers can obtain more information about the award program, including an application form and criteria for the award, online at www.dol.ks.gov or by calling 785-296-4386.

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