

The Builder

A Builders Association Publication



New Year, New Contracts

Filling Out Survey Can Help Builders Association Get Ready For Busy Negotiation Season In 2010

As the 2010 calendars grace the walls of your offices, Builders Association Director of Labor Denise Herdrich has one date she'd like you to circle right away.

Contracts for the following unions expire May 31:

- Bricklayers District Council Local 1
- Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters
- Cement Mason Locals 502, 803 and 11
- Laborers District Council
- Operating Engineers Local 150
- Technical Engineers Local 130

The expiration of these contracts combined with financial constraints placed on the industry by the current economic conditions make preparing for negotiations more

important than ever.

If you are signatory to these collective bargained contracts, please fill out and return the survey emailed to your company in *The Builder Blast* weekly email as soon as possible, or contact Denise at 847-318-8585.

Be sure to review the contracts to which you are currently signatory and make suggestions for negotiations this time around. State any specific issue you may have with regard to jurisdictional disputes, unfunded liability, wages, contract language, subcontracting clauses, work rules and any other issue.

Help us help you by helping us hone our focus for this summer's coming crucial negotiations. Contact the Builders Association for more information or another copy of the survey.

Also In This Issue...

*Underfunded Pensions Spell
Trouble For Contractors*
Page 14

*What Now?: Chicago's Bid For 2016
Olympic Games Falls Short*
Pages 4



AGC: Reform Bill Unhealthy

Late Holiday Senate Wrangling Proves Catastrophic For Some Contractors; AGC Urges Members To Take Action

Christmas Eve brought a not-so-nice surprise to a construction industry that's already been disproportionately affected by the current economic conditions.

The United States Senate voted 60-39 to pass a health care package that has dominated the debate floor since being passed by the House of Representatives in November. The AGC of America has used its legislative resources to oppose this particular version of health care reform due to the complexity of the plan, cost shifting rather than cost reductions and the strong likelihood that implementation of the plan will increase costs for those who already have and provide insurance.

In an effort to round up more support, legislators singled out the construction industry in an amendment to the bill. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada included an amendment drafted originally by Freshman Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley that would exempt a single industry, construction, from the small business exemption that was included in the bill.

Recognizing the complexity and costs associated with the mandates in the bill, all businesses that employ less than 50 employees were exempted from the employer mandate. In a move that defies logic, employers in the construction industry were singled out to be required to comply with the mandate once they have five employees or their payroll reaches \$250,000.

The AGC was quick to point out that the new package contained concessions to win the votes of hold-out Senators. Many senators did not know what was included in the final package and were in fact surprised to hear that the construction industry was singled out when told by the AGC.

"Unconcerned that construction has endured more pain than any other sector, supporters of the Senate health care bill



AGC of America CEO Stephen Sandherr (left), pictured here with Builders Association President Al Leitschuh, had scathing words for the United States Senate through AGC press releases after Christmas Eve legislative wrangling resulted in an amendment to the health care bill that singles out small contractors.

"If Washington was looking for a way to push more construction workers into unemployment lines (this amendment) does just that."

**-Stephen Sandherr, CEO
AGC of America**

appear poised to exclude the industry from thoughtful measures designed to protect small businesses," said Stephen Sandherr, Chief Executive Officer of the AGC of America, through a press release. "It is impossible to understand the wisdom of singling out small, mostly family-owned construction firms even though the vast majority of them already provide comprehensive health insurance.

"If Washington was looking for a way

to push more construction workers into unemployment lines, (this amendment) does just that."

According to the AGC's legislative personnel, Senate staffers claimed that the measure had been endorsed by 64 percent of the construction industry, based in part on a push for the amendment by the Campaign For Quality Construction. The five groups that the Campaign for Quality Construction claims to represent make up

For Small Construction Firms

only 3.3 percent of the nation's 811,452 construction firms, while construction and related unions supporting this measure represent under 16 percent of firms nationwide.

"This measure is a real insult to hard-working contractors and their employees, especially since the rationale for including the language is quickly crumbling," Sandherr stated. "Our members overwhelmingly oppose the Senate's decision to single out small firms for extra fees and fines. Sixty senators are going to have a lot of explaining to do with local employers when they go home for the Holidays."

As a quick recap of what exactly this bill would mean to construction companies if passed as written:

- All construction firms with more than five employees would face fines if they don't offer benefits that meet a Federally mandated minimum requirement
- Employers must cover 60 percent of the actuarial value of an employee's premium
- The employer can face penalties of \$750 per full-time employee if the coverage does not meet requirements



The Fight For Equitable Health Care Change Isn't Over

The bad news is that legislators in the United States Senate have singled out small construction companies to pay fines and penalties related to health care that small business in no other industry would be subject to. The good news is, with opposition to the current health care bill continuing to mount on the left and the right, the debate is far from over.

The bill is scheduled to go into conference with the House of Representatives in January, likely running through February, according to the AGC of America's legislative representatives. The AGC continues to let legislators know how it feels about the bill, but could use the help of your business in doing so. Visit the Advocacy section of AGC's website (www.agc.org) to find a form letter you can send to legislators to let them know how the health care bill as drafted would impact your business and the lives of your employees.

The Advocacy section also includes more information on the small business exemption and what not having that protection would mean to small firms.

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.

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Have a construction-related problem or question? You may find it helpful to speak directly to the individual who has primary responsibility for a particular area.

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Value City

Feb. 23 Project Manager Meeting Among Many Events Bringing Value To Membership In 2010

Innovative programs are one of the many ways in which the Builders Association brings value to its members.

Meetings on surviving the recession, making the most of opportunities in Building Information Modeling and the economics of a strong safety program dotted the calendar in 2009. Members heard national and local industry experts deliver insight on the topics impacting their businesses.

A number of similar events are planned for early in 2010. Recently added to the schedule is How To Mitigate And Manage Risk February 23 at the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Training Center in Elk Grove Village.

What can your project managers do to

improve how they manage the risk they see on the jobsite every day? **Mark Federle, PhD**, the McShane Chair in Construction Engineering and Management at Marquette University will present a seminar that will benefit project managers and executives from both General Contractors and Specialty Contractors.

- The program will cover
- Risk identification
- Risk allocation and transfer
- Surety and bonding
- Funding losses through insurance
- Importance of safety and health programs

Dr. Federle started his career as a foreman, superintendent and project manager for General Contractors in Indiana

and Michigan. He earned his Masters and PhD in Construction Engineering and Management at the University of Michigan before serving as a faculty member at both Iowa State and Marquette. Federle was the Chief Information Officer for TheWietz Company in Des Moines for nine years. He has served on national boards and committees for the AGC of America, Quest International Users Group and the American Society of Civil Engineers, and earned Rose-Hulman's Career Achievement Award in 2005.

For more information on this program or anything else the Builders Association is planning for 2010, please contact Director of Client Services Kristin Garcia at 847-318-8585 or kgarcia@bldrs.org.

Calendar Of Events

January 20, 2010
Chicagoland Construction
Safety Council, Hillside

**Safety Record
Keeping Seminar**

More at www.bldrs.org

January 28, 2010
Carpenters Training Facility
Elk Grove Village

BIM 101

Instructor: David Webster,
MasterGraphics

February 11, 2010
Chicagoland Construction
Safety Council, Hillside

**Contractor
Safety Forum**

Register at www.bldrs.org

February 23, 2010
Carpenters Training Facility
Elk Grove Village

**How To Mitigate
And Manage Risk**

Instructor: Mark Federle,
Marquette University

March 17-20, 2010
Orlando, Fla.

**AGC Annual
Convention**

More at www.agc.org

May 27, 2010
Doubletree Hotel, Oak Brook

**Spring
Meeting**

More at www.bldrs.org

New Members

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Keep It Simple

BY MELISSA JANKIEWICZ

Equipment theft is costly for the owner in more ways than one. The cost of a stolen piece of machinery includes the replacement and rental costs, insurance and paperwork costs, the costs to pay an idle crew and lost time on a project.

