

The

Builder

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In this issue...

Project Spotlight p2

Legal News p4

Member Milestones p5

Member Marketplace p5

AGC News p7

Guest Article: Fall Safety p10

**COMING
ATTRACTIONS**

Nov. 9

**Builders Association
Contractor Safety Forum**
Chicagoland Construction
Safety Council
Hillside, IL
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Nov. 7-9

**Construction Education
Institute: SFT 100**
OSHA 10-Hour Safety And
Health Course
Chicagoland Construction
Safety Council
Hillside, IL
5:45-9 p.m.

builders association
BUILDING YOUR BUSINESS

On The Safe Side

*Now In Its Fourth Year Of Encouraging Safety,
OSHA Partnership 20 Companies And Growing*

BY DENISE CAPASSO
Director of Labor and Safety

The Builders Association and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have been working together in a partnership since 2003. The two organizations share the common goal of promoting a safe and healthy work environment for employees engaged in Chicagoland construction activities.

The Builders Association/OSHA Partnership Program provides an avenue for the employer and employees to improve their safety and health management systems while **working with OSHA in a cooperative, non-adversarial way.** One main benefit of the Partnership is that it opens the communication lines between OSHA and participating members. **Most companies have a misunderstanding of OSHA, its role and enforcement policies. The Partnership helps correct this misunderstanding and encourages respect, trust and open lines of communication between members and OSHA.**

There are three levels to the Partnership: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Contractors who are accepted into these levels, will receive incentives from OSHA.

For a list of the companies participating in the partnership, see page 9.



McShane Construction Company employees work on the Hilton Garden Inn-O'Hare in Des Plaines, which opened in the summer of 2005. McShane is one of 20 Builders Association members enhancing the safety of its jobsites by taking part in the OSHA Partnership. Photo provided.

Easy Entry

To reach the Bronze level in the OSHA Partnership, a company must develop and implement a written safety and health program, conduct a weekly employee safety meeting and document self-audits.

please see OSHA, page 9

Proud Partners

Twenty members of the Builders Association are participating in the partnership with OSHA.

Companies participating in the partnership are, in alphabetical order:

- Airtite, Inc.
- Bulley & Andrews, LLC
- Frank H. Stowell & Sons, Inc.
- George Sollitt Construction Company
- Glenn H. Johnson Construction Company
- Herlihy Mid-Continent Company
- Illinois Masonry Corporation
- Interior Alterations, Inc.
- Joseph J. Duffy Co.
- McShane Construction Corporation
- Midwest Mechanical Group
- Paul H. Schwendener, Inc.
- Pepper Construction Company
- Ryan Companies U.S., Inc.
- Sigalos & Associates, Ltd.
- Thorne Associates, Inc.
- Valenti Builders, Inc.
- W.B. Olson, Inc.
- W.E. O'Neil Construction Company
- William J. Scown Building Co.

What They're Saying

Comments from members of the OSHA Partnership on how it has benefitted their businesses.

"It helps that the OSHA knows you're a safety-conscious company. 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."

-Paul Hellermann
Chief Operating Officer
Bulley & Andrews

"The Builders Association/OSHA Partnership has proven its worth to Pepper Construction. The program helps us keep our focus. If we slack off, we may not qualify to participate. If we do the right things, everybody benefits.

"The local OSHA offices are a resource to us and to all program members. We welcome and actively promote their participation in our safety efforts."

-Paul Flentge
Safety Director
Pepper Construction Company

OSHA, from page 1

BRONZE PARTICIPANTS

1. Will not be issued citations for non-serious violations, provided the violations are abated immediately.

SILVER PARTICIPANTS

1. Will not be issued citations for non-serious violations, provided the violations are abated immediately.

2. Will be given special recognition from OSHA and the BA designating the contractor as a participant in the BA Partnership, such as a certificate of recognition.

3. Will be given the maximum amount of good faith penalty reductions currently available.

GOLD PARTICIPANTS

1. If cited by OSHA, Gold participants will be offered a penalty reduction of 40% in the Expedited Informal Settlement Agreement (EISA) process.

2. Will be given the highest recognition from OSHA and the BA designating the contractor as a participant in the BA Partnership, such as a plaque recognizing Gold level performance.

3. Gold participant job sites within the Area Office's jurisdiction will be exempt from programmed inspections within the next 12 months.

4. Will receive unprogrammed inspections only in response to reports of imminent danger, fatalities/catastrophes and formal complaints. OSHA will use telephone or fax to handle all other complaints, except those cases involving

serious injuries. In the event of a serious injury, an inspection may be conducted. When an inspection of a non-formal complaint is deemed necessary, a copy of the complaint will be provided to the participant's safety director or other designated representative at the time of inspection.

5. OSHA will not issue citations for non-serious violations provided the violations are abated immediately or in the presence of the compliance officer.

6. During an OSHA inspection where Gold member is present and that member had successfully concluded a monitoring inspection.

That Gold member will be exempt from the site inspection if the elements of their safety and health program still meet Gold level criteria.

However, the Gold member may be inspected if the compliance officer documents that the Gold member was responsible for any employee exposures to serious hazards such as, falls, struck by, caught in/between or electrocutions.

The OSHA Partnership is good for the employee, the contractor and owners.

The Builders Association highly encourages contractors to join the OSHA Partnership.

Contractors are rewarded in many ways by showing they care about safety and their employees.

The bottom line is: Joining the Builders Association OSHA Partnership makes good business sense and the time to act is now.