



# Safety Update

**Issue Date:** October 23, 2018

## **AGC OF OHIO SAFETY MEETING & PROGRAM: THE POWER OF THE OBSERVER - SOUNDING THE ALARM WITH LEADING INDICATORS**

*November 16 | AGC of Ohio Office | 9:30-noon*

The next AGC of Ohio Safety Meeting, scheduled for November 16, will feature Grace Herrera of [Predictive Solutions](#). Her program—*The Power of the Observer: Sounding the Alarm with Leading Indicators*—addresses using an observation process in a safety program to help redirect unsafe behaviors and correct unsafe conditions.

The quarterly AGC of Ohio safety meetings provide an opportunity for safety professionals to network and share ideas and information. Meetings are held from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the AGC of Ohio office in Columbus. In addition to the presentation, other regular include OSHA regulatory and enforcement activities, workers compensation, AGC and divisions safety efforts, and pertinent safety health matters of interest. Meetings are open to AGC of Ohio members and free of charge.

RSVP attendance to Andrea Ashley at AGC of Ohio: [andrea@agcoho.com](mailto:andrea@agcoho.com) or (614) 486-6446.

## **AGC OF AMERICA CONSTRUCTION SAFETY EXCELLENCE AWARDS (CSEA)**

*Sponsored by Willis Towers Watson; Entry Deadline December 14*

The CSEA program recognizes those construction companies that excel at safety performance. It closely examines each candidate's commitment to safety and occupational health management and risk control. Unlike other safety award programs that limits the criteria to frequency rates, the CSEA selection process is considerably more comprehensive. Each application will be reviewed for evidence of: company management commitment; active employee participation; safety training; work site hazard identification and control; and safety program innovation.

Participants will be required to complete the application forms and submit them directly to AGC of America. Members of the national AGC Safety & Health Committee will review the submittals at its January conference to select the CSEA finalists.

The finalists in each divisional category will then compete at the AGC National Convention for a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place award. Finalists will provide live oral presentations in front of five judges. The first, second and third place awards will be determined after the presentations. CSEA winners will be announced at the Willis Safety Awards Breakfast during the convention.

Click [here](#) to access the CSEA application; you will be directed to Formsites, the application platform. You must create an account to view/complete the application. You will also see an option to download a PDF of the application.

Applications are due on Friday, December 14. Direct questions about the application process to Nazia Shah at [nazia.shah@agc.org](mailto:nazia.shah@agc.org) or (703) 837-5409 or Andrea Ashley at AGC of Ohio (614) 486-6446 or [andrea@agcoho.com](mailto:andrea@agcoho.com).

## 2019 AGC-A WINTER SAFETY & HEALTH CONFERENCE

January 16-18, 2019 | Miami, FL

AGC of America's 2019 Winter Safety & Health Conference will take place January 16-18 at the Marriott Miami Biscayne Bay in Miami, FL. Join more than 250 industry professionals and participate in the development of regulatory and legislative activity on both a national and local level; assist in the development and creation of new safety training programs and products; and hear the latest initiatives from OSHA and other industry experts. Full details about the conference and links to registration and the hotel room block can be found [here](#).

## OSHA UPDATES TRENCHING & EXCAVATION NATIONAL EMPHASIS PROGRAM

OSHA has updated the National Emphasis Program (NEP) on preventing trenching and excavation. The NEP will increase education and enforcement efforts while its inspectors will record trenching and excavation inspections in a national reporting system, and each area OSHA office will develop outreach programs.

The emphasis program began October 1, 2018, with a three-month period of education and prevention outreach. During this period, OSHA will continue to respond to complaints, referrals, hospitalizations, and fatalities. Enforcement activities will begin after the outreach period and remain in effect until canceled. OSHA-approved State Plans are expected to have enforcement procedures that are at least as effective as those in this instruction.

OSHA has developed assistance resource; its trenching and excavation [webpage](#) provides information on trenching hazards and solutions.

## OSHA CLARIFIES POSITION ON DRUG TESTING AND SAFETY INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

In line with AGC recommendations, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued an October 11 [memorandum](#) clarifying the agency's position that its rule prohibiting employer retaliation against employees for reporting work-related injuries or illnesses does not prohibit workplace safety incentive programs or post-incident drug testing.

The agency expressed a belief that many employers who implement safety incentive programs and/or conduct post-incident drug testing do so to promote workplace safety and health. Any action taken under a safety incentive program or post-incident drug testing policy would only violate OSHA's anti-retaliation rule if the employer took the action to penalize an employee for reporting a work-related injury or illness rather than for the legitimate purpose of promoting workplace safety and health.



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