The Underground Construction Association (UCA) assembled a panel of experts in early November to talk construction equipment theft prevention to individuals across the industry. Representatives from The National Equipment Register (NER), Travelers Insurance Agency, Weible & Cahill Insurance Brokers and Celevoko, Inc., were on site to discuss the growing industry of construction equipment theft, and ways that owners can stunt it.

As in most types of theft, value is what prompts this particular theft, but an object's mobility is the next important factor considered. Theft studies have also shown that the most popular equipment on a jobsite is the most popular equipment among thieves. These components should guide owners in determining an object's risk and the proper security measures that should be taken in order to prevent heavy equipment theft.

Illinois is ranked no.9 in the United States in terms of construction equipment theft according to Stacy Kaufman, Director of Sales and Marketing for the National Equipment Register (NER). Kaufman indicated that the first, most basic means of protecting one's equipment is also the most crucial.

"It is a billion dollar a year business," Kaufman said. "It's extremely

beneficial to the owner to comprise a physical record of the makes, models and serial numbers of all types of construction equipment present on a job site at any given time. It comes in handy when reporting stolen equipment."

The NER is a theft recovery and risk management database designed to help recover lost or stolen construction equipment. While Kaufman attested to the success of the database in bringing law enforcement and insurance agencies to the table, she strongly suggested that owners layer their theft prevention methods to ensure maximum protection of their equipment, as there does not seem to be a singular solution to the problem.



When It Comes To Fighting Vehicle Theft In The Construction Industry, The Most Obvious Solutions Are The Right Ones

Forming relationships with the local police can both greatly decrease the chances of equipment theft and increase the likelihood of equipment recovery.

"Invite them in to use your jobsites for stops or for filling out paperwork," suggested Scott Cornell, Special Investigations Group Manager of Travelers Insurance. Cornell added that in familiarizing yourself with law enforcement, you not only let them know who you are, but are given the opportunity to familiarize them with your jobsite and construction equipment.

Cornell added that due to budget constraints and priority issues, local law enforcement officials may not be able to protect your jobsite equipment as well as they possibly can without significant owner involvement. Cornell rattled off a few easy theft prevention methods from which owners can benefit that may also help to reduce insurance costs: "Use a heavy, reflective chain to lock your jobsite at night so they can see it while driving on their beat at night. Write a letter to local law enforcement discerning the marks or color of your equipment. You can even arrange a meeting with them; Let them know you are serious about security."

Chuck Allen, CEO, of Celevoko, Inc., discussed technological theft prevention methods, such as the LoJack. Allen described a ruggedized version of the silent vehicular transmitter that has helped recover over 200,000 vehicles nationwide in which a GPS tracker is randomly and discreetly installed inside heavy-duty or off-road equipment.

The mechanism is then activated in the event that the machine is stolen, aiding law enforcement in tracking the equipment as closely as possible.

Another technological theft-stopper, HeistProof, was discussed by Builders Association Vice President Mike Schultze. HeistProof is a patented digital electric key/lock that is capable of controlling the equipment's starting system. The credit card-sized electronic key uses Radio Frequency Identification to allow only authorized users of a specific piece of machinery the ability to operate it.

Though the price tags are high on technological methods of theft prevention such as these, their success rates in detecting and recovering stolen equipment is equally as high. For instance, the activation of the LoJack Unit on a piece of equipment emits Radio Frequency Signals that can be picked up by local law enforcement once the theft is reported and can drastically speed up the recovery process. This also greatly lessens the amount of time that an owner is without their equipment, and more

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- **ILLINOIS IS THE 9TH STATE HIT HARDEST BY BY HEAVY EQUIPMENT THEFT**
- **HEAVY EQUIPMENT THEFT IS A \$1B DOLLAR A YEAR BUSINESS**
- **50% OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT THEFT IS INSIDE THEFT**
- **IF YOU THINK A DEAL ON A PIECE OF EQUIPMENT IS TOO GOOD, THEN IT PROBABLY IS**
- **THERE IS NO SINGLE SOLUTION**


importantly, the amount of time lost on a project.

