



Dear Employer:

Employees who work in the Cannabis Industry are exposed to a variety of serious hazards and regularly suffer from serious injuries and illnesses. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Denver and Englewood Area Offices, have conducted inspections at multiple Cannabis Industry facilities. Numerous serious safety and health hazards were discovered, and citations were issued as a result of these inspections.

The Cannabis Industry presents a number of hazards to workers employed in this occupation. Potential risks for workers include, but are not limited to:

- Exposure to potential fire and explosion hazards from the use of flammable liquids and compressed gases. The handling and transfer of flammable solvents can also result in health hazards, including employee exposure to chemicals such as hexane, heptane, ethanol, and butane, displacement of oxygen from carbon dioxide systems and skin contact with solvents.
- Growing and other production operations such as sorting, stripping, and drying can expose workers to unguarded machinery, pesticides, molds, and dusts.
- Electrical hazards from improper temporary wiring in grow areas and improper electrical installations in production areas is common. Many of the production areas are classified as hazardous locations due to the presence of flammable materials, such as butane or propane, being used in the process.
- Workers may also be exposed to material handling and storage hazards such as the improper use of powered industrial trucks and the improper storage of flammable materials. Workers may also be exposed to work-related musculoskeletal disorders and injuries.
- Many of the extraction facilities involve the processing and handling of large quantities of flammable solvents such as ethanol. Hazardous solvents such as methylene chloride have also been observed. Workers may be expected to respond to spills and other emergencies, thereby exposing them to hazards associated with inadequate emergency response protocols.

The Denver and Englewood Area Offices within OSHA have created a Local Emphasis Program designed to reduce occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities among cannabis industry workers through direct interventions by the Agency. This mailing is being sent to you because your company has been identified as being in the cannabis industry within the jurisdiction of the Denver and Englewood Area Offices.

Employers are encouraged to utilize the free consultation services provided in their states. The program provides occupational safety and health services that are funded, in part, by Federal OSHA and are available to eligible employers (establishments with 250 or fewer employees) at no cost. The safety and health professionals in the State OSHA Consultation Program will conduct, at your request, a free on-site safety and health evaluation of your establishment. All employers who avail themselves of this service will be required to abate all serious hazards identified during the consultation visit and to provide the consultation service with verification that these hazards have been abated. OSHA consultation in Colorado can be contacted at:

Colorado State University  
Occupational Health and Safety Consultation  
1681 Campus Delivery  
Fort Collins, CO 80523  
(970) 491-6151

A copy of the Local Emphasis Program Directive can be found on OSHA's web site.

[https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/enforcement/directives/CPL\\_24-04\\_EP.pdf](https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/enforcement/directives/CPL_24-04_EP.pdf)

Other resources can be found at the following links.

The Colorado Fire Marshals' Special Task Groups "Marijuana Facility Guidance v.1" can be found on the Fire Marshals Association of Colorado. <https://fmac-co.wildapricot.org/>

Evaluation of a Medicinal Cannabis Manufacturing Facility with an Indoor and Outdoor Grow Operation. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2016-0090-3317revised082019.pdf>

Evaluation of Potential Hazards during Harvesting and Processing Cannabis at an Outdoor Organic Farm. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2015-0111-3271.pdf>

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment: Marijuana occupational safety and health. <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/workplace-safety/resources-and-links/marijuana-occupational-safety-and-health>

Work and Well-Being in the Colorado Cannabis Industry: Project Results.  
<https://thecannabisindustry.org/work-well-colorado-cannabis-industry-project-results/>

Fatal Occupational Asthma in Cannabis Production  
[https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7246a2.htm?s\\_cid=mm7246a2\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7246a2.htm?s_cid=mm7246a2_w)

If you have questions or concerns about this initiative, please contact:

Denver Area Office  
1391 Speer Boulevard, Suite 210  
Denver, CO 80204  
303-844-5285

Englewood Area Office  
7935 East Prentice Avenue, Suite 209  
Greenwood Village, CO 80011  
303-843-4500

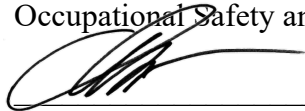
Sincerely,

*Art Hazen*

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Art Hazen

Acting Area Director Denver Area Office  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration



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Chad Vivian

Area Director Englewood Area Office  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration