



NAC Position Paper No. 6, Dec. 1, 2006

S A F E T Y

Success in achieving Zero Injury requires “Safe-Work Planning.”

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. NAC Safety Paper (SP) No. 1 emphasizes the importance of proactive attitudes about safety; NAC SP No. 2 reveals that one company by using these CII research findings achieved 4,649,000 continuous work hours without a recordable injury; NAC SP No. 3 lists the Nine CII (see below) critical Zero Injury Safety Management Categories; NAC Safety Paper No. 4 discusses; “demonstrated management safety commitment;” NAC Safety Paper No. 5 discusses Staffing for Safety.

The Nine CII Zero Injury 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.

Safe work Planning:

The CII research revealed that when the work planning centered on safety as opposed to the work itself, improved work execution resulted coupled with a zero injury outcome. Typically the schedule was improved and the cost was reduced, all because safety become a primary focus of work planning. This safety planning begins in the early stages of a project, is firmed with a pre-project safety planning session with all parties in attendance then executed in detail by the project superintendents, with pre-task plans by foremen and crew members as they create for each separate assigned task a specific “task specific safe execution plan.” These plans are known by a variation of different terminologies but all are created by foremen and crew prior to task assigned work beginning. An adage; “It is obvious that work can be planned without consideration of safety but one cannot plan safety without concurrently planning the work.”

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 the OSHA/BLS injury rate average for Construction. Information and details on this increasingly popular safety management concept are available from the NAC and the Construction Industry Institute at:

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

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