

Executive Registry
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 9, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM
FOR THE FEDERAL SECTOR

I am announcing today, through the issuance of the enclosed policy statement, a major effort directed towards the reduction of illnesses and injuries among Federal workers.

The human suffering which results from work-related injuries and illnesses in the Federal sector must be addressed effectively. Today, I am asking that each head of an agency or a Department review existing safety and health programs and, with the help and advice of the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration, take every step possible to reduce the number of occupational injuries and illnesses occurring in the Federal sector. The Federal government remains the Nation's largest single employer and has represented in its workplaces all of the hazards found in private industry. Through effective administration, the Federal workplace can serve as a model for the private sector. That is what I am asking you to accomplish.

Besides our overriding goal of providing a safer and healthier workplace for Federal employees, this effort should result in significant cost savings. Reducing these financial and human losses depends on your commitment and the commitment of your senior staff, managers, supervisors and employees. I expect you to work together -- calling upon the Department of Labor for assistance -- to develop improved occupational safety and health programs for your employees.

I urge you to study your operations thoroughly to find more and better ways by which you can reduce the injuries, illnesses, and associated costs in your jurisdictions.

Ronald Reagan

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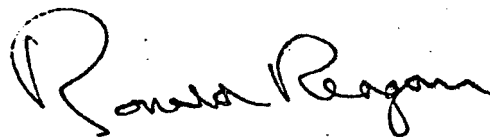
STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am today announcing a program which will improve our efforts to reduce work-related injuries and illnesses in the Federal workforce. In this Administration, great strides have been made by the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration in attempting to provide a safer and healthier workplace in the private sector. We must make equal improvements in our programs for the Federal worker.

In keeping with my dedication to improve the efficiency of government, I am committed to both a reduction in injuries and illnesses and a reduction in accompanying costs. Today, I am making it the responsibility of all Federal managers, supervisors and employees to take an active part in this program to improve the record of the Federal government in the area of occupational safety and health.

In so doing, I have directed the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Federal Advisory Council on Occupational Safety and Health, to develop additional strategies to stimulate joint problem-solving activities throughout the government. I am also authorizing a system of Presidential awards to be presented annually to those agencies showing the greatest commitment and results in improving the safety and health conditions for their workers.

The Federal government's most valuable resource is its dedicated and highly skilled workforce. Today, we embark on a program for Federal employees that will bring down injury and illness rates and thereby reduce human suffering.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ronald Reagan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.