

# NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES CONCERNING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM FROM THE OFFICE OF INJURED EMPLOYEE COUNSEL

Have you been injured on the job? As an injured employee in Texas, you have the right to free assistance from the Office of Injured Employee Counsel (OIEC). OIEC is the state agency that assists unrepresented injured employees with their claim in the workers' compensation system.

You can contact OIEC by calling its toll-free telephone number: 1-866-393-6432. More information about OIEC and its Ombudsman Program is available at the agency's website ([www.oiec.texas.gov](http://www.oiec.texas.gov)).

## OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

WHAT IS AN OMBUDSMAN? An Ombudsman is an employee of OIEC who can assist you if you have a dispute with your employer's insurance carrier. An Ombudsman's assistance is free of charge. Each Ombudsman has a workers' compensation adjuster's license and has completed a comprehensive training program designed specifically to assist you with your dispute.

An Ombudsman can help you identify and develop the disputed issues in your case and attempt to resolve them. If the issues cannot be resolved, the Ombudsman can help you request a dispute resolution proceeding at the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation. Once a proceeding is scheduled an Ombudsman can:

- Help you prepare for the proceeding (Benefit Review Conference and/or Contested Case Hearing);
- Attend the proceeding with you and communicate on your behalf; and
- Assist you with an appeal or a response to an insurance carrier's appeal, if necessary.

CONNECT  @OIEC  @OIECTexas  @OIECtube  [oiec.texas.gov](http://oiec.texas.gov)

Figure 28 TAC §276.5(c) - April 2018



# NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION IN TEXAS

**COVERAGE:** Effective on [effective date of certificate] \_\_\_\_\_ [name of employer] \_\_\_\_\_ provides workers' compensation insurance coverage as a member of a self-insurance group under Labor Code Chapter 407A in the event of work-related injury or occupational disease. Claims for injuries or occupational diseases which occur on or after that date will be handled by [name of third party administrator] \_\_\_\_\_ . An employee or a person acting on the employee's behalf, must notify the employer of an injury or occupational disease not later than the 30th day after the date on which the injury occurs or the date the employee knew or should have known of an occupational disease, unless the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (Division) determines that good cause existed for failure to provide timely notice. Your employer is required to provide you with coverage information, in writing, when you are hired or whenever the employer becomes, or ceases to be, covered by workers' compensation insurance.

**EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE:** The Division provides free information about how to file a workers' compensation claim. Division staff will answer any questions you may have about workers' compensation and process any requests for dispute resolution of a claim. You can obtain this assistance by contacting your local Division field office or by calling 1-800-252-7031. The Office of Injured Employee Counsel (OIEC) also provides free assistance to injured employees and will explain your rights and responsibilities under the Workers' Compensation Act. You can obtain OIEC's assistance by contacting an OIEC customer service representative in your local Division field office or by calling 1-866-EZE-OIEC (1-866-393-6432).

**SAFETY VIOLATIONS HOTLINE:** The Division has a 24 hour toll-free telephone number for reporting unsafe conditions in the workplace that may violate occupational health and safety laws. Employers are prohibited by law from suspending, terminating, or discriminating against any employee because he or she in good faith reports an alleged occupational health or safety violation. Contact the Division at 1-800-452-9595.

# NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION IN TEXAS

**COVERAGE:** [Name of employer] \_\_\_\_\_ has workers' compensation insurance coverage from [name of commercial insurance company] \_\_\_\_\_ in the event of work-related injury or occupational disease. This coverage is effective from [effective date of workers' compensation insurance policy] \_\_\_\_\_. Any injuries or occupational diseases which occur on or after that date will be handled by [name of commercial insurance company] \_\_\_\_\_. An employee or a person acting on the employee's behalf, must notify the employer of an injury or occupational disease not later than the 30th day after the date on which the injury occurs or the date the employee knew or should have known of an occupational disease, unless the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (Division) determines that good cause existed for failure to provide timely notice. Your employer is required to provide you with coverage information, in writing, when you are hired or whenever the employer becomes, or ceases to be, covered by workers' compensation insurance.

