

# Champions of COVID Response

USDOL/OSHA Chicago North  
Area Office

## US Department of Labor - OSHA



### Summary:

During FY 2020, from March 2020 through September 2020, the OSHA Chicago North Area Office handled 50 COVID-19 related inspections, 40 of which were COVID-19 fatality inspections. This is the most COVID-related inspections in all of OSHA Region 5. The area office staff, including field inspectors, supervisors and administrative staff developed and issued OSHA citations for these novel cases while utilizing mandatory and maximum telework. These comprehensive inspections at worksites were conducted remotely utilizing new technologies and allowed the agency to continue operations effectively and efficiently to ensure employers provided worker protections needed for COVID-19, and worksites complied with the requirements of the OSH Act. The Chicago North AO also completed its inspection goals for the year despite the added work of the COVID-19 inspections.

**Description:** During FY 2020, from March 2020 through September 2020, the Chicago North OSHA area office completed the inspection goals for the year even with the added work of more than 50 COVID-19 related inspections, which included 40 COVID-19 fatality inspections. This is the most COVID-related inspections in all of OSHA Region 5. The area office staff, including field inspectors, supervisors and administrative staff developed and issued OSHA citations for these novel cases while utilizing mandatory and maximum telework. These comprehensive inspections at worksites were conducted remotely utilizing new technologies and allowed the agency to continue operations effectively and efficiently to ensure employers provided worker protections needed for COVID-19, and worksites complied with the requirements of the OSH Act.

These inspections consumed a majority of the compliance staff conducting remote inspections. Safety and health staff conducted most inspections individually. The area office coordinated assistance from the OSHA Regional Office Enforcement Programs (EP) Unit and Office of Solicitor (SOL) staffs to develop and issue these cases. With these team efforts, the office was able to issue citations and ensure OSHA compliance to reduce worker exposures to COVID-19, educate employers on OSHA and CDC guidance, encouraged new approaches to the enforcement measures used to reduce worker exposures to COVID-19 hazards. All of these efforts helped to reduce the numbers of persons with potential exposure, as well as, implement corrective actions that helped to eliminate transmission of COVID-19 in workplaces. The area office has continued to develop the use of electronic casefiles and complaint file management with the implementation of the 'eUPA Power App' in July 2020. Using this innovative technology the area office was able to efficiently process approximately 200 complaints related to COVID-19 hazards in the workplace. Using the technology and working remotely, the area office streamlined complaint processing, using teams of inspectors, to ensure prompt corrections were made to reduce worker exposures to COVID-19 and educate both employers and workers on the methods to 'breaking the chain' of COVID-19 transmission.

Diana Aguilar

Adelma Arroyo

Tricia Bakker

John Cargill

Adam Colleran

Dania Corral

James Debouver

Luis Garcia

Claudia Irizarry

Agnes Kalat

Sukhvir Kaur

Richard Lambert

Robert Malcolm

Rafael Ocampo

Anthony Santucci

Emil Szojko

Gary Weil

Ada Whitaker

Stefanie Uriarte