

BUREAU OVERVIEW

The Bureau of PENNSAFE Pennsylvania Safety First, provides services on a variety of occupational safety issues. The PENNSAFE training staff conducts outreach and provides technical assistance and on-site consultation services to private and public sector employers and employees to establish effective workplace safety committees. PENNSAFE is a voluntary program and assistance from the PENNSAFE staff is **FREE** to any Commonwealth employer.

The PENNSAFE Bureau also administers and enforces the Worker and Community Right to Know Law and selected provisions of the state's Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning and Response Act (Act 165) and SARA Title III. The Bureau has also established a working relationship with Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc., and provides training for the Underground Utility Line Protection Law (PA Act 287 of 1974) as amended by Act 187 of 1996.



Labor & Industry Building

OUR MISSION

PENNSAFE is committed to the promotion and development of safety in the workplace. Our goal is to assist in the creation and maintenance of effective safety committees through outreach, training and technical assistance. In this context, PENNSAFE seeks to improve working conditions and reduce accident and illness rates.

If you need assistance and/or information on any of the Bureau's programs, please contact:

Department of Labor & Industry
BUREAU OF PENNSAFE
Room 1623
Labor & Industry Building
7th & Forster Streets
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0019

(717) 783-2071

HOTLINE

**1-888-SAFE-422
(1-888-723-3422)**

Fax (717) 783-5099

Or, visit the L & I website
www.dli.state.pa.us



DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR & INDUSTRY
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

PENNSYLVANIA

**SAFETY
FIRST**



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY
BUREAU OF PENNSAFE

Mark Schweiker, Governor
Johnny J. Butler, Secretary
Department of Labor & Industry

WORKPLACE SAFETY COMMITTEES



The **PENNSAFE** Initiative was introduced at the 1996 Governor's Annual Occupational Safety and Health Conference. It is designed to increase workplace safety and reduce accidents through effective workplace safety committees.

Workplace Safety Committees:

- increase workplace safety awareness
- reduce accidents
- bring workers and management together
- assist employers with safety recommendations
- detect and correct workplace hazards
- reduce accident, illness and injury related costs
- save 5% on workers' compensation premiums when state certified (over 4,600 Pennsylvania employers have saved over \$95 million in insurance premiums)
- may be eligible for the Governor's Award for Safety Excellence

Technical assistance and on-site training are available through the Bureau of PENNSAFE. The "Technical Assistance Manual," a guide for developing a workplace safety committee, may be obtained by contacting our office or through the Internet at www.dli.state.pa.us.

UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINE PROTECTION

The Bureau of PENNSAFE and Pennsylvania One Call System (POCS) conduct statewide outreach programs to educate facility owners and excavators about:

- Act 187 - Underground Utility Line Protection
- Pennsylvania's "One Call System"
- safety and utility issues

POCS operates and maintains the "One Call System." This system provides a toll-free number for parties covered by Act 187 to provide notification of a contractor's intent to perform excavation, demolition or similar work.

For more information, call POCS at 1-800-242-1776.

WORKER & COMMUNITY RIGHT TO KNOW

The Worker and Community Right to Know Law helps to protect the health and safety of everyone by increasing public awareness about:

- exposure to chemicals
- the hazards associated with chemical exposure
- safe and proper handling procedures

Availability of this information enables emergency response organizations to better respond to leaks, spills, fires, and other emergency situations. Under the law, all employers doing business in the Commonwealth have some compliance responsibilities.

The Bureau of PENNSAFE:

- responds to requests for information about hazardous substances
- acts as a data collector between employers and the community
- obtains hazardous chemical information contained in a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), Hazardous Substance Survey Form (HSSF) and/or Environmental Hazard Survey Form (EHSF) upon written request of any person living or working in the Commonwealth.



PA ACT 165/SARA TITLE III

Pennsylvania's Act 165, the Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning and Response Act, and the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (SARA Title III) expanded the scope of hazard communication among facilities, emergency response organizations, government agencies and the general public. These laws have two main purposes:

- to encourage and support emergency planning for responding to chemical accidents
- to provide local governments and the public with information about possible chemical hazards in their communities

These laws contain four major provisions:

- emergency response planning
- emergency notification of chemical accidents and releases
- reporting of hazardous chemical inventories (Tier II)
- reporting of toxic release inventory (TRI)

The Bureau of PENNSAFE is the report repository for Pennsylvania. The Bureau receives and processes Tier II and TRI reports and, under Act 165, collects the fees and deposits them into Pennsylvania's Hazardous Material Response Fund. Fees from facilities are used locally, along with state matching grant funds, for emergency plans preparation and to help develop and improve local response capabilities.

