The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is the U.S. federal agency that conducts research and makes recommendations to prevent worker injury and illness. NIOSH was established under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. It is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The Western States Division (WSD) conducts research to reduce a wide variety of occupational safety and health hazards and has three office locations in Spokane, WA, Denver, CO and Anchorage, AK.

The Western U.S. continues to experience rapid population growth and encompasses a broad range of work environments and workplace safety and health issues. Workers in the Western states may face unique hazards, including climate extremes, long distance commutes, and working at altitude, and in remote locations. As a result, these workers consistently suffer from some of the Nation’s highest work-related fatality rates.

The WSD employs the public health approach for its research programs including:
- the collection and analysis of high quality data and scientific evidence
- close collaboration with partners
- prioritization of research efforts based on burden, need and potential for great impact
- development of tailored interventions designed specifically to address the identified occupational hazards
- implementation of prevention methods into the workplace using the NIOSH Research to Practice philosophy (r2p)

For more information about the NIOSH Western States Division, our research, and our outreach visit: www.cdc.gov/niosh/contact/im-wsd.html or please call us at: 509-354-8024
OUR SAFETY AND HEALTH RESEARCH AREAS

- Oil and Gas Extraction
- Commercial Fishing
- Aviation
- Wildland Firefighting
- State Occupational Support
- American Indian, Alaska Native Initiative

CENTER FOR MARITIME SAFETY AND HEALTH STUDIES

Established in November 2015, the Center for Maritime Safety and Health Studies (CMSHS) promotes safety and health for all maritime workers, including those employed on vessels, at waterfront facilities working in and around vessels, and on shore directly supporting marine operations.

CMSHS is a “virtual center” managed by the Western States Division, and serves as a hub for researchers to collaborate while building partnerships with stakeholders throughout the US and the world.

For more information on the Center for Maritime Safety and Health Studies (CMSHS), visit: www.cdc.gov/niosh/maritime/ or email the Center at: CMSHS@cdc.gov

OUR STAFF

WSD staff have expertise in the following areas:

- Epidemiology and Surveillance: Epidemiologists | Statisticians | Health Scientists
- Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Health: Industrial Hygienists | Medical Officers
- Engineering: Mechanical Engineers | Electrical Engineers

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