



SAFETY UPDATE



May 2012

BCANJ and AGC of NJ to Present Annual Safety Awards

At a luncheon on Tuesday, June 19, 2012, BCANJ and AGC of New Jersey will jointly host the Annual Safety Awards presentation at The Westwood in Garwood.

The luncheon, which starts at 12 Noon, is also the June Membership Meeting, recognition of BCANJ's Presidents' Scholarship recipients and recognition of Floor Covering Institute of New Jersey Scholarship recipients. All BCANJ, AGC of NJ and FCINJ members are invited to attend. *For reservations, please call the Association office.*

Eight BCAAC Members Receive Safety Awards

On May 17, 2012, these eight BCA of Atlantic County members received awards at the 17th Annual Safety Awards Program hosted jointly by BCA of Atlantic County and BCA of South Jersey:

BFC, Ltd.
BRB Ceramic Tile, Marble & Stone, Inc.
Calvi Electric Company
Coastline Corporation
M.B. Markland Contracting Co.
Masset Building Co.
Network Construction Co., Inc.
Stanker & Galetto, Inc.

The awards were presented at a dinner at Venice Plaza in Berlin, given in recognition of exemplary safety records in several categories, including Zero Lost Workdays and No Incidents Under/Over 50,000 Hours.

Student Interns Complete May OSHA 30-Hour Certification

A total of 18 participants successfully completed their OSHA 30-Hour Construction Health & Safety certification at a class hosted by BCANJ in May, including the 10 student interns who are part of BCANJ's Student Summer Work Program.

BCANJ has no plans to host another OSHA 30-Hour class this year. However, should members have employees who are interested in achieving OSHA 30-Hour certification, please contact the Association office by phone at 732.225.2265 or email jschiff@bcanj.com.

Cranes in NYC: Owner Acquitted, New Regs Adopted

In late April, the crane owner charged with manslaughter, homicide and reckless endangerment in the deaths of two workers who were killed in a tower crane collapse at a Manhattan jobsite was acquitted of all charges. It was the third high-profile case in New York City in which prosecutors tried and failed to hold contractors criminally

responsible for jobsite fatalities.

But, as we told you in the April Government Affairs Report, another fatality in April involving a crane led the New York City Building Dept. to adopt tougher regulations for crane operators. For details on the new NYC regulations, access the Report with the April Update on the “Members Only” section of the BCANJ website.

Safety Briefs...

Fall Prevention. OSHA has launched a nationwide outreach campaign via a “Stop Falls” webpage to raise awareness among workers and employers about how to prevent falls from ladders, scaffolds and roofs. Falls still rank as the number-one cause of death on the construction jobsite, responsible for about a third of the fatalities. The webpage details a three-pronged approach—Plan, Provide, Train—to help visitors to the site understand that fall fatalities are preventable with education and awareness. Visit the page at www.osha.gov/stopfalls.

OSHA Looks at NJ. On May 21, 2012, OSHA issued a special call to New Jersey construction companies to protect employees against falls. As they investigate four recent accidents involving falls in the state, OSHA wants employers to ensure that employees working above six feet have the proper fall-protection equipment.

Safety Inspections Help Profits. A 10-year study of California worksites found OSHA inspections helped companies reduce injury claims by 9.4% and save an average of 26% on workers’ compensation costs in the four years following inspection.

Seeking Comment. OSHA has issued a Request for Information seeking comments on how to prevent injuries and deaths from reinforcing concrete activities in construction and from vehicles and equipment backing into workers in construction and other fields. Comments may be submitted until June 27, 2012, to www.regulations.gov.

New Anti-Drug Coalition. AGC of America has joined with four other industry groups to form the Construction Coalition for a Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace (CCDAFW). The mission: ensure sober, focused and safer workers on jobsites.

Audit Reveals Lengthy Process for OSHA to Adopt Rules

OSHA takes nearly eight years to adopt new safety regulations, according to a report from the Government Accounting Office released in April. The approval process averages 50% longer than the EPA’s, and at least twice as long as the DOT’s.

Of the OSHA rules approved since 1981, 25% took more than a decade each to complete, and some were delayed nearly 20 years. The construction scaffolding standard, for example, took 19 years. And OSHA began studying the dangers of exposure to silica dust on the jobsite in 1974, when the agency was just a fledgling organization, but has not published a regulation. In the 1980s and ’90s, OSHA issued 47 new safety rules, but only 11 in the past 12 years.

Construction Safety Courses

As we told you in Bulletins #48-12 and #52-12, the training centers affiliated with the general construction trades offer the OSHA 30-Hour, First Aid/CPR, HazMat and other programs on a regular basis for their members. BCANJ members may register their active union employees for these courses. Access the bulletins to contact those centers for schedules or BCANJ for registration information.

For information on safety issues, regulations and training, contact BCANJ at 732.225.2265.