



NCDOL
NC DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
LUKE FARLEY, COMMISSIONER

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WANDA LAGOE
BUREAU CHIEF
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BUREAU

January 9, 2026

Dear Safety Awards Program Participant,

Happy New Year! As our state's Labor Commissioner, it is a great honor to kick off the 2026 safety awards season. The program has been in operation since 1946 and has become a valued tradition in workplaces throughout our state. The banquets serve as the N.C. Department of Labor's (NCDOL) opportunity to recognize you for the success of your safety and health program, and I am excited to begin my administration with a renewed emphasis on these awards. I hope to see you at a banquet this year!

Last year, NCDOL presented a total of 2,228 safety awards. Of those awards, 1,900 were gold and 328 were silver. In addition to safety awards, we also presented 53 million-hour awards.

The gold award criteria are based on achieving a rate of days away from work, job transfer or restriction (DART) that is at least 50% below the industry rate. The silver award criteria include lost workday cases but not restricted work activity, and the applicant must attain a rate for cases with days away from work (CDAW) that is at least 50% below the industry rate. The rate chart that is included in this package contains numbers supplied from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. They are calculated to 50% of the incidence rate for each NAICS code. A firm must not have had a fatality at the site or location applying for an award during 2025 to qualify for either award.

Please take a few minutes to complete the **ONLINE** application by entering the requested data for calendar year 2025. Applications are due **by February 15, 2026**. Even if you do not qualify for an award, submit the application to remain in the system. The safety award applications also can be accessed and completed on the NCDOL website at www.labor.nc.gov.

In addition to the gold and silver safety awards, we would like to remind you about the Million-Hour Safety Awards that are given to firms that accumulate one million employee hours with no case of injury or illness involving days away from work. Million-hour awards are presented during the local annual safety awards ceremony.

If you have any questions or need assistance completing the application, please call our safety awards coordinator, Jackson Lohrer, at 984-328-0074 or email safety.awards@labor.nc.gov.

We appreciate your participation in the program, and I hope to see you at one of our award banquets later this year.

Sincerely,

Luke Farley
Commissioner of Labor

Enclosure