



NEVADA WORKERS' COMPENSATION CHRONICLE

Department of Business & Industry
A Publication of the Workers' Compensation Section

Division of Industrial Relations Summer Edition
(June 2024 — August 2024)

This newsletter is not intended to provide legal advice to the reader. Legal opinions or interpretations of statutes and regulations referenced should be sought from legal professionals.

12th Annual Nevada Workers' Compensation Educational Conference

Save the dates for the upcoming Twelfth Annual Nevada Workers' Compensation Educational Conference! Registration is now open! This highly anticipated event will take place at the Tuscany Suites Hotel on Thursday, September 12th, and Friday, September 13th, 2024.

Organized by the State of Nevada Workers' Compensation Section in partnership with the International Workers' Compensation Foundation (IWCF), this conference has been tailored to cover a diverse range of topics based on the valuable feedback received from attendees.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to expand your knowledge and network with industry professionals.

Scheduled Topics Include:

- ♦ CARDS: Enhancing Nevada's Workers' Compensation Claims
- ♦ Physical Exam for the Worker's Comp Patient and Interventional Pain Procedures
- ♦ State of Nevada Suicide Prevention Efforts
- ♦ Unlicensed Contracting, Underground Economy Task Force
- ♦ The Impact of Catastrophic Injuries (CAT) on WC Claims
- ♦ Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit (WCFU) Nevada Attorney General's Office

And more!

Check our website for conference updates! <https://dir.nv.gov/WCS/home/>

Click [here](#) to register!



Insurers' Provider Lists

Insurers are to submit their provider lists to DIR/WCS via email to medpanels@dir.nv.gov by **October 1st of each year** per [NRS 616C.087\(6\)](#).

CARDS functionality that allows the insurers to enter their treating provider lists directly is not currently available. This functionality is estimated to go live in June 2025. WCS will communicate with insurers and TPAs when these functions are available, providing the due date to enter treating provider lists, and providing scheduled training. Thank you for your patience.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Regulations Update	2
NVOSHA: Heat-Related Hazards	4
Reporting Reminders	5
CARDS Corner	6
Claims by the Numbers	7



Save the Dates!

THE 12TH ANNUAL NEVADA WORKERS' COMPENSATION EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Tuscany Suites & Casino

255 E. Flamingo Rd Las Vegas, NV 89169

September 12-13, 2024

WCS in the Community!

Representatives from the WCS Medical Unit were pleased to attend the April 4th **Department of Business and Industry Career Fair** in Las Vegas. It provided candidates with a venue to explore employment opportunities available with the State of Nevada, Division of Industrial Relations. Dozens of candidates stopped by our table to discuss the open positions within the Workers' Compensation Section. The candidates shared positive feedback and appreciation for the information gained by attending the B&I Career Fair.



Melinda Vulgamore, Southern Medical Unit Supervisor

The Workers' Compensation Section (WCS) recently took part in the **Nevada Self-Insurers Association (NSIA) Vendor Appreciation and Marketing Fair** at the Palace Station on April 12, 2024. WCS engaged with attendees new to Nevada workers' compensation and those already knowledgeable on the subject, with over 100 visitors stopping by the booth for information and inquiries.

The WCS booth featured resources such as WCS brochures, Nevada Statutory & Regulatory Timeframes, FAQs for Medical Providers, Vocational Rehabilitation, FAQs on SB274, Email Enrollment Request Forms, and details about the upcoming 12th Annual Workers' Compensation Educational Conference. For those who missed the event, the same information is available on the WCS website <http://dir.nv.gov/WCS/Home/>.

The event had a variety of exhibitors from medical professionals, industry representatives, and government officials. WCS was pleased to participate and saw it as a valuable opportunity to engage with the community and connect directly with stakeholders.

The WCS Employer Compliance Unit (ECU) had the pleasure of speaking with various business owners in Southern and Northern Nevada at the 2024 **Nevada Small Business Resource Fairs**. Compliance/Audit Investigator Brittany Greeman attended the Reno event on Tuesday, April 30, and Compliance/Audit Investigators Stephanie Sandefur and Chelsea Miller attended events on Wednesday, May 1, in Fernley and Las Vegas, respectively. Attendance at these events is part of the unit's commitment to community outreach and education. Collectively, the investigators were able to provide helpful workers' compensation information to more than 100 active and potential business owners.


Regulations Update

WCS held a public workshop on May 23, 2024, on proposed regulations [R076-23](#) relating to [SB 274](#). A public hearing regarding the proposed regulations will be scheduled in the near future.

