

# Utah Workplace Safety Week

## Press Conference

June 19, 2017

Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 Training Facility

### Agenda

11:00 Opening Remarks and Introductions, *Senator Karen Mayne*

11:10 Remarks about Workplace Safety in Utah, *Governor Herbert*

11:20 Concluding Remarks and Introduction of Operating Engineers, *Senator Karen Mayne*

11:25 Demonstration of Large Tractors and Machinery, *Operating Engineers & Governor Herbert*

11:30 Heavy Equipment Training Opportunities, *Operating Engineers & Conference Attendees*

### Overview

In the 2014 Legislative Session, Senator Karen Mayne sponsored legislation to recognize the fourth week of June as Utah Workplace Safety Week. Along with Utah employers and safety partners, Senator Mayne will hold a short press conference to start the 2017 Workplace Safety Week.

Following the press conference, we invite attendees to join us for a safety demonstration and hands-on experience with heavy equipment. This simple demonstration serves as a way to draw attention to the importance of workplace safety and the need to follow safe practices.

### Location

The press conference will be held at the training facility for the Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 at 6200 South Highway 111. The union provides training for skilled heavy-equipment operators, heavy-duty repair mechanics, lube service technicians, and crane-construction-equipment operators.

### Example of Suggested Remarks for Governor Herbert

This year we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Utah's workers' compensation system. That means we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Utah Labor Commission and WCF Insurance. Both organizations have improved working conditions for Utah workers and elevated workplace safety standards. Every Utahn who leaves for work in the morning should expect to return home uninjured. No family should have to worry about receiving a knock on the door to tell you your loved one will never return home because of a workplace injury or a phone call to say a loved one is in the hospital because of an accident at work. Ensuring that husbands return to their wives, wives to their husbands, parents to their children, and friends to their friends — that is the most important reason to create a safe and healthy work environment. A serious workplace injury or death changes lives forever – for families, friends, communities, and coworkers.

Workplace injuries also have a negative impact on business. According to OSHA, businesses nationally spend \$170 billion a year on costs associated with occupational injuries and illnesses—expenditures that come straight out of company profits. But, workplaces that establish safety and health-management systems can reduce their injury and illness costs by 20 to 40 percent. In today's business environment, these costs can be the difference between operating in the black and running in the red.

Keeping workers safe requires a consistent, diligent effort by employers, who have many competing priorities. But it is worth the effort. Employers who maintain safe work environments also receive the respect and appreciation of their employees and the satisfaction that they have spared many individuals and their families the pain and tragic difficulties that frequently accompany serious injuries. Thank you for coming today and for your dedication to workplace safety. And remember, be careful out there!

### Utah Workplace Safety Week Partners

Associated Builders and Contractors • Associated General Contractors • Industrial Supply • Salt Lake City Department of Airports • UDOT • UTA • Utah Labor Commission • Utah Manufacturers Association • Utah Restaurant Association • Utah Safety Council • WCF Insurance

### Utah Workplace Safety Week Partners Mission Statement

It is the mission of those involved with Utah Workplace Safety Week to promote a safe working environment for Utah workers and the public by creating and maintaining an active interest in safety. Objectives are to assist in the overall effort to minimize the frequency of accidents throughout the state, to help employers and employees identify corrective measures needed to eliminate or control safety hazards, and to provide tools and resources to keep safety an integral part of the workplace.

