



JOSH DOBSON
COMMISSIONER OF LABOR

February 1, 2021

Dear Safety Awards Program Participant,

As our state's newly elected labor commissioner, it is a great honor to kick off the 2021 safety awards season. The program has been in operation since 1946 and has become a valued tradition in workplaces throughout our state. While COVID-19 forced the department to shift gears and host virtual events, the program has traditionally allowed NCDOL the opportunity to recognize employers and employees for their achievements in workplace safety and health at banquets in their communities. I am committed to building upon Commissioner Cherie Berry's historic support for the program for many years to come and look forward to returning to normal once we get to the other side of the pandemic.

Last year, NCDOL presented a total of 2,737 safety awards. Of those awards, 2,251 were gold and 486 were silver. In addition to safety awards, we also presented 96 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 from 2019. 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 2020 to qualify for either award.

Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed application by entering the requested data for calendar year 2020. Applications are due by **March 19, 2021**. Even if you do not qualify for an award, submit the application to remain on the mailing list. 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 1 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 your company qualifies for an award, you and your employees will be invited to attend a safety awards banquet for your area, and your local media will be notified of qualifying businesses. If you have any questions or need assistance completing the application, please call our safety awards coordinator at 919-707-7855 or email safety.awards@labor.nc.gov.

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

Sincerely,

Josh Dobson
Commissioner of Labor

Enclosure