Dates and times for workshops and hearings are posted on the [Division of Industrial Relations \(DIR\) Meetings](#) webpage. Watch for emails notifying interested parties of these meetings.

Click [here](#) to sign up to receive notifications.


State of Nevada
Will Observe The Following Holidays:



**JUNETEENTH
WEDNESDAY JUNE 19**

&

**INDEPENDENCE DAY
FRIDAY JULY 4**



Rating and Treating Panel Providers - Keeping Profile Information Up to Date

Providers must submit requests for profile updates in writing, email change requests to: medpanels@dir.nv.gov. This includes changes to practice locations, phone numbers, and/or email addresses. Change requests must be submitted by the provider, this ensures a third party is not requesting changes without the provider's knowledge.

The DIR WCS Medical Unit appreciates your service to our injured workers.

WCS Employees Honored!



Dwayne Harris, a Compliance Audit/Investigator II at the Division of Industrial Relations (DIR), Workers Compensation Section (WCS), has been chosen as the State of Nevada Employee Veteran of the Month for April 2024.

This award program was initiated in January 2021 and recognizes the outstanding contributions and service of employee veterans.

Throughout his 23-year career with the USAF, he deployed four times in support of different operations. Dwayne holds multiple degrees, licenses, and certificates,

and he has been recognized for his dedication, innovation, and hard work in upholding the highest standards of health and safety services for Nevada’s employees and the public through his role at the Division of Industrial Relations, Workers’ Compensation Section. Dwayne has been a highly valued and respected employee with the State of Nevada since onboarding in 2023.

According to Jodi McCollins, WCS Chief Administrative Officer, Dwayne recognizes the strengths of his team members and inspires others by assisting whenever needed and working as a team. In addition, he enjoys coordinating team building and morale building activities.

Guadalupe Manzo, Management Analyst II in the Division of Industrial Relations, Workers’ Compensation Section, Research and Analysis Unit (R&A) has been awarded Governor Joe Lombardo’s “Get S#!T Done” award for the Department of Business and Industry. Lupe has been an exceptional employee at DIR/WCS for almost 8 years. Starting as an Administrative Assistant II, she has consistently taken on more responsibilities and has been promoted multiple times to her current position.

As a member of the R&A team, Lupe has a deep understanding of the mission of DIR and WCS, as well as how each unit functions and interacts. This knowledge has made her problem-solving skills top-notch, and her ability to anticipate issues before they arise invaluable.

Lupe’s is truly an asset to WCS. Congratulations Lupe!



NVOSHA’s Response to Outdoor and Indoor Heat-Related Hazards

On June 15, 2022, Nevada OSHA adopted Federal OSHA’s National Emphasis Program (NEP) associated with Outdoor and Indoor Heat-Related Hazards. As part of the NEP, Nevada OSHA will proactively initiate inspections in over 70 high-risk industries prescribed by Federal OSHA and additional industries identified by Nevada OSHA. These inspections will cover indoor and outdoor settings when the National Weather Service has issued a heat warning or advisory for a local area, which are considered as “heat priority” days. Although Federal OSHA’s NEP defines a heat priority day as a day when the heat index is expected to be 80-degrees Fahrenheit or greater, Nevada OSHA has modified its enforcement approach to the NEP and considers a heat priority day as any day where the temperature reaches or exceeds 90-degrees Fahrenheit. Nevada OSHA believes that this will meet the intent of the NEP which is reflective of the local factors and takes into consideration the unique climate of Nevada. On heat priority days, Nevada OSHA will initiate compliance assistance in the targeted high-risk industries; inspect any alleged heat-related fatality/catastrophe, complaint or referral regardless of whether the worksite falls within a targeted industry of this NEP; as well as engage in proactive outreach and technical/compliance assistance to help keep workers safe on the job.

Here are links to some references regarding the emphasis program:

- [National Emphasis Program – Outdoor and Indoor Heat-Related Hazards](#)
- [Guidance for Nevadan Business related to the Heat Illness National Emphasis Program](#)
- [OSHA Hazard Alert Letter and Heat Illness National Emphasis Program](#)



Nevada OSHA Honors Nevada's Fallen Workers on Workers' Memorial Day

Workers' Memorial Day is held annually on April 28, the date Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, ensuring that all workers have the right to a workplace free of preventable health and safety hazards.

On Workers' Memorial Day 2024, the Nevada Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the Division of Industrial Relations, commemorated the workers who lost their lives due to work-related injury and illness in Nevada.

