

SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNORDavid Martin, *Cabinet Secretary*Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****March 13, 2012**

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Rate of Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for Private Industries in New Mexico Decreased in 2010 Compared to 2009

Santa Fe, NM – The New Mexico Environment Department announced today that the rate of nonfatal injuries in private industry workplaces in New Mexico decreased 11.9 percent from 2010 to 2009. The decrease highlights summary data concerning work-related injuries occurring in the state in 2010.

“While we cannot pinpoint exact reasons for the decrease from 2009 to 2010, it would appear private companies are placing more emphasis on worker safety and training. Our goal is to continue to work with employers to ensure that the number of workplace injuries and illnesses continues to decrease,” said New Mexico Environment Department Deputy Secretary Butch Tongate. Tongate served as the New Mexico Occupational Health & Safety Bureau Chief from 2005 to 2011.

The 2010 report contains information from the Occupational Safety and Health survey of the New Mexico Environment Department. The survey measures the number of new work-related illness and injury cases, which are recognized and reported during the year. The annual survey provides estimates of the number and frequency (incidence rates) of workplace injuries and illnesses based on logs kept by private industry employers during 2010.

Private industry workplaces in New Mexico reported a total of 18,900 nonfatal injuries and illnesses during 2010. The incidence rate of 3.7 cases per 100 equivalent full-time employees in 2010 marks the lowest incidence rate ever for private sector employers in New Mexico. The rate for 2010 represents an 11.9 percent decrease compared to the rate of 4.2 in 2009, and is about 50% lower than the rate in 1996. New Mexico’s incidence rate of 3.7 is slightly above the national rate of 3.5.

The 2010 injury and illness data are the latest available from the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses conducted by the New Mexico Occupational Health and Safety Bureau in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The

occupational injury and illness rates are based on a statistical sample of private firms in New Mexico.

Beginning with the 2003 reference year, the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses began using the 2002 North American Industry Classification (NAICS). As of the 2009 reference year, data is based on the latest edition of NAICS 2007. For information regarding NAICS 2007 revisions, visit: <http://www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm>.

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