

Winter 12-1-2000

# Public Sector Safety Report, Winter 2000

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Public Sector Enforcement

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<sup>c.1</sup>  
**Public Sector**  
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***Frequent Public Sector Citations***

The following are the most frequently violated standards for the period October 1 through December 31, 1999:

- Inspection, maintenance and testing of portable fire extinguishers. — 29 CFR 1910.157 (e)(2)
- Equipment connected by cord and plug must be grounded. — 29 CFR 1910.304 (f)(5)(v)
- The path to ground from circuits, equipment, and enclosures must be permanent and continuous. — 29 CFR 1910.304 (f)(4)
- Flexible cords and cables may not be used:
  - As a substitute for fixed wiring;
  - Where they run through holes in walls, ceilings, or floors;
  - Where they run through doorways, windows, or similar openings;
  - Where they are attached to building surfaces; or
  - Where they are concealed behind building walls, ceilings, or floors. — 29 CFR 1910.305 (g)(1)(iii)(The standard notes some exceptions.)
- Safety guards are required on machines that have abrasive wheels. — 29 CFR 1910.215 (a)(1).

*The numbers (29 CFR...) refer to specific federal OSHA standards. OSHA standards can be found on the internet at <http://www.osha.gov>.*

***Training for Firefighters***

To comply with Maine law, each fire department must develop a training program that meets its needs. The fire chief or his/her designee must train firefighters to do their assigned duties in a manner that is safe to themselves and others. In accordance with Maine law and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, firefighters must receive training on:

- The use of protective equipment, including inspection, maintenance and limitations of the equipment; and
- How to prevent accidents, death, injuries and illnesses.

Firefighters who are required to handle hazardous substances must also receive training on the potential hazards of, and the required personal hygiene and protective measures for such work. Additional training is required for firefighters expected to perform interior structural firefighting.

Fire departments must keep complete records of the training each firefighter receives. The chief must certify that each firefighter has been trained on the duties he/she is expected to perform.

For more information about firefighter training, call the Bureau of Labor Standards at 1-877-SAFE-345.

***Warning about Military Equipment Painted with Hazardous Coating***

Some surplus military equipment has been painted with Chemical Agent Resistant Coating (CARC), which presents serious health hazards to those employees who work on this equipment. Personnel who cut, weld, or grind on CARC painted equipment must wear respirators with High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters. To determine if equipment is coated with CARC, check for the letters "CARC" stenciled near a data plate or look on shipping or transfer documents. If no information is available, wet a cloth with acetone and rub hard on the painted surface for about 10 seconds. Then wet another cloth with acetone and rub again. If no paint comes off the second time CARC is present.

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

MAR 17 2000

Return Service Requested

# Public Sector

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

**Winter 2000**

# 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 on safety and health enforcement issues. Published by the Maine Department of Labor, the 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@state.me.us](mailto:webmaster_bls@state.me.us). TTY 1-800-794-1110.