According to most recent Bureau of Labor Statistics data available, there were 5,486 fatal work injuries recorded in 2022 in the United States, up from 5,190 in 2021, an increase of 5.7%. A worker died every 96 minutes from a work-related injury in 2022 compared to 101 minutes in 2021. In Nevada, 60 workers suffered fatal injuries in 2022, up from 43 in 2021. Transportation incidents resulted in 22 fatal work injuries and accounted for 37 percent of all fatal workplace injuries in the state.

"Workers' Memorial Day is a solemn occasion that serves as a poignant reminder of the workers who have lost their lives, been injured, or fallen ill due to workplace hazards and negligence," said William Gardner, Chief Administrative Officer of Nevada OSHA. "This day honors their memory and underscores the ongoing need for safe and healthy working conditions for all individuals. Together, let us strive for safer workplaces and ensure protections for all workers."

There are resources and assistance available for employers, workers, and children of workers who have suffered catastrophic injury or death.

Kids' Chance of Nevada- This organization provides college and technical scholarships to the children of parents who were killed or severely injured in a workplace accident in Nevada, helping them achieve their educational goals. Nationally, Kids' Chance has awarded over 9,300 scholarships, totaling over \$33.2 million. To learn more, visit their website at www.kidschance.org.

Nevada Safety Consultation and Training Section (SCATS)- A section within the Division of Industrial Relations, SCATS' mission is to keep Nevadans safe and healthy on the job. They offer free resources for employers and employees- from training, to consultation, to safety program reviews. SCATS representatives can review and make recommendations on best practices and implementation of employer protocols. To learn more about SCATS services, visit www.4safenv.state.nv.us.

Nevada OSHA- Employees who feel they have been exposed to a hazardous condition in the workplace have the right to raise their concerns with their employer or to file a complaint with Nevada OSHA. An employee who raises concerns with their employer or files an OSHA complaint is protected against retaliation or discrimination by NRS 618.445 and section 11(c) of the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act, Pub. L. 91-596, 84 Stat. 1590. If an employee files a safety or health complaint with Nevada OSHA, their name and contact information will be held as confidential information pursuant to NRS 618.341(3)(a). To file a complaint, please visit <https://www.osha.gov/workers/file-complaint> or call Nevada OSHA at (702) 486-9020 (southern Nevada) or (775) 688-3700 (northern Nevada).

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, Worker's Compensation Section, Mechanical Compliance Section, Mine Safety and Training Section, and the Safety Consultation and Training Section – DIR works to protect Nevada's workers 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 has authority over matters related to worker safety and health. This includes coverage for all local and state government employers in Nevada. It also applies to private sector workplaces except for maritime, United States Postal Service, federal land, military bases, tribal land, and working conditions of aircraft in operations. Pursuant to NRS 618.315, Nevada OSHA does not have authority related to motor vehicles operating on public highways of this state.

Teri Williams, Public Information Officer, Department of Business and Industry



Reporting Reminders

Insurers and TPAs are required to submit certain reports in the *Claims and Regulatory Data System (CARDS)* web portal and other reports outside of the portal, via email or to the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI), our proof of coverage data collection vendor.

For a comprehensive list of reporting requirements for workers' compensation insurers, see the [Nevada Reporting Requirements Table](#).

PROOF OF COVERAGE UPDATE:

Per NRS 616B.461 and NAC 616B.100-148, **private carriers** writing Nevada workers' compensation policies must report proof of coverage data to [National Council on Compensation Insurance \(NCCI\)](#).

⇒ Starting 7/1/24, "Claims Administrator FEIN" will be required to reported on all policies with effective dates 9/1/24 or later.

⇒ Insurers are again reminded that nonrenewal transactions are required to be reported for Nevada policies.

See [NCCI Circular - POC-NV-2024-01 - Proof of Coverage \(POC\)](#) for more information.

RECENTLY DUE:

⇒ **The 2024 Annual TPA Information Form (CARDS Web Portal), FY23 Claims Handled Data and List of Accounts:** This annual data call was emailed to licensed TPAs on 4/19/24 and was due 5/17/24. If you are a licensed TPA and have not responded to this data call, including submitting an updated **TPA Information Form** in the CARDS portal, please do so as soon as possible.

