

# Strong Starts = Safe Starts

**JOHN E. SCHUMACHER, CSP**

*Safety Director, Assurance Safety Consulting*

Time is ticking and time is money. However, before any crew begins to work it is essential that they complete a safety evaluation which could prevent serious injury to crew members.

In many cases, crews set up the work and start measuring, cutting and installing without considering some of the obvious hazards on the job site. The majority of accidents and injuries are due to obvious hazards that were in plain view at the beginning of a job.

There are three main hazard areas that crews should consider prior to beginning any project:

### MULTI-EMPLOYER WORK SITES

Many jobs will have other trades working in the immediate area which can create hazards for your crew and put other workers at risk from your operations. It is important that your crew considers what other operations are in progress in their work area and what additional hazards that may be present.

### FALL PROTECTION

Falls are the leading cause of death to the American construction worker, thus, it is important for crews to pay special attention by following these guidelines:

- *Safe access to the work area:* Stairs need to have hand

railings installed if there are 4 or more risers. Metal plan stairs must not be used if they are not filled in. Landing areas at the top of stairway must be equipped with safety railings.

- *Floor and Wall Openings:* If a wall opening is larger than 18" x 30", it requires a railing. Railings should be installed with a top rail at 42", mid rail at 21" and a 4" toe board. Floor holes must be covered to prevent employees from falling into them. Floor hole covers must be marked as a floor hole, strong enough to support the load and secured in place.
- *Personal Fall Arrest Equipment:* If an employee must accept a crane load on an upper floor of a building, they will likely need to wear a safety harness as fall protection. The crew will need to anticipate this hazard and have the proper equipment available on the job.

### TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

A crew should determine if the proper tools and equipment are available to complete the job safely by evaluating:

- *Ladders:* All employees should know that ladders must be in good condition and that the top two rungs of a step ladder are off limits. The crew should evaluate if they have the right ladders to do the work safely.
- *Fire Extinguisher:* A properly functioning fire extinguisher must be within close reach when sweating pipes or doing other "hot" work.

**please see Safety, page 16**

**OGLETREE DEAKINS**  
Attorneys at Law  
Construction Industry Group

---

LIFTING SERVICE TO NEW LEVELS

Two First National Plaza, 25th Floor • Chicago, Illinois 60603  
P: 312.558.1220 • F: 312.807.3619 • www.ogletreedeakins.com

**JAMES, SCHAEFFER & SCHIMMING INC.**  
A Division of PLCS Corporation  
"Construction Surveyors"

**PLCS**

2300 N. Barrington Road, Suite 140  
Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60169  
847-885-3322 FAX 847-885-0770  
e-mail: info@plcs-survey.com

PROFESSIONAL LAND & CONSTRUCTION SURVEYORS

# THE BUILDER

## Milestones, from page 15

Road and Franklin Boulevard. This facility is comprised of two speculative industrial buildings totaling over 359,000 square feet.

McShane and Heitman Architects, inc. are providing design/build construction services for both the speculative and build-to-suit facilities totaling over 950,000 square feet of concurrent construction with an estimated completion date summer of 2007.

Mike Mann joined Assurance Agency, Ltd. as Executive Vice President in December. He is responsible for managing and directing one of Assurance's property and casualty production teams.

Before joining Assurance, Mann was the Regional Marketing Officer for Willis North America's Central Region. He graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in Political Science in 1986.

BryceDowney, LLC recently welcomed Justin L. Weisberg and Tina M. Paries to its practice in the area of construction law. Weisberg graduated from the University of Illinois in 1987 with a Civil/Structural Engineering degree and graduated from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1992. He was named an Illinois Super Lawyer in the area of Construction Litigation in 2006. Paries, who lists construction law among her practice areas, graduated from Northern Illinois University in 1991

Contact Andy Cole  
With Your Projects,  
Promotions Or  
Other News For The  
Member Milestones  
847.318.8585  
acole@bldrs.org

## Provisions, from page 4

rather than make them part of the same contract clause. In addition, parties should consider wording the "duty to defend" provision in general terms, such that the duty is triggered when there is potential liability arising from the construction project rather than by virtue of the indemnification obligation.

It is generally good practice to include indemnity and "duty to defend" language in construction contracts. If drafted correctly, these clauses serve to allocate risk and help parties deal with problems more efficiently. You should consult with your attorney when negotiating a contract, to tailor the agreement to your specific needs, and help you avoid any potential pitfalls in the process.

Joel J. Rhiner and Arnoldo B. Concepcion are attorneys at Stein, Ray & Harris, located at 222 W. Adams Street, Suite 1800, Chicago, IL 60606. For more information, call 312.641.3700 or email them at jr@steinrayharris.com or abc@steinrayharris.com.

## Safety, from page 10

- projects have regular overhead hazards and potential eye injuries, safety glasses and hard hats should be in use by all crews. Use of a respirator may also be needed if primer/glue is used in an area without good ventilation.
- Other: Working in a multiple story building, the crew leader should determine safe exits from the building and establish a meeting area for the crew in the event of an emergency.

By taking the time to do a hazard assessment of each job, crews may identify hazards and take corrective action and prevent a tragic injury.

# The Builder

The Builder is published periodically by the Builders Association, a trade association of commercial, industrial and institutional contractors and affiliated industry firms dedicated to quality construction in the Chicagoland area.

### 2007 Board of Directors Chairman

Paul Hellermann  
Bulley & Andrews

Vice Chairman  
J. David Pepper  
Pepper Companies

Treasurer  
John Russell  
W.E. O'Neil Construction Co.

John Benz  
William J. Scoun Building Company

George Ferrell  
Henry Bros. Co.

Leon LaJeunesse  
Custom Contracting, Ltd.

John O'Malley  
Case Foundation Company

Howard Strong  
George Sollitt Construction Co.

Sheri Tantara  
McShane Construction Corp.

Dana Thorne  
Thorne Associates

Lynn Treat  
Ryan Companies US, Inc.

The Builder Staff  
Andy Cole  
Editor, Advertising Sales

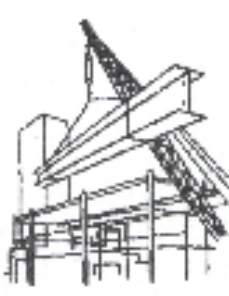
Katie Sells  
Communications Intern

Builders Association  
9550 W. Higgins Rd., Suite 380  
Rosemont, IL 60018  
(847) 318-8585  
www.bldrs.org



Representing the Associated General  
Contractors of America in the  
Chicagoland metropolitan area.

**S.G. Krauss Co.**  
Commercial \* Industrial \* Institutional  
Fabrication & Erection \* Structural Steel \* Steel Joists  
Metal Deck \* Ornamental Iron  
847-290-0988  
Fax: 847-290-0987



220 Stanley St. Elk Grove Village, IL 60007 \* www.sgkrauss.com