Electrical Workers and AFL-CIO before being appointed Director of Labor by Governor Bill Clinton in 1991. He went on to be reappointed director by Governor Jim Guy Tucker, Governor Mike Huckabee, and Governor Beebe for whom he still serves today. Mr. Salkeld is the first director to serve four governors, the first director to serve governors of different political parties, and the longest serving director in the history of the Arkansas Department of Labor.

It was through his career with the Department of Labor that the AGC formed a long and valuable association with Mr. Salkeld. His longevity, ability to work with all interests, and specifically the entire construction industry, clearly defined his relationship with the AGC.

The AGC is a voluntary trade association of commercial general contracting firms (highway, building and utility) specialty contractors and supply and service firms. For more information on AGC, visit their website at www.agcar.net.

AGENCY DIRECTOR
JAMES SALKELD HONORED WITH AGC AWARD

On November 3, the Arkansas Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America, Inc. recognized Director of Labor James L. Salkeld with the SIR Award. The SIR – Skill, Integrity and Responsibility – Award is presented to an individual whose leadership and activities have enhanced the construction industry. It is the highest honor that the Arkansas Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America can bestow upon a person outside of the association. The award may be presented annually, but it rarely is and was last presented in 2001. Past recipients include such distinguished people as Governor Bill Clinton, Senator Dale Bumpers, and Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt.

Mr. Salkeld held a number of high ranking positions within the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and AFL-CIO before being appointed Director of Labor by Governor Bill Clinton in 1991. He went on to be reappointed director by Governor Jim Guy Tucker, Governor Mike Huckabee, and Governor Beebe for whom he still serves today. Mr. Salkeld is the first director to serve four governors, the first director to serve governors of different political parties, and the longest serving director in the history of the Arkansas Department of Labor.

It was through his career with the Department of Labor that the AGC formed a long and valuable association with Mr. Salkeld. His longevity, ability to work with all interests, and specifically the entire construction industry, clearly defined his relationship with the AGC.

The AGC is a voluntary trade association of commercial general contracting firms (highway, building and utility) specialty contractors and supply and service firms. For more information on AGC, visit their website at www.agcar.net.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR 2011 ANNUAL REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE

Find out what we’ve been doing since July 1, 2010 and what we have to brag about. Check out our latest Annual Report on our website at www.arkansas.gov/labor or call Jeanette Donahue at 501-682-4537 to receive a hard copy in the mail.
The U.S. Department of Labor recently announced the winners of two contests for third-party developers to showcase innovative uses of the department’s data. The first-place winners of each challenge received $15,000. Second and third place winners as well as People’s Choice winners also received monetary prizes.

SymSoft Solutions in Sacramento, Calif., with its "Where are the jobs?" application, won the Occupational Employment Statistics challenge to help connect unemployed workers with promising careers. Their app allows users to interactively explore the Bureau of Labor Statistics salary and job statistics for various occupations at national, state and regional levels. They can choose an occupation and explore the job market for that occupation, or they can start with a state or region and explore the top occupations within it. Where are the Jobs? provides context for the user by highlighting the geographic area, plotting the information on a graph for easy comparison and allowing the users to sort either by number of jobs or by salary. The application also provides information about the top industries providing employment in a given occupation.

Rachel Moore in Alexandria, Va., won the "informAction app" challenge by using compliance data from the department’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Wage and Hour Division to empower worker and consumer choices about the hotel, motel, restaurant and retail industries with her "Eat Shop Sleep" mobile application. If you're looking for a popular restaurant nearby or a hotel without code violations to stay at, then Eat Sleep Shop is available to help you from your iPhone/iPad. You can search for places to eat, shop & sleep and then read customer reviews as well as health, safety & labor highlights as a consumer in the know.

To read more about the innovative developments entered in the contest, visit www.challenge.gov.

Q. Are there any regulations on how much weight a woman can lift?
A. No, there are no set regulations on how much a woman or a man can lift in Arkansas. However, there are recommended lifting limits proposed by several groups. One is from NIOSH (National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health) who offers a calculation that allows the user to figure lifting limits. It can be accessed at NIOSH’s website http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/94-110/.

OSHA also has information on lifting and handling at http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/ergonomics/resources.html. Other groups have also created lifting limits. Insurance companies and private ergonomic consultants may follow their own guidelines.

Q. Are there any OSHA regulations on drug testing of employees?
A. No. OSHA does not require drug testing of employees to detect the presence of illegal drugs. However, for some chemical exposures at high levels, OSHA requires blood, urine or lung testing. Examples of these chemicals are lead, asbestos, cadmium, arsenic, etc.

Employers in Arkansas can elect to conduct drug testing, but it is not required by OSHA. The Department of Transportation (DOT) does have drug testing requirements for certain vehicle drivers. The DOT can be reached at http://www.dot.gov/ost/dapc/labs.html?labs.

