



OFFICE OF
**INSPECTOR
GENERAL**
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

HIGHLIGHTS

November 14, 2011

U.S. Postal Service's Health and Safety Program

Report Number HR-AR-12-001

IMPACT ON:

The U.S. Postal Service's Health and Safety Program and Postal Service employees.

WHY THE OIG DID THE AUDIT:

Our objective was to assess whether the Postal Service has processes in place to minimize health and safety hazards at its facilities and ensure compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations.

WHAT THE OIG FOUND:

The Postal Service has processes to minimize health and safety hazards and assist with OSHA compliance. However, employees did not always follow these processes, as we identified hazards and unsafe conditions at locations we visited. We also identified opportunities to improve safety processes and procedures. We identified the following safety hazards due to management control weaknesses including: safety was not always a priority; there were inconsistent policies and insufficient monitoring of preventive maintenance procedures; and there was insufficient oversight to ensure standard operating procedures (SOPs) were followed and safety hazards were abated. Postal Service policy states managers must demonstrate a commitment to maintain a safe and healthy work environment

and be held accountable for safety and compliance with OSHA regulations.

WHAT THE OIG RECOMMENDED:

We recommended the vice president, Employee Resource Management, review and revise supervisor performance measures to place a higher priority on safety and update the Safety Toolkit regarding Powered Industrial Truck operation training. We also recommended the vice presidents, Area Operations, ensure plant managers establish and implement SOPs for dock operations and management controls regarding safety procedures.

WHAT MANAGEMENT SAID:

Management generally agreed with the findings and recommendations. Some area vice presidents only agreed in part with specific safety hazards identified; but, overall, they agreed with the recommendations and have implemented or plan to implement corrective actions.

AUDITORS' COMMENTS:

Management's comments were responsive and we believe the corrective actions should resolve the issues identified in the report.