Though the LoJack is not designed to deter thieves, Allen reiterated the importance of layers when maximizing jobsite security by visually deterring thieves from one's job site with fencing and or police patrol. "The less attractive your equipment looks, the less likely it is to get stolen," Allen said.

The selling of stolen equipment continues to help fuel theft nationwide. Kaufman recommends that owners perform a

background check on all potential equipment purchases through a website called IRONcheck which previews them to a machine's ownership trails and potential theft history. "If we can stop selling it, it will be less advantageous for people to steal it," said Kaufman

NER plans to host a summit in 2010 for law enforcement officials, insurers and owners to help increase heavy equipment theft awareness and prevention involvement.


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We're All Ears...

The Builders Association wants to hear your ideas for content that appears in this newsletter. While we can't guarantee that we'll print submitted pieces, we accept those, as well. For more information on The Builder or to submit a story or a story idea, contact Communications Manager Andy Cole at acole@bldrs.org.

A Way Out

Recession Recovery Common Thread In Annual Meeting Addresses

The nation's complex financial crisis and the current clog in the construction industry didn't occur for one reason and isn't likely to be solved with one solution. Those who missed the Builders Association's Annual Meeting December 3 at The Drake Hotel missed one of the AGC of America's heavy-hitters and Governor Pat Quinn talking about what they feel are the solutions to getting the industry back on track, in addition to what is yearly one of the best networking opportunities of the year in the Chicagoland construction industry.

Incoming AGC President Ted Aadland of Aaland Evans Constructors in Oregon discussed the AGC's Blueprint for Economic Growth. Nearly every statistical resource lists construction as the industry hardest hit by the recession in terms of lost jobs and lost work. The AGC's plan calls on legislators to implement a movement for a stronger national infrastructure, tax credits and other changes critical to reversing the downward spiral that began over a year ago. Aadland also impressed upon the audience of 150 industry firm representatives how important it was for members to get involved in AGC through committees and to use as the AGC's vast resources.

Governor Quinn stressed that he wanted to be the "building Governor" and outlined his vision of how contractors could play a role in the state's economic recovery.

A life dedicated to construction safety, a career spent educating the industry's future workforce and a company that has literally made its name on community involvement were honored with the Community Builder and Corporate Citizenship Awards. The Builders Association was proud to confer Community Builder Awards on Chicagoland Construction Safety Council Executive Director Tom Broderick and ACE Technical Charter High School Executive Director Geri Harston. Ujamaa Construction, Inc. was named the recipient of the Corporate Citizenship Award.

The Community Builder Award honors individuals whose vision and leadership have been crucial in helping the construction industry in Chicago move forward. Tom Broderick has been the Executive Director of the Safety Council since its inception in 1989. He has dedicated himself to safety as a construction worker, co-owner of a small construction company and as a safety professional. Broderick also the Director of the Annual Construction Safety Conference & Exposition in Rosemont, the largest educational gathering in the country focused solely on construction health and safety issues.

Geri Harston is helping to create a path to productive careers in the architecture, construction and engineering fields for minority and low-income youth. As ACE Tech's Executive Director, she oversees operations at a school where the mission is not only to educate students, but to prepare them for apprenticeships, post-



Those who stayed late to hear a delayed Governor Pat Quinn (left photo) heard an address that highlighted his vision for recovery, and what role the building industry could play in it. Members of the Builders Association's new Business Assistance Task Force pose for a picture. Jimmy Akintonde of Corporate Citizenship Award winner Ujamaa Construction, Inc. (center, right photo) is flanked by Steve Lenz of The George Sollitt Construction Company (left) and Ernest Brown of Brown & Momen, Inc.

Award History



Tom Broderick, Executive Director of the Chicagoland Construction Safety Council (center) accepts the Community Builder Award from Builders Association Chairman R. Lynn Treat (left) and President Al Leitschuh.

COMMUNITY BUILDER AWARD

2006

Mayor Richard M. Daley
Eddie Read, *United Services of Chicago*

2007

Senate President Emil Jones Jr.

