



NAC Position Paper No.11, October 1, 2007

S A F E T Y

Success in achieving Zero Injury requires careful “Accident/Incident Investigation including Near Misses.”

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;” No 10 covers “Contractor Selection and Management.”

SP No. 11 – CII Category 8. Accident/Incident Investigations Including Near Misses.

Prompt investigation of all accidents, incidents, injuries and near misses with appropriate feedback to all employees who might benefit with emphasis on feedback to the crafts personnel. CII research reveals that these investigations are best performed with input from those close to or involved in the incident. The investigative approach should be one of “fact finding” and not “fault finding.” The object is to obtain accurate information and it is felt this is best done in an atmosphere of cooperation as opposed to one of fear. Experience has proven accident/incident investigations drive continuous improvement. Root cause analysis must result in an assessment of how to prevent that accident/incident reoccurring. This then is followed up by incorporation of preventative measures into project site as well as corporate work processes. Such drives corporate improvement allowing the lessons learned from accidents/incidents to be converted into modified safety processes, standards and procedures.

Regarding near-misses the research pointed out that the project with the best safety record also had the most near misses reported to project leadership. Such information is instructive since it is patently obvious that if events leading up to near-misses can be avoided so can the injuries that come in the wake of repeated near misses of the same type. With successful near-miss reporting the research also found a corporate stated near-miss policy defining a near-miss, setting forth a system of encouraging and recognition of near misses reporting. In order to successfully encourage the reporting of near-misses both the traditional embarrassment and fear that attends the reporting must be successfully prevented.

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

Construction Industry Institute
3925 W. Braker Lane (R4500)

West Lafayette, IN 47907-2051
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See the NAC website at www.naocon.org for copies of the Safety Whitepaper series.

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