

U.S. Department of Labor

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

40 Western Avenue, Room G26

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: (207) 626-9160 Fax: (207) 622-8213

<http://www.osha.gov>



March 4, 2015

Board of Directors  
Hope Elephants  
P.O. Box 2025  
Hope, Me 04847

Dear Board of Directors:

An inspection of Hope Elephants at 49 Hatchet Mt. Road, Hope, ME; conducted from September 9, 2014, to February 23, 2015, disclosed the following hazard:

- An individual routinely entered an animal enclosure unprotected from the risk of fatal crushing injuries caused by elephants.

Since no OSHA standard applies and it is not considered appropriate at this time to invoke Section 5(a)(1), the general duty clause of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, no citation will be issued for these hazards. Please note that similar circumstances may meet citation criteria at some future time. Pursuant to Section 21 of the Act, which authorizes OSHA to train employers and employees about workplace hazards and appropriate abatement methods, it is recommended that among other actions the following steps be taken to eliminate or reduce the hazard described above:

- Use protected contact when working with elephants.
- Develop and implement a policy which describes how you will ensure that elephant care providers are not present in the same unrestricted space as elephants, except in rare circumstances as detailed in the policy. In addition include worker training, enforcement provisions, the mechanism to determine rare exceptions to protected contact, a list of such exceptions and a requirement for periodic assessment of the policy.
- The Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) *Accreditation Standards and Related Policies, 2015 edition* incorporates *Standards for Elephant Management and Care, Approved March 2011, Revised April 2012*. Standard 1.4.9.2, "Barriers" effective September 1, 2014, stipulates that institutions have adequate infrastructure to manage and care for elephants with barriers and/or restraints in place to increase employee safety.

My office has been informed that you no longer have elephants at the facility. Should elephants be brought back to this facility or any other owned or managed by your company please notify us of your progress towards protecting workers from this hazard.

If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact me at 207-626-9160.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maryann Medeiros", with a decorative flourish at the end.

Maryann Medeiros  
Area Director