2008

Martin Umlauf, *Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters*
Dr. Wayne Watson, *City Colleges of Chicago*

2009:

Tom Broderick, *Chicagoland Construction Safety Council*
Geri Harston, *ACE Technical Charter High School*

CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP AWARD

2008

Seyfarth Shaw, LLP

2009:

Ujamaa Construction, Inc.

secondary education and prolonged, successful careers in the building industry.

The Corporate Citizenship Award honors a Builders Association member firm for its philanthropic contributions and steadfast dedication to community service.

Ujamaa Construction's name is rooted in the Swahili word for the Tanzanian concept of people working together. You'd be hard pressed to find a company in the Chicago area that brings that concept to life more than Ujamaa, which in addition to continuing to be a dependable general contractor, has made community involvement a major part of its operational philosophy.

In existence since 2002, Ujamaa Construction, Inc. has been a major sponsor of several festivals in inner-city communities, such as the 79th Street Renaissance Festival, 21st Ward Summer Festival and the 17th Ward Christmas Toy Giveaway. Additionally, Ujamaa participates in the Chicago Public School Ground Hog Day Program, where students are matched with employers representing industries they want to be in and spend the day shadowing those employers. Ujamaa works with minority advocate groups to recruit minority-owned and women-owned businesses to participate in projects, and routinely exceeds City of Chicago standards for diversity and community residency.

A number of companies were recognized for milestone anniversaries with the Association, including:

- Brockob Construction Company (60 years)
- Bulley & Andrews, LLC (60 years)
- Independent Mechanical Industries (40 years)
- Schnabel Foundation Company (30 years)
- McShane Construction Company



(25 years)

- Bergen Construction Company (10 years)
- Falk PLI Engineering & Surveying, Inc. (10 years)
- Lorig Construction Company (10 years)

The Builders Association thanks McGraw-Hill Construction for serving as the Platinum Sponsor for this yearly event, which was also sponsored by:

- Chicago Area LECET (Gold Sponsor)
- Pepper Construction Company (Gold Sponsor)
- Bulley & Andrews, LLC (Silver Sponsor)
- DLZ Industrial Surveying (Silver Sponsor)
- The George Sollitt Construction Company (Silver Sponsor)
- GradeBeam (Silver Sponsor)
- International Union of Operating Engineers (Silver Sponsor)
- RSM McGladrey (Bronze Sponsor)



(Above) Clifton Gunderson, LLP's Jerry Brand and Dan Lombard of The Lombard Company. (Left) Bill Kroeger, Joe Koppers, Tim Puntillo and Dave Linden of Bulley & Andrews, LLC.



Bill O'Connell of Ryan Companies US, Inc. makes a point during the November Contractor Safety Forum at the Chicagoland Construction Safety Council. Topics included jobsite specific safety plans, regulations for scaffolding and how to prevent workers returning after a prolonged absence from injuring themselves.

Safety Pros Get Specific

Unique Plans For Each Job One Way To Avoid, Injuries, Emergencies

For safety professionals, asking to see a job site safety plan and being shown a generic form without the correct General Contractor's name on it isn't just an oversight or a minor inconvenience. A number of the attendees at a packed Contractor Safety Forum in November see situations like that as a small example of a much larger problem.

Job site-specific safety plans were the main focus of the Forum at the Chicagoland Construction Safety Council, where over 20 safety directors, project managers and other personnel also discussed city regulations, OSHA requirements and individuals heading back to work after prolonged breaks.

Respect for the project and respect for safety at the project manager level was listed as the most common trait of a job that had a strong, site-specific plan. As for the ones that weren't as strong...

"I've asked to see the safety plan, and been handed something that listed us as some other contractor because it was a plan from someplace else and nobody had bothered to change it," commented one contractor safety rep. "That's happened more times than I care to remember and the best thing you can do is just send it back and start over. The subcontractor on that job has to know what you expect from them."

There was also some concern as to the attention to detail of any contractor who didn't have site-specific plans. Among the comments: "It gets you thinking, 'if you're going to give me this garbage, then what does your real safety plan consist of?'"