⇒ **The FY23 WCS Workers' Compensation Claims Activity Report or Statement of Inactivity** pursuant to NRS 616B.009 and NAC 616B.016 was due 1/12/24. If you haven't submitted the report yet, it's not too late – visit our [Insurer-TPA Reporting](#) page on our website for the forms and instructions. Submit all reports to wcsra@dir.nv.gov.

CURRENTLY DUE:

⇒ **The 2024 Annual Insurer Information Form (CARDS Web Portal):** This data call was emailed to Insurers on 5/15/24 and is due 6/14/24. In addition, Insurers are always required to maintain their Insurer Information Form in CARDS within 30 days of changes.

COMING SOON:

⇒ **The FY24 WCS Workers' Compensation Claims Activity Report or Statement of Inactivity:** This report will be due 9/1/24. Forms and instructions will be updated and available on our website on the [Insurer-TPA Reporting](#) page by 8/1/24 and insurers should watch for that email request on or around that date. Submit all reports to wcsra@dir.nv.gov.

Please feel free to contact the Research & Analysis Unit at wcsra@dir.nv.gov if you have any questions or concerns and visit the [WCS website](#) or [Insurer-TPA Reporting](#) page for more information.

[Click Here to Sign up for Insurer / TPA Data Call Notifications](#)

CARDS CORNER

CARDS LOGIN PORTAL: <https://cards.nv.gov>

CARDS: Phase 2

We at WCS are thrilled to announce that the design and development of CARDS is currently underway! Since its initial launch in 2017, our team has been working diligently to enhance the experience for our external users. Here are some of the exciting new features we can share:

- ⇒ User Types: Support for new user types such as Clinical Practitioner.
- ⇒ D-35 Webform: Online form for data submission required for D-35.
- ⇒ Data Assessment Webform: Online submission form for Claims Expenditure and Premium data for assessment calculations.
- ⇒ External Reporting: New reports such as Payment Transaction and Occupational Disease.
- ⇒ Invoice Generation: Automatic generation of invoices for estimated and annual assessments.

With these and additional features, we aim to significantly improve the overall user experience within the CARDS application. As we move forward with finalizing and implementing these updates, we'll keep you informed through the CARDS Corner section of the WCS newsletter.

While these features are being developed, we are also looking forward to discussing them in more detail at the upcoming 12th Annual Nevada Workers' Compensation Educational Conference at the Tuscany Suites and Casino, from September 12th to 13th, 2024. During the presentation, the team will discuss these features and how they will enhance the CARDS application, possibly including demonstrations depending on the current development stage.

Helpful Information and Links

- ⇒ WCS Website: [CARD Information Page](#)
- ⇒ CARDS Manual: [CARDS External User Manual](#)
- ⇒ D-38 Manual: [CARDS Indexing Requirements](#)

Contact Us

- ⇒ General Questions, Login Issues, Permissions: cards@dir.nv.gov
- ⇒ D-38 Claims Indexing: indexing@dir.nv.gov



Roles and Responsibilities of WCS, Insurers and TPAs

WCS:

- ⇒ Add CARDS Account Administrators designated by Insurers and TPAs. External User Support and Customer Service.

Insurers:

- ⇒ Add Users and Grant User Permissions (Account Admins)
- ⇒ Maintain Contact Information (Insurer Information Form)
- ⇒ Link their TPAs and maintain TPA relationships (Insurer Information Form)
- ⇒ Grant TPA Permissions to Submit D-38 Claims Indexing data (Optional)
- ⇒ Submit D-38 Claims Indexing

TPAs:

- ⇒ Add Users and Grant User Permissions (Account Admins)
- ⇒ Maintain Contact Information (TPA Information Form)
- ⇒ Submit D-38 Claims Indexing data (if granted permission by insurer client)

Top 5 Nature of Injury and Cause of Injury Workers' Comp Claims

TOP 5 ACCEPTED NATURE OF INJURY	Percent of Total Reported
1. Strain or Tear	26.02%
2. Laceration	12.29%
3. Contusion	12.12%
4. Sprain or Tear	10.73%
5. Puncture	6.38%

TOP 5 ACCEPTED CAUSE OF INJURY	Percent of Total Reported
1. Lifting	7.32%
2. Fall, Slip or Trip, NOC*	6.80%
3. Object Being Lifted or Handled	5.71%
4. Strain or Injury by NOC*	4.69%
5. Falling or Flying Object	4.62%

* Not Otherwise Classified.