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# NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION IN TEXAS

**COVERAGE:** [Name of employer] \_\_\_\_\_ does not have workers' compensation insurance coverage. As an employee of a non-covered employer, you are not eligible to receive workers' compensation benefits under the Texas Workers' Compensation Act. However, a non-covered (non-subscribing) employer can and may provide other benefits to injured employees. You should contact your employer regarding the availability of other benefits for a work-related injury or occupational disease. In addition, you may have rights under the common law of Texas should you have an on the job injury or occupational disease. Your employer is required to provide you with coverage information, in writing, when you are hired or whenever the employer becomes, or ceases to be, covered by workers' compensation insurance.

**SAFETY VIOLATIONS HOTLINE:** The Division has a 24 hour toll-free telephone number for reporting unsafe conditions in the workplace that may violate occupational health and safety laws. Employers are prohibited by law from suspending, terminating, or discriminating against any employee because he or she in good faith reports an alleged occupational health or safety violation. Contact the Division at 1-800-452-9595.

# NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES

The Texas Hazard Communication Act, codified as Chapter 502 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, requires public employers to provide employees with specific information on the hazards of chemicals to which employees may be exposed in the workplace. As required by law, your employer must provide you with certain information and training. A brief summary of the law follows.

## HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

Hazardous chemicals are any products or materials that present any physical or health hazards when used, unless they are exempted under the law. Some examples of more commonly used hazardous chemicals are fuels, cleaning products, solvents, many types of oils, compressed gases, many types of paints, pesticides, herbicides, refrigerants, laboratory chemicals, cement, welding rods, etc.

## WORKPLACE CHEMICAL LIST

Employers must develop a list of hazardous chemicals used or stored in the workplace in excess of 55 gallons or 500 pounds. This list shall be updated by the employer as necessary, but at least annually, and be made readily available for employees and their representatives on request.

## EMPLOYEE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Employers shall provide training to newly assigned employees before the employees work in a work area containing a hazardous chemical. Covered employees shall receive training from the employer on the hazards of the chemicals and on the measures they can take to protect themselves from those hazards. This training shall be repeated as needed, but at least whenever new hazards are introduced into the workplace or new information is received on the chemicals which are already present.

## SAFETY DATA SHEETS

Employees who may be exposed to hazardous chemicals shall be informed of the exposure by the employer and shall have ready access to the most current Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) or Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) if an SDS is not available yet, which detail physical and health hazards and other pertinent information on those chemicals.

## LABELS

Employees shall not be required to work with hazardous chemicals from unlabeled containers except portable containers for immediate use, the contents of which are known to the user.

## EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

Employees have rights to:

- access copies of SDSs (or an MSDS if an SDS is not available yet)
- information on their chemical exposures
- receive training on chemical hazards
- receive appropriate protective equipment
- file complaints, assist inspectors, or testify against their employer

Employees may not be discharged or discriminated against in any manner for the exercise of any rights provided by this Act. A waiver of employee rights is void; an employer's request for such a waiver is a violation of the Act. Employees may file complaints with the Texas Department of State Health Services at the telephone numbers provided below.

## EMPLOYERS MAY BE SUBJECT TO ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES AND CIVIL OR CRIMINAL FINES RANGING FROM \$50 TO \$100,000 FOR EACH VIOLATION OF THIS ACT

Further information may be obtained from:

Texas Department of State Health Services  
Consumer Protection Division  
Policy, Standards, & Quality Assurance Section  
Environmental Hazards Unit  
PO Box 149347, MC 1987  
Austin, TX 78714-9347



(512) 834-6787  
(800) 293-0753 (toll-free)  
Fax: (512) 834-6726  
E-mail: [TXHazComHelp@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:TXHazComHelp@dshs.texas.gov)  
Website: [www.dshs.texas.gov/hazcom](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/hazcom)

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

Worker Right-To-Know Program  
Publication # 23-14173  
Revised 05/2018

## Texas Workforce Commission ATTENTION EMPLOYEES

Your employer reports your wages to the Texas Workforce Commission. If you become unemployed, you may be eligible for unemployment benefit payments. File online at [www.texasworkforce.org](http://www.texasworkforce.org) or call 1-800-939-6631.

