

Executive Order

GWB 95-8

Relating to Workplace Safety and Health of State Employees, Citizens Served, and Preservation of State Property

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State of Texas to provide a safe and healthy workplace for all state employees, citizens served, and to preserve state property; and

WHEREAS, workplace deaths, injuries and illnesses and destruction of property produce human suffering, economic and social losses and impair the operating efficiency of state government; and

WHEREAS, workplace deaths, injuries, illnesses, and loss of state property can be reduced or eliminated by systematic planning; training, safe work practices and the effective use of prevention and control measures; and

WHEREAS, occupational death, accident, illness, and property loss prevention requires management and employee commitment, accountability, cooperation, and leadership at all levels of state government; and

WHEREAS, laws, regulations and sound business practices pertaining to safety and health in the workplace and preservation of property apply to the operation of state government; and

WHEREAS, state government should lead by example by complying with all applicable federal, and state laws, standards, rules, regulations and guidelines;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, Governor of the State of Texas, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of this state, do hereby:

Proclaim that all state agencies, institutions and universities of higher education must develop and implement comprehensive written risk management/safety programs whose purpose is to attain the following objectives:

1. Minimize the risk of accidental job related deaths, occupational injuries and illnesses, and state property losses by the use of recognized loss prevention and control techniques.
2. Establish written performance/accountability standards and objectives to reduce deaths of both employees and citizens served, injuries and illnesses, and to conserve property resources of the state.
3. Provide adequate safety and health and property preservation training and education for managers, supervisors and employees.
4. Establish risk management/safety and health committees consisting of representatives from all levels and functional areas of the organization.
5. Promote work practices that ensure preservation of state property and safety of employees and citizens.
6. Establish a procedure for conducting periodic risk management/safety and health inspections so that potential hazards are detected and corrected or controlled in a timely manner.
7. Comply with all state and applicable federal laws, standards, rules, regulations and guidelines regarding employee and citizen safety and health and property preservation.
8. Designate an individual to serve as the organization's risk manager/safety officer to assist in directing its loss prevention program.
9. Promote effective investigation and management of workers' compensation claims and the prompt return to work of injured employees.

FURTHER, all state agencies' written risk management/safety and health programs must be reviewed and approved by the State Risk Management Division.

The State Management Risk Division will report biennially to the Legislature for agencies within their jurisdiction on progress in achieving improved workplace safety and health and property preservation in state government.

All state employees must be informed of the Executive Order, of its intent and requirements for fostering a safe and health workplace and preservation of state property throughout state government.

Issued in Austin, Texas, on July 7, 1995.

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George W. Bush
Governor of Texas