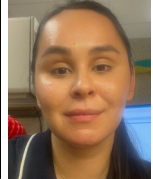
Let's welcome **Cassandra Toleafoa** to the Workers' Compensation Section as an Administrative Assistant II for the Employer Compliance Unit! Cassandra is originally from Hawaii, born and raised in Oahu. She moved to California after high school and worked for the County of Santa Clara Social Services Department for a few years. She recently moved to Las Vegas with her little family and they love exploring the famous "Ninth Island". Her free time consists of spending time with family and being a football mom every evening for her two teenage boys, which she enjoys every minute being their cheerleader and most of all, a proud mom.

Welcome **Helen Hill** to the Workers' Compensation Section as an Administrative Assistant II for the Research & Analysis Unit! Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, Helen moved to Las Vegas three years ago to avoid the snow, ice storms and cold weather of the east coast. Helen worked for the State of Maryland in the Department of Juvenile Services as well as the Department of Assessments and Taxation as an Office Services Clerk. When Helen is not working, she is exploring her new surroundings, and she absolutely loves watching movies with subtitles especially Karate.



Please join us and welcome **Amber Williams** as the new Attorney to the Division of Industrial Relations Legal Unit! She moved to Nevada in 2001 when her father retired from the Air Force. Graduating from UNLV with dual degrees in Economics and Business Management, Amber then pursued a Juris Doctor degree (JD). She has been licensed as a Nevada attorney since 2011. Prior to joining the agency, Amber obtained over 13 years of experience in the private legal sector, primarily as an insurance defense attorney. Outside of work, she enjoys cooking, hiking with her dogs, and spending time with family. Go Knights!

Welcome **Maggie Smith** to the Workers' Compensation Section as an Administrative Assistant II in the Medical Unit! She moved to Las Vegas from Washington State in December. Maggie previously worked for the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, as a financial specialist. She likes playing video games in her spare time.



Let's welcome **Alejandra Velazquez** as an Administrative Assistant II in the Workers' Compensation Section, Medical Unit! Alejandra was born and raised in Las Vegas. She comes from a big family whom she loves spending time with including her two dogs and friends. Previously, she worked at a dealership as a finance coordinator, and was also in the dental field for 6 years.

Welcome **Aisha Jones** to the Workers' Compensation Section as a Compliance Audit Investigator II in the Medical Unit! Aisha moved to Las Vegas from Fresno, California two years ago. Prior to moving, she was a police officer with the Fresno Police Department for eighteen years! Aisha enjoys traveling and spending time with her husband and dogs.





Please join us on congratulating **Dwayne Harris** on his promotion as a Compliance/Audit Investigator III. He has been with the Employer Compliance Unit (ECU) since March 2023 and previously had a 20+ year career with the United States Air Force. Dwayne served the military in a myriad of capacities to include Senior Desk Sergeant, Senior Central Security Control Controller, Special Agent and Instructor for the Office of Special Investigations Academy; all of which has made his time in the unit a success. Dwayne has built a strong rapport with WCS staff and will excel in his new leadership role.

Check our website for upcoming WebEx training opportunities!

To register for WebEx trainings: <https://dir.nv.gov/WCS/Training/> -or- Email: WCSedutng@dir.nv.gov



Direct comments or suggestions about this newsletter to:

Workers' Compensation Section Las Vegas Office

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Claudia Cortez, Assistant Editor

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Workers' Compensation Email Addresses

WCSHelp@dir.nv.gov	General workers' compensation inquiries
CARDS@dir.nv.gov	CARDS Portal inquiries
indexing@dir.nv.gov	Claim Indexing (D-38) inquiries
COLAS@dir.nv.gov	Requests for reimbursement, verification, and COLA inquiries
WCSRA@dir.nv.gov	Insurer and TPA required reporting and related inquiries
WCSedutng@dir.nv.gov	Training and Education inquiries and information regarding our Annual Workers' Compensation Educational Conference
medunit@dir.nv.gov	Medical Unit inquiries, D-35 Form submission, C-4 Form submission (when requested), complaint submission, and billing appeals
medpanels@dir.nv.gov	Health Care Provider contact information and/or address changes, applications for WCS Treating Panel
PPDreports@dir.nv.gov	PPD Report submissions
WCSAudit@dir.nv.gov	General Audit inquiries
WCassessment@business.nv.gov	Workers' Compensation Safety Fund Assessment Reporting and inquiries

ATTENTION:

WORKERS' COMPENSATION SECTION IS ON THE MOVE!

Our Las Vegas office will be moving to:
2300 W. Sahara Ave Suite 300
Las Vegas, NV 89102

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!

