

The

Builder

BUILDING YOUR BUSINESS

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**COMING
ATTRACTIONS**

Oct. 10

*Builders Association
Fall Meeting*

Hilton Garden Inn O'Hare
2930 S. River Road
Des Plaines

Oct. 11

*Holland & Knight
Construction Law Seminar*
131 South Dearborn St.
30th Floor
Chicago

Oct. 17

*Construction Career
Opportunity Program
Interview Day*
Dawson Technical Institute
3901 S. State Street
Chicago



The interior of the recently completed Pediatric Unit of the Dupage Central Hospital, built by Frank H. Stowell & Sons, Inc. The company is one of the sixteen Builders Association companies involved in the OSHA partnership.

No Comparison

Builders Association's Safety Partnership With OSHA Is More Detailed, More Beneficial Than Others

In the 18 months it took to put together the original Builders Association/Occupational Safety & Health Administration Safety Partnership, the BA's Safety Committee was aware that they'd be asking an awful lot of its participants.

No other partnership or alliance with OSHA in this part of the country has levels to encourage participating companies to improve. The Builders Association Safety Committee was able to work directly with OSHA while creating the Partnership, and the end result was more incentive for the contractor to perform at a high level every year, in addition to more benefits from OSHA in terms of leeway for small irregularities during inspections.

The Builders Association agreement is negotiated between the Association and OSHA rather than being negotiated between an individual contractor and OSHA. The Partnership is comprehensive, which is something Builders Association Safety Director Denise Capasso and others had in mind from the beginning.

"I know part of the reason some other organizations haven't gone with a Partnership like ours is that they feel it puts too many demands or too much pressure on the contractor," Capasso said. "That was never something we were worried about. We've got a lot of companies with strong safety programs and we knew they'd not only meet those requirements, but keep improving."

"We felt like it ought to be a challenge to move to the different levels. It encourages those companies to take strong safety programs and make them even better."

As stated by the agreement, the Partnership's goals are to:

- Reduce workplace injuries and illnesses by 3 percent annually by developing a comprehensive safety and health management process approach
- Promote an exposure and hazard free construction worksite

please see Partnership, page 4

Partnership, from page 1

- Increase occupational safety and health training for construction workers

Incentives for a contractor from the OSHA Partnership increase as a company achieves Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. Typical partnerships do not include graduated levels and many are limited to regulating the amount of training a company's employees should receive. The Builders Association's Partnership with OSHA includes those training requirements with developing a safety and health program, holding weekly meetings and other requirements.

The Bronze level of the partnership requires that the contractor develop and implement a written safety and health program, that it conduct weekly employee safety meetings and that it conduct and document self-audits.

"It's not difficult to get started, and it provides encouragement to keep moving up the levels," Capasso said. "It allows those companies to challenge themselves."

Contractors seeking Silver status must meet the following requirements:

- Implement a comprehensive written safety and health program based on the ANSI A10.38-2000 Guidelines or OSHA's 1989 Safety and Health Program Management Guidelines
- Assign at least one trained employee or individual with responsibility for employee safety to administer the firm's safety and health program and to conduct documented safety inspections of ongoing work
- Conduct an orientation for all new employees in the safety and health program of the company, and show evidence of effective employee training for the avoidance of hazards specific to the contractor's worksite(s)
- Conduct weekly employee safety meetings
- Conduct and document self-audits as prescribed
- Show evidence of employee involvement in the safety and health program
- Develop and maintain a Substance Abuse Program
- Provide all field construction supervisory personnel with proper training
- Maintain an injury/illness rate 5% less than the rate published by the BLS

To become a Gold level member, a contractor must accomplish all of the tasks listed above, in addition to:

- Serve as a mentor for contractors on their projects who have yet to attain the same level of recognition within the partnership or establish an effective policy for dealing with non-complying subcontractors. The general contractor will document hazards with videos or still cameras and keep track of dates, times, names of exposed employees, what they did to get non-complying subcontractors to comply, and name(s) of management persons spoken to
- Ensure designated personnel at each site conduct documented safety inspections of the Gold participant's work
- Train all field construction supervisory personnel in the minimum safety requirements equal to the requirements of the OSHA 10-Hour Construction Course
- Implement a 6-foot fall protection policy
- Maintain an injury/illness rate 10% less than the rate published by the BLS
- Have no willful and repeated serious violations in the last

Partnership Participants

The following companies are signatory to the BA/OSHA Safety Partnership:

Airtite Contractors
 Bulley & Andrews, LLC
 Frank H. Stowell & Sons, Inc.
 Herlihy Mid-Continent Company
 Illinois Masonry Corporation
 Interior Alterations
 Joseph J. Duffy Company
 McShane Construction Corporation
 Pepper Construction Company
 Ryan Companies US, Inc.
 Sigalos & Associates, Ltd.
 Takao Nagai Associates, Ltd.
 The George Sollitt Construction Company
 Thorne Associates
 Valenti Builders, Inc.
 W.B. Olson

For more information or to become part of the BA/OSHA Partnership, contact Denise Capasso at 847.318.8585

three years, and no fatalities or catastrophes within the last three years that resulted in serious or willful citations

What Capasso calls "by far" the most comprehensive agreement of its kind available to Chicagoland contractors didn't come about by accident. It was a concerted effort by the Association's Safety Committee to both recognize BA members for their commitment to safety, and encourage them to maintain that high level of commitment. Were the BA/OSHA Partnership like most Partnerships, the levels would not exist, thus eliminating much of the incentive for the contractor.

"It helps that the OSHA knows you're a safety-conscious company," said Builders Association Chairman and Bulley & Andrews, LLC President & COO Paul Hellermann for a previous article.

"It earns respect. (OSHA) knows you're making an effort and that makes things with them go a lot smoother. I think we're a very pro-safety organization. This is just another example of that. We strive for excellence in safety and hold ourselves to pretty high standards."

The same could be said of the standards the Builders Association holds itself to, which is why the Partnership ended up different from other agreements. Capasso is confident any company joining the Safety Partnership won't regret it.

"It's an opportunity to show OSHA and customers how serious your company is about safety," she said. "It's also a chance to look at what some other companies serious about safety are doing and see what you can learn from them."

Capasso and the Safety Committee are always looking for new participants in the Partnership. If your company is not on the participants list on this page and you are proud of your safety program, contact Denise at 847.318.8585 to inquire about taking advantage of the Partnership.