



Tool Box Talk for Safety First in Construction Day – April 25, 2019

Falls in Construction and Safe by Choice

This year marks the 26th Anniversary for the Coalition for Construction Safety (CCS). Each year, we celebrate the industry's outstanding safety achievements at the annual Anniversary and Awards Celebration. To coincide with the celebration, CCS holds Safety First in Construction Day, a day where CCS and its members remember those workers who lost their lives on Indiana construction jobsites in 2018. These individuals serve as a continual reminder that there is always room for improvement in jobsite safety for all workers.

The mission of CCS is to send construction and facilities maintenance workers home safely every day. All employees are promised a workplace free from hazards and a way to provide for their families. The tragic loss of any worker is unacceptable and until we deliver a state free from fatal workplace injuries the work of CCS, IOSHA, and our collective organizations is not complete. Even when we do reach this goal, we must never let our efforts diminish to ensure that all workers go home safely to their families and friends every day.

The following individuals lost their lives on Indiana construction jobsites in 2018. Let's pause for a moment of silence to remember these fallen workers:

Carl R. Allen	William L. Muncy
William M. Brown, Jr.	Justin A. Nance
Curtis L. Collyer	Paul C. Newhouse
Bryon H. Eickholt	Stephen B. Pence
Shawn A. Gray	Brandon A. Robinson
Dino C. Hopper	Mervin M. Schwartz
David A. Kirk	Brent H. Schweiger
Brian W. Leachman	Kevin D. Wagler
Dustin A. McCoy	Oscar Gallardo-Zarate



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National Safety Week coincides with OSHA's National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction. The theme for Safety Week is "Safe by Choice." First, let's talk about falls in construction for the National OSHA Stand-Down, then we will discuss being Safe by Choice.

Falls in Construction

In 2018, the Construction Industry & Research Policy Center (CIRPC) received 517 total reports of fatal events in construction. Roof falls led all reported fatal events with 14.5% (75 events) of the total. Rounding out the top events were "Fall from Ladder" with 7.4% (38%), followed by "Caught-In or Between" and "Fall from/with Structure" each with 6.4% (33%) and "Fall from/with Scaffold" with 6.2% (32 events). **It's important to note 41.6% of all fatalities in 2018 were fall related.**

Fall Prevention – Safe by Choice

Dr. E. Scott Geller, a noted industrial psychologist, states "95% of all incidents occur through human behavior, because someone made a choice or decision that caused an incident." We must choose the right decision for the tasks at hand.

The title of this toolbox talk gives us a road map. First, it gives us a mission – Safety. Secondly, it gives a way to achieve the mission – by Choice.

Making poor choices creates the risk of injuries, illnesses, and even fatalities. When we make the choice of convenience and not according to the safety policies and procedures, incidents are more likely to occur. Poor choices can quickly become bad habits.

Safety rules and procedures only assist us in preventing incidents. It is the following of those rules and procedures that increase the chances of an incident not occurring. It is estimated that over 50% of all workplace incidents occur because we made a bad decision. We chose not to comply with safety expectations for many reasons, for example, rushing, a lack of planning our tasks, or choosing not to perform our inspections.

Reducing the risk of injuries, illnesses, and fatalities is not only a benefit to the company, but a benefit to you, your coworkers, and your family. We must understand making the right choices shows we care about ourselves and others. Making the right choices also shows we value and take pride in our work.

Please choose to make the right choices, always. Assist and coach coworkers to make those same right decisions, even when no one is looking. It takes courage to speak up, but you could be preventing a serious injury or even a fatality from happening. Also, it is very important to accept criticism, especially, when it comes to safety. **Remember, safety is our choice!**