Regional OSHA representatives who

Struck-Bys, Falls Remain Most Deadly

Representatives from OSHA's Region V handed out reports on 2009 workplace fatalities at November's Contractor Safety Forum. Eighty-seven work-related deaths occurred in Region V in the first 10 months of the year, including:

- 31 Struck-bys
- 24 Falls
- 15 Caught-between
- 7 Exposures
- 7 Electrocutions
- 2 Fire & Explosions
- 1 Other

The construction industry accounted for 32 percent of those deaths (28 fatalities) with the manufacturing industry next at 26 percent.

were present laid out what's expected of safety directors when developing plans for specific sites. Both OSHA reps and contractors extolled the virtues of a meeting with the General and Specialty Contractors before the job starts that outlines specific

safety and health hazards with the job at hand.

Builders Association Safety Committee Chairman Paul Flentge of Pepper Construction Company outlined the items he feels are necessary in a complete model safety plan:

1. Site logistics
2. Site specific emergency/rescue plan
3. Accident reporting procedures
4. Identification of competent/qualified persons
5. Construction means/methods review (structural analysis)
6. Safety inspections and requirements
7. Hazard analysis/risk mitigation
8. Housekeeping
9. Progressive disciplinary programs
10. Supplemental safety plans

The emergency and rescue aspect of site specific plans was a particular focus, as contractor reps discussed exact procedures when an accident, injury or emergency occurs, and OSHA representatives discussed what they expect in such situations.


The recession has produced an interesting problem regarding construction and safety. Some companies who have had to lay off workers have found themselves in position to rehire them after weeks or sometimes months off of work, but see those workers encountering physical issues or injuring themselves on the job right away.

A number of the attendees stated that, after a certain length of time off, a rehire is treated as a new employee, and goes through physical testing through a private company the way any other new employee would.

Any Builders Association member can get tough jobsite safety

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New, Improved ...And Digital

Beginning with the March 2010 issue, *The Builder* will convert to a completely online publication. The space dedicated to *The Builder* under the News & Events section of www.bldrs.org will soon include a full-color digital magazine, produced quarterly.

The magazine will be emailed to offices of Builders Association representatives. If you do not receive our weekly email *The Builder Blast* and would like to continue receiving this newsletter when it goes online in March, **please contact Communications Manager Andy Cole** and provide him with an email address.

As always, the Builders Association wants to hear your suggestions for content in our newsletter and other communications. If you're interested in writing a story or would like to see something on a particular topic, feel free to contact Andy at 847-318-8585 or acole@bldrs.org.



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The 'New' OSHA

Note: The following was originally printed as a One Minute Memo by Builders Association member Seyfarth Shaw LLP. For more information, feel free to contact Seyfarth Shaw's Construction Law department.

As David Michaels takes over as the new Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health what should employers expect?

The new head of OSHA has a long history in the safety and health field that is instructive. He has a Master of Public Health and has been working as a research professor at George Washington University School of Public Health and Safety. Consequently, he has technical expertise regarding health issues that include exposure to airborne chemicals and contaminants such as asbestos, lead, and volatile organic compounds.

EMPLOYERS SHOULD EXPECT INCREASED ENFORCEMENT FROM OSHA

As the head of OSHA, Mr. Michaels will report to Hilda Solis, the Secretary of Labor. In June 2009, Solis went on record stating that under her oversight OSHA was going to be "back in the enforcement business." In September 2009, Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, Jordan Barab, echoed these comments when he stated: "Under the new administration, OSHA is heading back to the original intent of the OSH Act. We're back in the enforcement business and we're back in the standards-writing business."

Based on our observations, OSHA has in fact become much more aggressive in issuing citations, increasing the characterization of the citations issued, and proposing higher penalties. Employers should expect the following under Mr. Michaels:

- OSHA will continue to be increasingly aggressive in its enforcement of OSHA standards
- Employers who are inspected should expect that OSHA inspectors will be looking to issue more citations including greater use of the general duty clause and that the citations that are issued are more likely to be characterized as serious, repeat, or willful
- OSHA will be more aggressive when using its enforcement tools. For example, employers with multiple locations and who are part of larger corporate families should expect that OSHA will attempt to use its Enhanced Enforcement Program to attempt to issue more significant citations and penalties
- OSHA's National and Local Emphasis Programs will be strictly enforced

Given Mr. Michaels's background, it would also not be



While safety issues such as wearing hard hats or being properly tied-off are always important on a jobsite, these and other items are about to become more important as OSHA looks to increase its enforcement under a new Assistant Secretary of Labor.

surprising if OSHA were to increase the number of inspections that involve industrial hygiene and health issues with the corresponding increase in the number of citations based on health standards. Health-based programs such as respiratory protection, chemical hazard communication, and bloodborne pathogens will likely be targeted.