Q. I am a small employer. What can I do to insure I am in compliance with federal OSHA regulations without hiring a private consultant?
A. The Arkansas Department of Labor offers OSHA consultation services at no cost to employers. Requests for such services from small employers receive priority. Consultation services include worksite surveys to help employers recognize and correct safety and health hazards. Our consultants can work with employers to identify potential problems, as well as provide assistance in the development and implementation of proven, effective safety and health programs.

A number of training opportunities are offered by our agency, or our consultants can provide customized training developed for your specific needs. We also maintain a library of books, pamphlets, brochures, as well as films and videos, on occupational safety and health topics. These are also available at no cost. You may specifically want to request the "OSHA Handbook for Small Businesses". Visit our Safety Services page for more information.
Nationwide, there were 89 reported industrial fatalities in grain handling facilities between January 2000 and October 2009. The number one cause, claiming 40 workers, was grain engulfment, followed by 32 due to falls, 7 from explosions, and 10 from other causes.

At least 51 grain entrapments occurred in 2010, according to Purdue University’s Agricultural Safety & Health Program which has been documenting grain entrapment cases in the U.S. since 1978. The entrapments in 2010 were the highest number ever recorded, topping the previous record of 42 set in 1993. From the low point of 18 entrapments in 2001, these accidents have been increasing almost every year. (Grain entrapments include fatal engulfments and partial entrapments that required assistance to remove the victim.)

In 2010, the primary cause leading to the entrapment of most victims was identified as entering a bin to loosen crusted, spoiled or frozen grain while unloading equipment was running. In early 2011, Dr. David Michaels, Assistant Secretary for OSHA, sent a letter to all grain handling facilities warning them of the hazards of entering grain bins. In the letter, Dr. Michaels told employers about some recent OSHA citations and penalties levied on grain elevators that did not follow the laws. Below are some excerpts from the letter concerning bin entry:

**When workers enter storage bins, employers must (among other things):**

1. Turn off and lock out all powered equipment associated with the bin, including augers used to help move the grain, so that the grain is not being emptied or moving out or into the bin. Standing on moving grain is deadly; the grain can act like ‘quicksand’ and bury a worker in seconds. Moving grain out of a bin while a worker is in the bin creates a suction that can pull the workers into the grain in seconds.

2. Prohibit walking down grain and similar practices where an employee walks on grain to make it flow.

3. Provide all employees a body harness with a lifeline or a boatswain’s chair, and ensure that it is secured prior to the employee entering the bin.

4. Provide an observer stationed outside the bin or silo being entered by an employee. Ensure the observer is equipped to provide assistance and that their only task is to continuously track the employee in the bin. Prohibit workers from entry into bins or silos underneath a bridging condition, or where a build-up of grain products on the sides could fall and bury them.

5. Test the air within a bin or silo prior to entry for the presence of combustible and toxic gases, and to determine if there is sufficient oxygen.

6. Ensure a permit is issued for each instance a worker enters a bin or silo, certifying that the precautions listed above have been implemented.

Engulfment and suffocation cause the most fatalities in the grain industry, but they are not the only deadly hazards seen at grain handling facilities. This industry has several unique hazards and most of those are related to bulk grain.

**Handling** -- The dust generated from moving grain from one area to another is both a fire/explosion hazard and a respiratory hazard. The dust is combustible (explosive) and decomposing grain and the fumigants used to treat grain can be toxic to breathe.

**Storage** -- Entering bins without the proper training, equipment, lock-out, testing and supervision along with fall hazards inside and outside the bin remain the top two killers in the industry.

**Processing Machinery** -- Processing machinery is designed to grind, grab, move and cut and it does not know the difference between grain and flesh. This machinery can also get hot or produce sparks and cause a fire or explosion.

OSHA’s laws and regulations are in place because of the number of lost lives and other mishaps. If we can learn from other’s mistakes and follow the laws, perhaps we can work an entire lifetime without injuries or more workplace fatalities.
OSHA announced the top ten most frequently cited standards following inspections of worksites by federal OSHA during FY 2011. The Scaffolding and Fall Protection standards in Construction were the top two most cited, maintaining their positions from FY 2010. OSHA publicizes this list to alert employers about these frequently cited standards so they can take steps to find and fix recognized hazards addressed in them before a worker suffers a preventable injury, illness or death.

**OSHA’S 2011 TOP TEN Most Frequently Cited Violations**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Scaffolding (c)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Fall Protection (c)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Hazard communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Respiratory protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Lockout/tagout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Electrical: wiring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Powered industrial trucks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Ladders (c)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Electrical systems design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Machine guarding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) – Construction standard