

Eye on L&I

Minimum Wage will increase by 13 cents to \$9.32 per hour on January 1, 2014

TUMWATER – Washington’s minimum wage will increase to \$9.32 per hour beginning January 1, 2014, the [Department of Labor & Industries](#) (L&I) announced today.

L&I calculates [the state’s minimum wage](#) each year as required by Initiative 688, approved by Washington voters in 1998. The 13-cent-per-hour increase, from \$9.19 to \$9.32 an hour, reflects a 1.455 percent increase in the [Consumer Price Index](#) for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) over the last 12 months ending August 31. The increase was announced earlier this month by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

The CPI-W measures average price changes for goods and services purchased by urban wage earners and clerical workers. The goods and services it monitors include basic living costs such as food, clothing, shelter, fuels and services such as doctor visits.

Washington is one of 10 states that adjust the minimum wage based on inflation and the CPI. The others are Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon and Vermont.

Washington has the highest minimum wage, followed by Oregon, which recently announced its 2014 minimum wage will rise by 15 cents, to \$9.10 per hour.

Washington’s minimum wage applies to workers in both agricultural and non-agricultural jobs, although 14- and 15-year-olds may be paid 85 percent of the adult minimum wage, or \$7.92 per hour in 2014.

More information on Washington’s minimum wage is available at [Wages.Lni.wa.gov](#). Employers and workers also may call 360-902-5316 or 1-866-219-7321.

News from OSHA /DOSH/NIOSH

Safety pays, but falls cost: Plan, provide, and train to stop fatal falls in construction

In an article in the [Fall 2013 issue of Elevating Safety](#) (PDF*), OSHA Director of Construction Jim Maddux discusses the high cost of fatal falls in construction, which are the leading cause of death in the industry. Worker injuries and deaths don't just hurt families and communities, he explains, they also take a great toll on our economy. To prevent falls, employers need to plan ahead to get the job done safely, provide the right equipment, and train everyone to use their equipment safely. To order free educational and training resources, including OSHA's new [bilingual ladder safety booklet](#) (PDF*), visit our [Publications page](#) or call the Office of Communications at (202) 693-1999.



Connecticut and Oregon aim to protect young workers from jobsite hazards

Workers under the age of 25 are twice as likely to be injured on the job as older workers and are often unaware of their workplace rights.

In Connecticut, federal and state-run OSHA joined a coalition that has launched a [new website](#) on the safety and health of young workers, which consolidates specific resources related to laws and regulations, training programs, educational materials, statistical data and local news and events associated with hiring young workers. Federal OSHA also has a [Young Workers Web page](#) with resources for young workers, employers, parents and educators.



In addition, Oregon OSHA's new [video series](#) uses humor and song to educate young workers about workplace hazards. The videos, available on [YouTube](#), cover general awareness for teens about speaking up on the job, safe lifting, and ladder and restaurant safety. See the [news release](#) for more information.

Puget Sound Area Safety Summit

Next Meeting topic: D.O.T. Requirements for Fleet Safety.

When: Wednesday, August 14, 2013 9:00 AM to noon

Where: [The Aerospace Machinists Union Hall in South Park](#)

Cost: Free

Registration: none required

GRANT UPDATES

EL CHAPP returns in Russian and in a mobile app

The English/Spanish Safety and Health handbook project that communicates construction related safe work practices and that was made possible through funding from a LNI Safety and Health Investment Project was a hit when it was published in 2011.

Since then we have been asked repeatedly for more books.

An initial run of 2000 books flew off the shelves. With the growing Russian population of immigrants joining our construction ranks, the additional need to communicate safety and health to these workers created a new opportunity to revisit the original EI CHAPP in a new grant award by adding Russian, and then taking it a giant step further; by developing a smartphone app that will also speak the phrases in either Spanish or Russian languages.

This project is now underway, and we anticipate the new EL CHARPP book and app to be available by year end. We will keep you posted on the progress of the grant project.