There have also been indications that OSHA will increase its efforts to investigate and issue "ergonomics" citations and OSHA may attempt to promulgate an ergonomics standard. Correspondingly, it is expected that OSHA will decrease emphasis and funding for its cooperative compliance programs such as VPP.

EMPLOYER RESPONSE

Employers should refocus their efforts to ensure they are in compliance with OSHA standards before they are inspected. Internal and outside audits of OSHA compliance can be an effective way of measuring current performance and ensuring sustained compliance in the future. Management commitment to OSHA compliance, an effective and up-to-date safety and

health program, employee training, and that proper equipment is being provided and maintained are critical in this increased enforcement environment.

Employers should not only look to existing OSHA standards, but also consider industry standards and injury trends. Employers should also consider the role of safety committees as part of an overall compliance program and ensure that committee action or inaction is not increasing potential OSHA liabilities.

Given the number and complexity of OSHA standards that are applicable to most employers, prudent management demands a hard look at current compliance and most likely requires increased efforts to create an effective safety and health program that can withstand OSHA's new and aggressive enforcement push. Finally, employers should consider training management in how to effectively manage and handle an OSHA inspection.

Building Smarter, Building Better

AGC's BIM Education Series Begins With BIM 101 This Month

Implementing Building Information Modeling results in reduced costs, faster completions and better buildings. An increasing number of owners are seeing the benefits, indicating that contractors who get the basics now will see a decided advantage when seeking work in the next few years and beyond. The Builders Association believes strongly that BIM has the capability to streamline and improve the entire construction process.

AGC of America President J. Doug Pruitt stated at the 2009 Annual Convention that construction hasn't registered productivity growth since 1968. Adopting the technology and practices associated with BIM can help stem the tide of that trend by drastically

reducing the number of costly mistakes that occur when owners, contractors and design professionals aren't on the same page.

The AGC of America's BIMForum recently produced an 11-page document entitled MEP Spatial Coordination Requirements for Building Information Modeling, available to members for free at www.agc.org. This document creates a well-designed, organized, consistent and repeatable framework for spatial coordination of mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection systems.

As a leader in promoting this technology and new way of building, the AGC developed the BIM Education Program. The first course in this series is **BIM 101: An Introduction To Building Information Modeling**, which the Builders Association will host **Thursday, January 28** at the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Training Center in Elk Grove Village. The second unit, BIM Technology, will also be available through the Builders Association

early in 2010.

This full-day course, taught by David Webster of MasterGraphics, will give participants a comprehensive overview of BIM, supported by case studies to help participants comprehend each session's learning objectives. Sessions include:

- What Is BIM?
- BIM Visualization and Spatial Coordination
- BIM Scheduling, Estimating and Facility Management
- Getting Started With BIM

Attendees will hear more about how BIM is used in collaboration with other parties and what exactly makes it a more efficient way to build. Recognize the basics of spatial coordination and the modeling process, see what benefits and lessons other companies first implementing BIM have learned and identify the challenges you may face when adopting it.

For more information on attending or sponsoring this event, visit www.bldrs.org or contact Mike Schultze at 847-318-8585.



Dwight Larson of M.A. Mortenson Construction delivers a presentation during the Builders Association's last Building Information Modeling program, *The Business Side of BIM and IPD*, last February in Oak Brook. The AGC's BIM 101 course comes to Elk Grove Village later this month and other programs in that vein are on tap for later in 2010.

GreenTown Lake County Event Set

GreenTown Lake County, an all-day program slated for March 18 at the College of Lake County, is designed to explore strategies to create vibrant and sustainable communities.

