

Frequently Asked Questions

Public Sector Safety

1. What agency is responsible for ensuring that Public Employees have the same rights and protections relating to occupational safety and health equivalent to those granted to employees in the private sector under the occupational safety and health act?

[Wis Statute 101.055](#) requires that Public Employees receive the same protections that are afforded Private Sector Employees. [SPS 332](#) establishes minimum occupational safety and health standards for public employees and delegates the Department of Safety and Professional Services as the enforcing agency.

2. What Occupational Safety and Health codes apply to Public Employees?

[SPS 332.15](#) and [SPS 332.16](#) list codes that are applicable to Public Sector Employers and Employees.

3. How can I get a copy of the Standards and Codes that apply to Public Sector Safety and Health?

[SPS 332](#) can be printed at the provided link and the OSHA Standards (2003 version can be purchased on OSHA's Web site. [OSHA Home Page](#). The 2003 standards can be purchased at the OSHA book store.

4. Who do I contact if I have Public Sector Safety and Health questions?

See the link for inspector map. [Inspector Map](#)

5. How do I file a complaint concerning a Public Employee Safety and Health issue?

See link for Department of Safety and Professional Services. [Complaint Form](#)

6. Do I need to report a Public Sector Employee fatality or work-related incident resulting in hospitalization of 3 or more employees?

[SPS 332.50](#) adopts CFR 1904.39(a) which requires employers to report fatalities and in-patient hospitalization of three or more employees as a result of a work-related incident within 8 hours. To report incidents call 608-266-1816 or 608-261-2503 during normal business hours or 1-800-943-0003 after business hours.

7. Where can I find example Safety and Health written programs.

There is a list of documents on the Public Sector Safety web that can be used. See the provided link [Documents and Brochures](#). You can also find example programs on the OSHA web site [OSHA Web Site](#). Each standard that requires a written program will have examples. These are designed for Private Sector companies but can be tailored to fit Public Sector needs.

8. Can an employer or employee request an inspection or consultation visit?

Yes. Under [SPS 332.05](#) an Employer, Employee or Employee representative may ask for an inspection by calling 608-261-2503. Consultation visits maybe requested (Orders maybe issued if required).

9. Does the Department of Safety and Professional Service issue fines for Safety and Health violations resulting from an inspection?

After the inspection process orders are issued to the employer. The employer is typically given 60 days to correct violations. After 60 days an extension may be granted by the inspector who conducted the inspection. If the employer refuses to comply penalties maybe assessed according to [SPS 332.09](#)

10. Do occupational safety and health staff provide awareness training or other presentations?

Yes. A request may be made by contacting your local inspector or contacting Madison at 608-266-1816 or 608-261-2503.