

South Dakota Department of Labor
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Workers' compensation advisory council meets

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor's (DOL) Workers' Compensation Advisory Council, chaired by Lt. Gov. Dennis Daugaard, met today to review a draft of the annual report and conduct other business.

The final report must be submitted to the Governor in October.

The meeting also included an overview of the 2009 legislative session. Among new laws that went into effect July 1 was a measure that raised the workers' compensation burial allowance.

"During this past session, HB1057 was passed to increase the \$5,000 maximum burial amount to \$7,500 for those suffering fatal work accidents," said James Marsh, DOL Labor and Management Division Director.

In September 2008, an e-mail alert subscription service was implemented in conjunction with the workers' compensation Web site. Subscribers receive e-mail notices when new information is available on the Web site.

"There are 478 subscribers so far," said DOL Public Information Officer Dawn Dovre (DOHV'-ree). "Since the alert system began, the workers' compensation home page has been viewed nearly 23,000 times."

The Council's next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 29 at 1 p.m. in Pierre. It will include discussion of any legislative proposals offered by the public. Dakota Digital Network sites will be available in Aberdeen, Rapid City and Sioux Falls.

"Anyone who has recommendations should submit them to the Department of Labor in advance so we can distribute them to the Council members," said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts.

The Workers' Compensation Advisory Council was created to help DOL by reviewing the workers' compensation program's content, adequacy and effectiveness. The Council meets twice each year and reports its recommendations for improvement to the governor and Legislature. More information is available at www.sdjobs.org.