

SAFETY SENTINEL

ARE YOUR EMPLOYEES SAFETY COMPETENT? TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE END OF YEAR SAFETY CLASSES !!

FREE OSHA 30 Hour Competency Course
AGC in Atlanta Oct. 4, 11, 18, 2007

OSHA 10 Hour Competency Course
AGC in Atlanta October 12, 2007
December 14, 2007

Statesboro October 19, 2007

FREE Excavation Competent Person
AGC in Atlanta November 9, 2007

Contact *Cherri Watson with AGC Safety & Education to register or ask about other available classes 678-298-4104.*

OVER 30 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS DEAD

While the nationwide fatality numbers are decreasing, the fatality count for Georgia's construction industry may reach new highs in 2007. ***By the end of September, over 30 workers in construction related practices have died from fatal injuries at work,*** an increase from 2006's total of 27 fatalities. We still have three more months to go.

That's 30 of someone's husband, father, son, brother or coworker that did not make it home safely !!

Workers FALLing from ladders, roofs, or scaffolds accounted for 15 and STRUCK-Bys from building materials, vehicles, or heavy equipment accounted for 12 more.

CompTrustAGC of GA participants have incurred 3 of these 30 fatalities.

The sad thing is,
ALL OF THEM COULD HAVE
BEEN PREVENTED !!

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM GEORGIA WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD !!

If an injury occurs to one of your employees, the workers compensation board has a new WC-1, First Report of Injury form, that must be completed to report the claim.

For a copy of the new form or electronic form that can be filled in on the computer and emailed, contact:

Greg Dorsey, Claims Manager for CompTrustAGC at:

gdorsey@affinityservicegroup.com or 678-298-1880

Mission Statement:

CompTrustAGC of Georgia will offer a stable source for Workers' Compensation Insurance for AGC Members who are committed to long range participation and effective loss control.

CompTrustAGC of Georgia will provide effective and efficient Administration, total Claims Management and Professional Safety Services.

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2007 Claims Review

As of August 31, 2007

Reported Claims: 247
Claim Costs: \$ 2,103,894
Loss Ratio : 28.4%



FALLS to lower levels have been the most expensive result of any injuries reported. Motor Vehicle Accidents are coming in second.

LESSONS LEARNED

CompTrustAGC's 3 Worst Claims of 2007

FALL from STEEL STRUCTURE \$510,000 cost + many changes in his lifestyle.

A steel erecting company was building a new steel framed building. The roof decking was being installed at the time of the injury. The worker was pulling a piece of metal roof decking across the bar joists and into position. He was attempting to do this by himself as his two coworkers were on the other side of the roof completing the welding. The worker was walking across the 6 inch wide steel beam and lost his balance. He fell between the bar joist roof framing and landed feet first, 26 feet below on the concrete floor. He suffered broken bones to most of his lower body and two broken wrists when he fell forward.

Fall Protection for steel erectors is required at heights greater than 15 feet above a lower level. Fall hazards must be assessed and plans for prevention determined before work begins. Employees must be trained in safe work practices. Employees must be provided with and held accountable to use fall protection equipment.

FALL from LADDER \$176,500 cost

An electrical worker was installing conduit for a large ceiling fan. The worker was using a 12 ft fiberglass step ladder. The worker retrieved the ladder from the storage position on the truck, set the ladder in place, and began climbing. The worker had climbed to about the fourth step of the ladder when the back left leg broke just below the bottom brace causing the ladder and worker to fall. The worker landed on top of the ladder breaking some ribs, then hit his head on the concrete floor.

Workers must be trained on proper ladder set-up, use, and inspection. All ladders should be stored properly. Ladders should be inspected before each use. Defective ladders must be removed from use.

FALL through ROOF SKYLIGHT \$183,000 cost

The worker was given the task of measuring an existing metal building at the planning stages of a new project. The worker went to the site and found large shrubs and a fence around the building. The worker decided to access the roof of the building and measure the building from there. While walking on the roof, the worker stepped onto a fiberglass roof panel used as a skylight, which was deteriorated by UV light, and fell 20 feet down to concrete floor suffering severely broken arm and face / nose injuries.

Hazards of each job must be assessed before work begins. Skylights are considered holes and must be covered or capable of supporting a load two times the imposed weight. Fall protection is required at heights greater than 6 feet above a lower level. Workers must be trained in safe work practices.

Claim Cost only reflects what workers compensation will pay for medical and lost wages. Indirect costs to company and employee could be considerably higher.

RANDOM ACTS OF STUPIDITY



Your workers are given tasks to complete each day.

Ask Yourself:

Do you give them the right tools to do it with?

Do you train them in the correct and safe way to do the work?

Are they held accountable to complete it the safe way?

GRAVITY: A force in the construction Industry

Gravity is a force that affects each one of us everyday. No one is able to defeat the effects of gravity, except maybe astronauts. Gravity exerts a force on each one of us; it is what keeps us from floating away. It is also what pulls us back down to the earth when we slip or trip and get off balance, climb a ladder or get up on a roof and fall, or simply slide down a slope. It also cause the objects around us to fall or slide as well.

When we are pulled to the ground, the force of gravity accelerates us at a rate of 32 feet per second per second. What this means is, either when you fall, the dirt from a trench wall falls, the steel beam falls, whatever it is that falls, it does so at a rate of 16 feet in the first second. Then, after 2 seconds, it has fallen 64 feet.

So, our reaction time is about 3/4 of a second, not enough time to stop our fall or get out of the way of falling object.

The old saying, "*Falling never hurt anyone, it is the sudden stop that hurts*" holds true. We had a worker fall about 26 feet onto a concrete floor. To put it in perspective, I calculated that he hit the ground in 1.24 seconds and developed about 15 mph of velocity. If you can imagine being hit by truck traveling at 15 mph while you are standing against a concrete wall; that is what it felt like. I estimate that it was like over 25,000 pounds had hit him. Shattered bones resulted.

In weeks to come, I will discuss the Best Safety Practices you can use to fight against the force of gravity.



November 6-8, 2007 • Savannah Riverfront Marriott
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