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# Public Sector Safety Report, Spring 2003

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Public Sector Enforcement

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**MAINE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**LABOR**  
*Public Sector Enforcement*

# Public Sector

## S A F E T Y R E P O R T

### **Public Sector Enforcement activity January through March 2003**

- \$35,565- total adjusted penalties
- Most Cited Violations
  - 29CFR1910.1030(c)(1)(i) The employer did not have a written Exposure Control Plan to eliminate or minimize employee exposure to bloodborne pathogens.
  - 29CFR1910.134(c) The employer had not implemented (and updated as needed) a written respiratory protection program with worksite-specific procedures.
  - 29CFR1910.134(e)(1) The employer had not provided a medical evaluation to determine the employee's ability to use a respirator, prior to fit-testing or respirator use.
  - 29CFR1910.147(c) The employer did not have a lockout/tagout program.
  - 29CFR1910.157(e)(2) Portable fire extinguishers were not visually inspected at least monthly.

### **Fire Department Inspections**

Many fire departments are in compliance with safety standards, but many are not. Following are violations commonly cited in fire departments.

#### **Respirators**

The Maine respiratory protection standard requires yearly fit-testing and periodic medical evaluations (according to age). Departments must have records of fit-testing and medical evaluation for each firefighter starting August 1, 2000, when the standard became effective. (Me 1910.134)

#### **Training Records**

It is the responsibility of the fire chief or his/her designee to assure that each firefighter has completed required training and that a training record is kept for each firefighter. Before performing interior structural firefighting each firefighter must have training that meets the state firefighter standard and must have completed a controlled burn. (M.R.S.A. Title 26, Chapter 28)

#### **Other common violations**

- Failure to document SCBA inspections
- Flow test not done to manufacturers' requirements
- Yearly hazardous materials awareness training not done
- Yearly bloodborne pathogens training not done

Many fire departments are doing an excellent job preparing and equipping firefighters for the dangerous work they do. Training and inspection of equipment will help keep firefighters safe. SafetyWorks! offers free, non-enforcement consultations, training, and information. Call 624-6400 or go to [www.Maine.gov/labor/blsmain.htm](http://www.Maine.gov/labor/blsmain.htm).

**Regulations and compliance assistance for Maine public sector workplaces can be found on the internet at <http://www.Maine.gov/labor/bls/newpsw.htm>**

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# Public Sector

## S A F E T Y R E P O R T

**Spring 2003**

# Public Sector

## S A F E T Y R E P O R T

*The Public Sector Safety Report* is issued quarterly to inform public sector employers and employees of safety and health enforcement issues. Published by the Maine Department of Labor, the compliance and enforcement agency for occupational safety and health regulations for public sector workplaces in Maine.

***Please post this Report to share the information with employees.***

To be added to the mailing list, or to make address corrections, send information to *Public Sector Safety Report*, MDOL, 45 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0045, fax to (207) 624-6449 or e-mail at [webmaster.bls@Maine.gov](mailto:webmaster.bls@Maine.gov) TTY 1-800-794-1110.