

Executive Safety Update

The Monthly News Bulletin of the Construction Safety Center

Vol. 17, Issue 3 – September 2009

U.S. Labor Department's OSHA introduces New York area community and faith-based leaders to new construction safety resource

TARRYTOWN, N.Y. -- The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) today introduced a new construction safety training resource for Spanish-speaking construction workers to community and faith-based leaders from the Hudson Valley, New York City and Long Island in a presentation held at OSHA's Tarrytown Area Office.

"Knowledge of construction hazards and safeguards can prevent injuries and save lives," said Diana Cortez, OSHA's regional Hispanic coordinator in New York. "The challenge is to deliver that knowledge to vulnerable and hard-to-reach workers and to do so in a form that they understand and from a source they know and trust. Community and faith-based organizations are a vital link in reaching these workers."

Cortez and a representative from the Construction Safety Council presented Focus 4 Hazards, a bilingual training kit that summarizes, in a clear, concise and easy-to-understand manner, the four major construction hazards and the steps workers can take to recognize, avoid and eliminate those hazards.

Community and faith-based organizations can use the kit to educate their constituencies and themselves on the recognition and avoidance of safety and health hazards associated with construction work.

"Effective safety and health management depends on workers being able to understand job-related hazards and the means to prevent and eliminate those hazards," said Robert Kulick, OSHA's regional administrator in New York. "Tools such as this are designed to bridge the language gap so that Spanish and other non-English-speaking workers can safeguard themselves and their fellow workers."

Focus 4 Hazards was developed by the Construction Safety Council under an OSHA Susan Harwood Training Grant and is available in English, Spanish and Polish. More information is available at http://www.buildsafe.org/Focus_4.html.

Today's presentation was one of a series of events OSHA is participating in between Aug. 31 and Sept. 4 as part of the first U.S.-Mexico National Labor Rights Week. The week is designed to heighten awareness of labor rights for non-English proficient and immigrant workers, including their right to safe and healthful workplaces.

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MARK YOUR CALANDER!

20th Annual Construction Safety and Health Conference and EXPO

February 16-18, 2010
Donald E Stephens Center
Rosemont, IL

[Click here for more info](#)

Executive Safety Update

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Secretary Sebelius Announces New Director of CDC's National Institute

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the selection of John Howard, M.D., as the new director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), effective immediately. Dr. Howard will assume a dual role. In addition to being the director of NIOSH, he will also serve as the World Trade Center Programs coordinator for HHS.

Dr. Howard, who is currently a distinguished consultant at the CDC, served as NIOSH director from 2002 through 2008. He also served as coordinator of HHS' World Trade Center Health Programs from 2006 to 2008.

"Dr. Howard brings a wealth of administrative experience from his service in both state and federal governments and a long history of personal dedication and professional achievement to the field of occupational health and safety," Secretary Sebelius said. "His leadership will serve NIOSH well in a time of unprecedented challenges and opportunities."

In 2002, HHS began to administer \$125 million that Congress set aside for screening and monitoring of more than 50,000 World Trade Center responders, recovery workers and volunteers, and recently expanded the program to include residents, students, and other non-emergency responders impacted by the 9/11 disaster. Howard was instrumental in the allocation and release of more than \$390 million dedicated to treatment and in working with the medical and scientific communities to develop a plan to help those who are or became ill from 9/11.

"All workers should be protected against all known job and workplace hazards," said Dr. Thomas Frieden, CDC director. "Dr. John Howard is one of the nation's leaders in occupational health and worker safety. He's worked with the scientists, medical professionals, and workers to effectively lead investigations into new and potential health hazards, and to address workplace health and safety concerns. Importantly, he brings to this position the dedication and passion needed to achieve the safest workplaces possible."

Dr. Howard is board-certified in internal medicine, legal medicine, and occupational medicine. He is also admitted to the practice of medicine and law in the state of California and in the District of Columbia, and he is a member of the U.S. Supreme Court bar. He has written numerous articles on occupational health, law, and policy, and serves as a professorial lecturer in environmental and occupational health in the School of Public Health and Health Services at The George Washington University.

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Dr. Howard received a doctor of medicine degree from the Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola University of Chicago in 1974, a master of public health degree from the Harvard University School of Public Health in 1982, a doctor of laws from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1986, and a master of laws degree in administrative law and economic regulation from George Washington University in 1987.

