



NAC Position Paper No.10, August 1, 2007

S A F E T Y

Success in achieving Zero Injury requires careful “Contractor Selection and Management.”

Through the Position Papers on Safety, The National Academy of Construction (NAC) is recommending American Business investigate the research of the Construction Industry Institute (CII) into how increasing numbers of employers are able to achieve a million work hours and more without an OSHA Recordable injury. The Nine research based CII Zero Injury safety leadership categories follows: 1. Demonstrated management safety commitment; 2. Staffing for safety; 3. Safe work planning; pre-project and pre-task; 4. Safety education; orientation and specialized training; 5. Employee involvement; behavior safety and safety perception surveys; 6. Evaluation and recognition of safety performance; 7. Contractor selection and management; 8. Accident/incident investigation; including near misses; 9. Drug and alcohol testing.

NAC Safety Papers (SP) (see www.naocon.org) No. 1 emphasizes the importance of proactive attitudes about safety; No. 2 reveals that one company by using these CII research findings achieved 4,649,000 continuous work hours without a recordable injury; No. 3 lists the Nine CII (see below) critical Zero Injury Safety Management Categories; No. 4 discusses; “demonstrated management safety commitment;” No. 5 discusses “Staffing for Safety”; No. 6 covers “Safe Work Planning;” No. 7 covers “Safety Education”; No. 8 covers “Employee Involvement”; No. 9 covers “Evaluation and recognition in safety performance.”

SP No. 10 – CII Category 7. Contractor Selection and Management.

The objective is to insure that all employees working on a project are schooled in the CII zero injury techniques and using them effectively. Proven successful implementation of the CII research yields a safety culture where employee injury is a very rare event to the point where the best will achieved record numbers of hours worked with no OSHA injuries. It is essential that all contractors employed on a given construction contract understand and effectively utilize the nine CII safety leadership categories. This includes the prime contractors as well as the sub-contractors. Therefore, careful contractor screening is done by the owner and/or the prime contractor at the proposal stages of a project to insure all contractors offering bids are indeed committed to the CII zero injury research fundamentals. The screening process used to select eligible contractors should insure each bidder has successfully implemented on recent projects the CII zero injury safety techniques. Careful scrutiny of each contractor’s approach to the utilization of the zero injury research should be conducted including interviews with the top contractor leaders that are being proposed to head up the project. Contractors entering the project execution process some months into the project schedule should also be similarly screened. Should a contractor be found to be in violation of safety commitments given, the CII research suggests that the offending contractor/s be sanctioned until the violation/s is/are corrected.

CII research has proven the cost of the utilizing the 9 CII zero injury categories is returned at a rate of 400 to 500% per annum when compared to the costs of OSHA/BLS injury rate average performance for Construction. Information and details on the increasingly popular “Zero Injury Safety Leadership Concept” are available from the following:

Construction Safety Alliance
550 Stadium Mall Dr., Room 1223
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2051
Ph (765) 494-2244
e-mail: halpin@ecn.purdue.edu

Construction Industry Institute
3925 W. Braker Lane (R4500)
Austin, TX 78759-5316
Ph (512) 232-3004
www.construction-institute.org

See the NAC website at www.naocon.org for copies of the Safety Whitepaper series.

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