



## Enforcement Numbers Prove “New OSHA in Town” Mantra

Over the last two years, leaders at the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) have claimed that “There’s a new OSHA in town” and that the agency planned on returning to its enforcement roots. Recent inspection and citation numbers seem to prove that point.

Consider the following statistics:

- In 2009, federal and state OSHA programs handed out more than 68,000 citations, a 167% increase from the previous year. In 2010, OSHA handed out almost 114,000 violations in just the first six months of the year.
- In 2008, OSHA handed out 203 willful violations. That number rose to 1,166 in 2009 and is on track to reach nearly the same number in 2010.
- OSHA conducted 6,000 more inspections in 2009 than it did in 2008. OSHA is on track to conduct 1,600 more inspections in 2010 than in 2009.

A combination of an increased budget and high-profile workplace safety catastrophes has created an environment for a more aggressive OSHA. OSHA’s budget increased 7.68% from 2009 to 2010, and the Obama administration has asked for another 2.5% increase for 2011. Furthermore, The Upper Big Branch mine explosion that killed 29 miners and the BP Deepwater Horizon rig explosion that killed 11 workers have fueled support for tougher safety enforcement.

Is your business protected? Do you have an updated company safety policy that protects your employees from injury and addresses all relevant safety regulations? Do you know how to properly handle an OSHA inspection?

If the answer to any of these questions is “no”, then RiskControl360° can help. A member of the CareWorks Family of Companies, RiskControl360° helps employers prevent injuries, remain compliant with OSHA regulations and reduce workers’ compensation expenses. RiskControl360° safety consultants accomplish this by providing a number of safety program management services, audits, policy development and training.

For more information about OSHA safety regulations or RiskControl360° services, please call Shawn Combs, Group Safety Account Executive, at (614) 827-0364.