NIOSH is the part of the CDC that conducts scientific research and makes recommendations for preventing work-related illnesses and injuries. NIOSH is headquartered in Washington, D.C. and has facilities in Atlanta, Ga.; Morgantown, W.Va.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Spokane, Wash.; Denver, Colo., and Anchorage, Alaska.

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Construction Safety Council Announces 20th year for Annual Construction Safety Conference & Expo!

February 16 - 18, 2010

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center - Rosemont, Illinois

CHICAGO – The Construction Safety Council announced today that it will be hosting its 20th Annual Construction Safety Conference next February. The conference will be held on February 16 & 17, 2010 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center with the professional development seminars to be held at the Safety Council offices in Hillside, IL on February 18. This is the largest construction-specific safety conference held in the US.

Over 60 sessions will be offered throughout the three days. There will be some old favorites, such as sessions on fall protection, power line safety and workers' compensation issues. Additionally, sessions on electrical safety, industrial hygiene issues and workzone safety will be presented to give a full range of sessions to choose from! In addition, over 80 exhibitors will be on hand to demonstrate the latest innovations in safety and health products and services. The exhibits will be open the first two days of the conference (February 16 & 17).

The conference will bring together a diverse audience, including construction owners/users, contractors, researchers, government officials, safety and health professionals, unions, and workers to share information and ideas about effective safety and health interventions and how to move best practices from inception to practical implementation.

The conference kicks off on Tuesday, February 16 at 7:30 am. The cost of the conference is \$245 for one day or \$395 for the first two days, \$295 for the professional development seminars on February 18, or \$595 for all three days. The conference is a terrific value - these prices include registration materials, continental breakfast, lunch, entrance to Safety Expo '10 for two days, and more!

More information will be available on our website at www.buildsafe.org soon. Full conference agendas will be available late fall. If you would like more information, please contact us at 800-552-7744.

Up Coming Classes

September 8 – 9
OSHA 10 Hour

September 8 – 11
OSHA 5600 Disaster Site
Worker Train the Trainer

September 14 – 18
OSHA 500 OSHA Standards in
Construction Trainer Course

September 21 – 24
OSHA 3110 Fall Arrest
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ASA Chicago to Host “Meet the GC’s Night” October 6, 2009

Des Plaines, IL (August 25, 2009) --- Meet the GC Night has fast become one of the most popular events for ASA Chicago. With over 550 guests in attendance last year, the association is gearing up for what is expected to be an even larger attendance at their annual Meet the GC’s Night on October 6, 2009.

While the most apparent draw of the evening is networking, it’s also a unique opportunity for subcontractors and general contractors to meet face-to-face, in one night, in one location. The association is expecting over 30 of its General Contractors Council firms to attend which includes some of the largest contracting companies in Chicago.

Mike Hancock of Divane Bros. Electric and ASA Chicago Vice-President said, “Meet the GC Night is a great opportunity to make lots of contacts in a single evening. The benefits of being a member in an active organization like ASA Chicago are shown by the record attendance.”

The event is setup in the format of a trade-show environment where each General Contractor will have their own table in which to promote their business, their completed and upcoming projects and meet one-on-one with attendees.

Said Membership Manager Ginny McFarland, “The recovery is going to happen and it’s just a matter of time for the construction industry to rebound. If I was a small business owner in construction, I would be shaking hands with the people bidding and awarding the work at an ASA Chicago event such as Meet the GC’s Night. ”

ASA Chicago President Kay Anagnos of Anagnos Doors and Windows carries on the same sentiments, “I thought Meet the GC Night was a fantastic evening. One of the many benefits that ASA Chicago provides its members is opportunities for them to generate more business, which is critical in this tough construction environment.” Anagnos continued by saying that the relationships she has formed as a result of such an event have helped her build business. “I have had the opportunity to collaborate with other trades on jobs and use services for my own business, in addition to working with the GC’s. Last year was great to just see a lot of the other subs and friends that I have worked with over the years.”

The 2009 Meet the GC Night will be held at Venuti’s Ristorante & Banquets in Addison on Tuesday, October 6 beginning with a buffet at 6:30 pm and cocktails at 4:30 pm.