The Texas Payday Law, Title II, Chapter 61, Texas Labor Code, requires Texas employers to pay their employees who are exempt from the overtime pay provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 at least once per month. All other employees must be paid at least as often as semi-monthly and each pay period must consist as nearly as possible of an equal number of days.

Scheduled paydays: (You must indicate date or dates of the month for employees paid monthly or semi-monthly, and day of the week for employees paid weekly or at other times.)

MONTHLY \_\_\_\_\_ SEMI-MONTHLY \_\_\_\_\_ WEEKLY \_\_\_\_\_  
OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

For more information write or contact the Texas Workforce Commission at Austin, Texas 78778, or contact your nearest Commission office. Commission offices are located in major cities throughout the state.

TO EMPLOYERS: The law required that this notice or its equivalent be posted (in full view) at your place of business. Additional posters are available, free of charge, by logging on to Unemployment Tax Services <http://www.texasworkforce.org/uts> and selecting the Account Info tab or by fax at 512-936-3205.

To report suspected fraud, waste or abuse of the program call 800-252-3642.

# ATTENTION EMPLOYEES

The Texas Payday Law, Title 2, Chapter 61, Texas Labor Code, requires Texas employers to pay their employees who are exempt from the overtime pay provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 at least once per month. All other employees must be paid at least as often as semi-monthly and each pay period must consist as nearly as possible of an equal number of days.

Scheduled paydays: (You must indicate date or dates of the month for employees paid monthly or semi-monthly, and day of the week for employees paid weekly or at other times.)

MONTHLY \_\_\_\_\_  
SEMI-MONTHLY \_\_\_\_\_  
WEEKLY \_\_\_\_\_  
OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

For more information write or contact the Texas Workforce Commission in Austin or contact your nearest TWC office. TWC offices are located in major cities throughout the state.

**TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**  
**Labor Law Section**  
**101 East 15th Street, Room 514**  
**Austin, Texas 78778-0001**  
**1-800-832-9243**  
**TDD 1-800-735-2989 (Hearing Impaired)**

***TO EMPLOYERS:*** *The law requires that this notice or its equivalent be posted in conspicuous places at your business.*

# NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION IN TEXAS

**COVERAGE:** Effective on [effective date of certificate] \_\_\_\_\_ [name of employer] \_\_\_\_\_ provides workers' compensation insurance coverage as a member of a self-insurance group under Labor Code Chapter 407A in the event of work-related injury or occupational disease. Claims for injuries or occupational diseases which occur on or after that date will be handled by [name of third party administrator] \_\_\_\_\_ . An employee or a person acting on the employee's behalf, must notify the employer of an injury or occupational disease not later than the 30th day after the date on which the injury occurs or the date the employee knew or should have known of an occupational disease, unless the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (Division) determines that good cause existed for failure to provide timely notice. Your employer is required to provide you with coverage information, in writing, when you are hired or whenever the employer becomes, or ceases to be, covered by workers' compensation insurance.

**EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE:** The Division provides free information about how to file a workers' compensation claim. Division staff will answer any questions you may have about workers' compensation and process any requests for dispute resolution of a claim. You can obtain this assistance by contacting your local Division field office or by calling 1-800-252-7031. The Office of Injured Employee Counsel (OIEC) also provides free assistance to injured employees and will explain your rights and responsibilities under the Workers' Compensation Act. You can obtain OIEC's assistance by contacting an OIEC customer service representative in your local Division field office or by calling 1-866-EZE-OIEC (1-866-393-6432).

**SAFETY VIOLATIONS HOTLINE:** The Division has a 24 hour toll-free telephone number for reporting unsafe conditions in the workplace that may violate occupational health and safety laws. Employers are prohibited by law from suspending, terminating, or discriminating against any employee because he or she in good faith reports an alleged occupational health or safety violation. Contact the Division at 1-800-452-9595.

**DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION  
NOTICE REGARDING CERTAIN WORK-RELATED COMMUNICABLE  
DISEASES AND ELIGIBILITY FOR WORKERS'  
COMPENSATION BENEFITS**

**TO: LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, FIRE FIGHTERS, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE EMPLOYEES, PARAMEDICS, AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS**

In order to qualify for workers' compensation benefits, an employee who claims a possible work-related exposure to a reportable disease, including HIV infection, must be tested for the disease not later than the 10th day after the exposure and must provide their employer with documentation of the test and a sworn affidavit of the date and circumstances of the exposure. The test result must indicate the absence of the disease. The employee is not required to pay for the test.

Reportable diseases are those communicable diseases and health conditions required to be reported to the Texas Department of State Health Services. Exposure criteria and testing protocol must conform to Texas Department of State Health Services requirements.

**TO: ALL STATE EMPLOYEES**

In order to qualify for workers' compensation benefits, a state employee who claims a possible work-related exposure to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, must be tested for HIV within 10 days after the exposure and must provide their employer with documentation of the test and a written statement of the date and circumstances of the exposure. The test result must indicate the absence of HIV infection. The employee is not required to pay for the test.

For additional information: Talk to your employer or call the Division of Workers' Compensation at 1-800-252-7031. Also, contact the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to ensure full compliance with the Health and Safety Code and DSHS rules.

## **EMPLOYERS OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE EMPLOYEES, PARAMEDICS, FIRE FIGHTERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OR CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS:**

Pursuant to Workers' Compensation Rule 110.108, employers of emergency medical service employees, paramedics, fire fighters, law enforcement officers or correctional officers must post a notice informing employees about requirements contained in the Health and Safety Code which could affect qualifying for workers' compensation benefits following a work-related exposure to a reportable communicable disease. This notice must:

- 1) be posted in the employer's personnel office, if any;
- 2) be posted in the workplace where employees are likely to read the notice on a regular basis
- 3) be printed with a title in at least 15 point bold type and the text in at least 14 point normal type
- 4) contain the text as set out in rule 110.108(d)
- 5) be posted in English and Spanish, or in English and any other language common to the employee's affected employee population.

The notice on the reverse side meets the above requirements. Failure to post the notice as required by this rule is a violation of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act and Division rules and may subject the violator to administrative penalties.

The cost of testing for exposure to a reportable communicable disease shall be paid by the employer's workers' compensation insurance carrier.

## **STATE AGENCIES:**

Pursuant to Workers' Compensation Rule 110.108 each state agency must post a notice informing employees about requirements which may affect qualifying for workers' compensation benefits following a work related exposure to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The notice must:

- 1) be posted in the agency's personnel office;
- 2) be posted in the workplace where employees are likely to read the notice on a regular basis
- 3) be printed with a title in at least 15 point bold type and the text in at least 14 point normal type
- 4) contain the text as set out in rule 110.108(d)
- 5) be posted in English and Spanish, or in English and any other language common to the employee's affected employee population.

The notice on the reverse side meets the above requirements. Failure to post the notice as required by this rule is a violation of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act and Division rules and may subject the violator to administrative penalties.

The cost of testing for exposure to a reportable communicable disease shall be paid by the employer's workers' compensation insurance carrier.

**DO NOT POST THIS SIDE**

# NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION IN TEXAS

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\_\_\_\_\_ has been certified by the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (Division) as a self-insured employer providing workers' compensation insurance in the event of work-related injury or occupational disease. Claims for injuries or occupational diseases which occur on or after that date will be handled by [name of third party administrator] \_\_\_\_\_. An employee or a person acting on the employee's behalf, must notify the employer of an injury or occupational disease not later than the 30th day after the date on which the injury occurs or the date the employee knew or should have known of an occupational disease, unless the Division determines that good cause existed for failure to provide timely notice. Your employer is required to provide you with coverage information, in writing, when you are hired or whenever the employer becomes, or ceases to be, covered by workers' compensation insurance.

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