

# Northern New England

## MONDAY MORNING MINUTE

February 3, 2014

### New OSHA Web Page on Hospital Worker Safety

Recently, the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) developed a web page devoted to hospital worker safety <https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hospitals/>. The purpose of the web page is to provide resources to "help hospitals prevent worker injuries, assess workplace safety moves, enhance patient handling programs, and implement safety and health management systems." The Bureau of Labor statistics state that U.S. hospitals recorded 250,000 work-related injuries and illnesses in 2012. OSHA notes that hospitals are one of the most hazardous places to work, even experiencing more workplace injuries than in the construction or manufacturing industries.

As the web page points out, on average U.S. hospitals recorded 6.8 work-related injuries and illnesses for every 100 full-time employees in 2011, compared to 3.5 work-related injuries per 100 full-time employees for all U.S. industries combined. In 2011, 32.7% of recorded hospital worker injuries nationwide that resulted in days away from work were associated with patient interactions. Nearly 50% of injuries and illnesses reported in 2011 among nurses and nursing support staff were musculoskeletal disorders.

The web page provides a valuable resource in the areas of understanding the problem, providing solutions for safety and health management systems, and providing solutions for safe patient handling. The web page provides comprehensive resources to help hospitals assess workplace safety needs and prevent worker injuries. There is also a safety health assessment, which may provide a useful resource to hospitals.

The online resources will help hospitals develop and implement safe patient handling assessments, policies, and procedures.

***Your Jackson Lewis Attorney can answer questions regarding this and other employment law issues.***

For specific information or answers to questions, please contact any of the attorneys in the Portsmouth, NH office:

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**Jackson Lewis is pleased to share a radio interview with Debra Weiss Ford, Office Managing Shareholder of the Portsmouth Office, and Dave Ciullo, host of “HR Power Hour Radio with Dave Ciullo.”**



In this weekly hour segment that provides valuable insight into successful Human Resource Management, Dave Ciullo interviews key professionals on a variety of timely topics affecting decision-makers; Debra Weiss Ford discusses the “Jerk at Work.” The interview aired on January 11, 2014 on *News Talk WLOB 1310 AM* in Portland, Maine from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. The audio is available on the website, [hrpowerhour.com](http://hrpowerhour.com).