Featured Training Products

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29 CFR 1926 OSHA Construction Industry Regulations

29 CFR 1910 OSHA General Industry Regulation

Construction Spanish Pocket Book

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ASA Chicago would like you to come and establish new contacts and network with other trades, all in one night – all in one place! Registration is open to both ASA Chicago members and non-members who will have the opportunity to meet with estimators, project managers, and executives. The event is only \$65 per ASA Chicago member which includes open bar and dinner. The non-member rate is \$115. For more information, visit the asachicago.org website or call 847-827-8336.

The *Association of Subcontractors & Affiliates (ASA Chicago)* was founded in Chicago in 1967 and is an independent, nonprofit trade association representing the subcontracting industry and its affiliates. Servicing over 400 union and non-union subcontractor members, trade suppliers and servicers, the group is one of the largest trade associations in the Chicagoland area addressing the business initiatives of the subcontractor. *ASA Chicago* is devoted to providing its members not only education, networking, social and business opportunities, but also government advocacy affecting all subcontractors at the state and local levels, and is also a member of the National Subcontractor Alliance. The association publishes three member publications, most notably its quarterly magazine, *Construction Connection*. For more information about *ASA Chicago*, its membership, events and more, visit the website at asachicago.org or at 847-827-8336.

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Federal Guidelines Encourage Employers to Plan Now for Upcoming Influenza Season

Recommendations Range from Encouraging Hand Washing to Allowing Some Employees to Stay Home

Department of Commerce (DOC) Secretary Gary Locke, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, and Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano today announced new guidance for businesses to plan for and respond to the upcoming flu season.

The guidance, released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is designed to help employers prepare now for the impact that seasonal and 2009 H1N1 influenza could have this fall and winter on their employees and operations.

Employers' plans should address such points as encouraging employees with flu-like symptoms or illness to stay home, operating with reduced staffing, and possibly having employees who are at higher risk of serious medical complications from infection work from home, according to the CDC guidance.

It is not known whether the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus will cause more illness or more severe illness in the coming months, but the CDC recommends that everyone be prepared for influenza. Because seasonal and 2009 H1N1 influenza pose serious health threats, employers should work with employees to develop and implement plans that can reduce the spread of flu, and to encourage seasonal flu vaccination as well as H1N1 vaccination when that vaccine becomes available.

Secretary Locke suggested businesses set the right tone in the workplace. That means implementing common sense measures to reduce the risk of spreading the flu and encouraging workers who are sick to stay home.

"The President has mobilized the federal government to get America prepared," DOC Secretary Locke said. "But government can't do it alone. For this effort to be successful, we need the business community to do its part." Making the right decisions will not only improve public health, it also has the potential to protect economic productivity: Employees who are sick and stay home will not spread the flu in the workplace.

"This new guidance will help our private sector partners continue to prepare for the upcoming flu season to keep our economy functioning and our critical infrastructure secure," said DHS Secretary Napolitano. "Ensuring business continuity is important to our cooperative efforts to keep Americans safe."



Focus 4: A Grassroots Approach 2007 - 2009

English – Spanish
English - Polish

Free Training provided through
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Council with funding from
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There are many actions that can be taken to help reduce the spread of flu. The guidance notes the importance of using these actions, including regular and frequent hand washing and routine cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

"One of the most important things that employers can do is to make sure their human resources and leave policies are flexible and follow public health guidance," said HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. "If employees are sick, they need to be encouraged to stay home. If people begin to experience flu-like symptoms at work, they should be sent home and possibly encouraged to seek medical treatment."

Employers should review sick leave policies and ensure employees understand them, according to the guidance. Employers should try to make sick leave policies flexible for workers who may have to stay home with ill family members or if a child's school is closed, the CDC says.

Employers should consider offering vaccine against seasonal flu, and encourage employees to be vaccinated against seasonal and H1N1 flu, the guidance says.

Employers also might cancel non-essential face-to-face meetings and travel, and space employees farther apart, the report says. And employees who are at higher risk for flu complications might be allowed to work from home or stay home if the flu is severe, it says.

"Keeping our nation's workers safe is a top priority," said Deputy Secretary of Labor Seth Harris, who participated in the announcement. "Faced with a renewed H1N1 challenge during the coming flu season, we are developing tools that will help ensure America's workers stay healthy and our businesses remain viable."

For more information, visit www.flu.gov.