



State of Nevada Department of Business & Industry

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Division of Industrial Relations Alert: Individuals Unlawfully Impersonating Nevada OSHA Officials

The Division of Industrial Relations has received several reports indicating that individuals - posing as Nevada OSHA officials - are making contact with businesses in northern Nevada. The division is providing the following information for the education and safety of employers and their staff.

How can a business be sure that the person presenting themselves is an official OSHA inspector and not an impersonator?

OSHA inspectors are required to present their credentials whenever they make contact with management representatives, employees (to conduct interviews) or organized labor representatives while conducting an official inspection. At the beginning of the inspection the OSHA inspector will locate the owner representative, operator, or agent in charge at the workplace and present credentials.

Can an OSHA inspector issue a citation on the spot?

No, OSHA inspectors must follow specific protocols to conduct an inspection and do not issue citations or assess penalties on the spot.

What should a business do if it suspects a person is impersonating an OSHA official?

If you suspect a person is impersonating an OSHA inspector, ask the person to present their credentials and get their name. Write down any other information that may be helpful to identify the individual. Report the incident to Nevada OSHA at (702) 486-9020 or (775) 688-3700. If the person is posing an imminent threat or disruption, please contact local law enforcement.

What are the consequences of impersonating an OSHA inspector?

It is a misdemeanor to impersonate an OSHA inspector.

NRS 199.430 Impersonation of officer. Every person who shall falsely personate a public officer, civil or military, or a police officer, or a private individual having special authority by law to perform an act affecting the rights or interests of another, or who, without authority shall assume any uniform or badge by which such an officer or person is lawfully distinguished, and in such assumed character shall do any act purporting to be official, whereby another is injured or defrauded, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

About the Division of Industrial Relations:

The Nevada Division of Industrial Relations (DIR) is the principal regulatory agency responsible for workplace safety and worker protections in the state of Nevada. Comprised of five sections –Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Workers’ Compensation Section, Mechanical Compliance Section, Mine Safety and Training Section, and the Safety Consultation and Training Section – DIR works to protect Nevada’s working men and women and provides a broad scope of training and support to the regulated community. For more information please visit <http://dir.nv.gov>.

About Nevada OSHA:

Nevada OSHA operates as an approved state program as defined by section 18 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and is required by the Act to operate in a manner that is at least as effective as the federal OSHA enforcement program. Operating out of district offices in Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada OSHA conducts inspections and investigations intended to identify hazardous conditions which could harm Nevada’s workers and enforces state and federal laws protecting the state’s workers. The Nevada State Plan, at the time of publication of this media release, is funded by a grant of \$1,602,700 federal funds, which is matched by \$1,602,700 in state funding. An additional \$6,182,619 in state funds are used to support Nevada OSHA. The total program budget is \$9,388,019. For more information visit <http://dir.nv.gov/OSHA/home>.

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