

WorkSafe Colorado

THE STRATEGIC PLAN: JULY 2010-JUNE 2012

WorkSafe Colorado is committed to making our state's workplaces the safest and healthiest in the nation.

Unsafe workplaces cost Colorado taxpayers and businesses millions of dollars each year. It shortens careers and steals lives. The costs are too high not to do everything we can to prevent each death, each injury, and each illness. An open, proactive and collaborative state-wide effort to prevent occupational injury and illness will ensure Colorado attracts and retains viable businesses and a dependable workforce.

Occupational health experts, workplace safety organizations, employers, insurers, local health departments, educators, state agencies, and other stakeholders have joined with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to create WorkSafe Colorado, signaling a commitment to safe and healthy workplaces for Colorado's 2.4 million workers.

The WorkSafe Colorado network will provide the leadership and action necessary to give workplace safety and health a higher statewide profile and make it a public health priority.

The CDPHE Occupational Health Surveillance Program is tracking on-the-job deaths, injuries and illnesses for Colorado. In collaboration with network

partners, this information will be used to highlight the economic and human burden of preventable workplace diseases and deaths and to help devise and implement solutions.

This strategic plan – the result of much thought and work by Coloradans with a shared passion for the safest and healthiest workplaces possible – outlines the vision of a strong, sustainable and active partnership that makes a lasting difference for our workers, our employers, our economy and our future.

Our Mission:

Promote safe and healthy workplaces for all of Colorado

Our Vision:

Prevent occupational injuries and illnesses in Colorado

Our Goals:

- 1) Develop an active, sustainable occupational safety and health network in Colorado.
- 2) Foster occupational health and safety through collaboration, education, policy development and outreach.
- 3) Ensure that network activities are driven by quality data.

Implementing WorkSafe Colorado Through 2011

This first-year plan identifies the activities needed to ensure that the mission and vision of the strategic plan are realized. WorkSafe Colorado's performance and progress will be tracked by the CDPHE's Occupational Health Surveillance Program Manager. Performance reports will be provided to WorkSafe Colorado members to summarize progress made on each of the goals, implementation strategies, and activities. This implementation phase will establish the infrastructure needed for a sustained effort to promote and maintain WorkSafe Colorado.

Strategic Goal 1: Develop an active, sustainable occupational safety and health network in Colorado.

- Implementation Strategy 1: Create a Formal Infrastructure for the WorkSafe Colorado network
 - Research methods to formalize WorkSafe Colorado, including infrastructure, by-laws, and membership.
 - Identify and meet with twelve or more leaders from key organizations who have not participated in WorkSafe Colorado and who can provide leadership to help enhance occupational health and safety in Colorado.
 - Implement a formal plan to evaluate progress toward meeting the mission, vision, goals, and strategies of WorkSafe Colorado
 - Hire a person to coordinate WorkSafe Colorado and guide its establishment as a stand-alone network
- Implementation Strategy 2: Create a Network of Allies
 - Develop a list of 200 stakeholders who are participating in or may be interested in participating in WorkSafe Colorado.
 - Contact and recruit community stakeholders who are not already involved in Work Safe Colorado.
 - Organize one Colorado-based awareness event/conference/meeting with all stakeholders, including planning for marketing, advertising and funding.

Strategic Goal 2: Foster occupational health and safety through collaboration, education, policy development and outreach.

- Implementation Strategy 1: Develop and Market Our Messages
 - Draft one white paper that describes how WorkSafe Colorado can contribute to workplace health and safety, incorporating best practices from other states.
 - Publish the white paper on CDPHE's web site and distribute it throughout Colorado.
 - Facilitate a half-day workshop for political leadership and media to provide information about the importance of occupational health and safety.
 - Brand the network as WorkSafe Colorado and develop consistent messages.

- **Implementation Strategy 2: Implement Legal, Regulatory and Funding Agenda**
 - Ensure that one occupational health indicator is placed on the Public Health Improvement Plan Indicator List.
 - Research, identify and recommend rationales for statutory and regulatory changes related to at least two occupational health and safety regulations and statutes in Colorado.
 - Identify three additional funding sources or mechanisms of capacity building which will support on-going collaboration among partners and further development of the WorkSafe Colorado network.
- **Implementation Strategy 3: Identify and Recruit Occupational Safety and Health Champions**
 - Identify and recruit two people in leadership positions who will serve as champions to promote and enhance the importance of occupational health and safety in Colorado.

Strategic Goal 3: Ensure that network activities are driven by quality data

- **Implementation Strategy 1: Develop Integrated Data Network**
 - Compile a list of all known occupational safety and health datasets in Colorado that can be incorporated into the network's integrated data network.
 - Describe all identified datasets and their use as part of the network's integrated data network.
 - Perform one needs assessment and GAP analysis by comparing available occupational safety and health data needs with existing and available datasets.
- **Implementation Strategy #2: Develop, Support and Share Technical Resources**
 - Assess the need for a Colorado-based Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety Listserv including focus area, audience, and logistics.
 - Compile existing resources including services, speakers, training and education programs, which are available in Colorado and regionally, for network partners and stakeholders.
 - Publish the list of existing resources on CDPHE's website.
 - Develop and administer the Listserv.

Partners in WorkSafe Colorado:

Representatives from these organizations have partnered with the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment in the WorkSafe Colorado network.

- American Industrial Hygiene Association Rocky Mountain Section (AIHA RMS)
- American Society of Safety Engineers Colorado Chapter (ASSE)
- Boulder County Public Health
- Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE): Workers' Compensation Division
- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Colorado School of Public Health
- Colorado State University (CSU) – Department of Environment and Radiological Health Science
- Colorado State University, OSHA Consultation Service
- Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (DOL BLS)
- Department of Labor: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
- Denver Environmental Health/Denver Health
- Denver Health Center for Occupational Safety and Health
- Garfield County Public Health Department
- High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (HICAHS)
- Mine Safety and Health Administration, Rocky Mountain District
- Mountain and Plains Education and Research Center (MAP ERC)
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
- National Jewish Health - Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Region VIII
- Pinnacol Assurance
- Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center (RMPDC)
- Tri-County Environmental and Occupational Health
- Salud Family Health Center
- State of Colorado Risk Management
- US Department of Health and Human Services, Federal Occupational Health

Conclusion

On-the-job illnesses and deaths create a significant burden on business as well as on workers and their families. It negatively affects the economic health and well-being of our state by increasing business costs for worker training and insurance and by diminishing the strength of the Colorado workforce.

The goal of WorkSafe Colorado is to place workplace safety and health on equal footing with chronic diseases and infectious diseases as important public health issues, emphasizing the role that safe workplaces play in the overall health of a community.

WorkSafe Colorado will take a strong and active lead in understanding and combating preventable on-the-job illnesses, injuries and deaths in Colorado.