Topics will include but not be limited to:

- Water conservation and quality
- Transportation
- Local, sustainable food & agriculture
- Farm to school
- Food residuals diversion & composting
- Landfill waste diversion
- Green jobs and economic development
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Registration information will be available soon on www.bldrs.org.

Member Milestones

The **George Sollitt Construction Company** is honored to be part of the team that was awarded the 2009 APA-IL "Implementation Award" for the Plainfield Illinois Lockport Streetscape project. This award winning project included the complete replacement of the road and sidewalk on Lockport Street between James Street and Illinois 59. This \$7.5 million dollar project was designed to replace an aging water main, water and sanitary sewer service laterals, reconfiguring of two-way traffic and the widening of sidewalks. The Streetscape includes Limestone, Brick Pavers, Colored Concrete, Granite along with Fiber Optic Accent lighting and new signage. Since the completion of the project, the Village reports a dramatic increase in downtown business, along with an increase in pedestrian traffic and attendance at Village festivals.



Plainfield's Lockport Street Complex, an award-winning project worked on by The George Sollitt Construction Company. Below at right, another award-winner, Clark Construction Group's 300 N. LaSalle.

McShane Construction Company brought home a pair of significant awards in the last two months of 2009. In November, McShane was named General Contractor of the Year by members of the Chicago Chapter of the Commercial Real Estate Development Association (NAIOP) - the third year in a row McShane has earned that distinction. McShane's nomination was based upon:

- Affinity Healthcare Building in Buffalo Grove
- Mori Seiki U.S.A., Inc. headquarters in Hoffman Estates
- Casa Morelos/Casa Maravilla affordable housing development in Chicago

McShane Construction Company also took home the 2009 Project of the Year Award in the Residential Construction category, awarded by the Construction Industry Service Corporation (CISCO) and its 2009 Pride In Construction Award Program. This award was won based on The Residences at The Grove, a luxury apartment and townhome rental community in Downers Grove.

The Builders Association was well represented at the Renaissance Chicago Hotel December 2, where Midwest Construction Magazine is handed out its Best of 2009 Awards for outstanding

projects completed in the last calendar year.

James McHugh Construction Company and **Bulley & Andrews, LLC** each had two projects among the 44 award-winners. McHugh won Project of the Year in the Retail category for the Wit Hotel and worked on another Project of the Year winner - Trump International Hotel & Towers - along with Case Foundation Company. Bulley & Andrews, LLC took home Awards of Merit for the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center and Muchin College Prep.

Other honorees included:

- **Berglund Construction Company** (Project of the Year-Government, Montgomery Village Hall)
- **Pepper Construction Company** (Project of the Year-K-12 Education, Henry Ford Academy: Power House High)
- **Clark Construction Company** (300 N. LaSalle)
- **The Lombard Company** (Fire Station No. 18)

BrillStreet and GFK Custom Research North America chose **Warady & Davis LLP** as one off the 50 Top Employers For



Generation Y in Chicago.

Rose Paving Company will host its 11th Facilities Maintenance Conference March 24 at Aramark in Downers Grove. The program is designed to bring facilities maintenance pros together to learn about the latest industry trends and developments through presentations given by Rose Paving staff members.

Membership Benefits

The Builders Association and the AGC of America offer a wide variety of discounts on products and services to benefit member companies. Products and services at member discounts can save your company money over the long haul.



- BP offers AGC members discounts on fuel purchases totaling up to six cents every gallon. To learn more about these benefits, visit www.agc.org/BPDiscount.

OfficeMax®

- OfficeMax offers discounted pricing on more than 12,000 items to AGC members, including free next-day delivery on most orders. Save on office supplies, equipment and furniture through the OfficeMax Partner Advantage Program.



- Simplify your management of pre-construction services using GradeBeam's web-based construction communication networks. Upload documents, use online bid invitation tools, manage subcontractor databases and more.



"Membership gives you the competitive advantage."



To find out more, contact Kristin Garcia at 847.318.8585 or visit www.bldrs.org



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